

# District Notes & News



Established 1923

Spring 2005

## SUPERVISORS

Thomas H. Powell

*President*

Tom Rice

*Vice-President*

David Beane

Robert Berman

Michael Danchuk

## STAFF

Gale English

*General Manager*

Michael Dillon

*Operations Superintendent*

Greta Rayman

*Office Administrator*

## DISTRICT OFFICE

15600 Jupiter Farms Road

Jupiter, FL 33478

(561) 747-0550

[www.sirwcd.org](http://www.sirwcd.org)

[sirwcd@sirwcd.org](mailto:sirwcd@sirwcd.org)

### Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Monday-Friday

*The Board of Supervisors meets  
the third Thursday of each  
month at the Jupiter High  
School Media Center  
at 7:30 p.m.*

*Contact the District Office  
for an agenda.*

## RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR JUPITER FARMS WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD), in conjunction with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative, held a ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday, March 3 at a new water control structure south of Indiantown Road in Jupiter Farms.

SIRWCD's Board of Supervisors, Tom Powell, Tom Rice, David Beane, Bob Berman, and Michael Danchuk, District general manager Gale English, as well as David Brown, chairman of the Loxahatchee River Preservation Society and Patricia Walker, Lead Planner, Coastal Ecosystems Division, SFWMD, welcomed over 50 invited guests to the event and barbeque luncheon.



*Left to right: Tom Rice, David Beane, Patricia Walker, Tom Powell, Michael Danchuk, Bob Berman and Lennart Lindahl*

periods, as well as improve the quality of runoff eventually discharged into the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. The plan also includes a nonstructural component that establishes a definitive protocol between South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and SIRWCD for the operation of SFWMD structure G-92 for the purposes of improved flood control for SIRWCD and the delivery of freshwater flows to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River.

The \$1.6 million cost of the project is being paid for through grants from SFWMD, the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative, and SIRWCD.

SIRWCD serves Jupiter Farms, Palm Beach Country Estates, Egret Landing and Jupiter Commerce Park in northern Palm Beach County.



*Lennart Lindahl, Tom Powell and David Logan*

In addition, Tom Powell and Lennart Lindahl, District Engineer, presented a plaque to David Logan of Murray Logan Construction, Inc. in appreciation for their work as contractor for the project.

The project, known as the Ninth Plan of Improvements, provided for the construction, operation and maintenance of five water control structures within SIRWCD canals. These new structures affect 45 miles of the canal system and are intended to improve groundwater recharge and reduce over-drainage during dry



*Water Control Structure*

# 2005 Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvement Project

In 2004, the District's Board of Supervisors instituted a new procedure for bundling landowner roadway improvement initiatives to streamline program implementation, thereby saving time and reducing costs.

As of the March 17 meeting, the District had received 16 new landowner-initiated petitions meeting the minimum requirement of 25% of affected landowners in each project area. One petition was removed from that list. The petitions are for the application of open-graded emulsified mix (OGEM) on the following roads in Jupiter Farms and Palm Beach Country Estates:

150th Court N. from 133rd Terrace N. to West Perimeter Canal  
189th Court N. from Old Indiantown Road to Canal 10  
110th Avenue from Sandy Run to 150th Court N.  
153rd Court N. from 110th Avenue N. to 115th Avenue N.  
111th Terrace from 150th Court N. to 154th Road N.  
175th Road N. from Jupiter Farms Road to the west (approx. 1200 ft)  
93rd Lane N. from 150th Court N. to 154th Road N.  
71st Drive N. from 155th Place N. to Canal C  
150th Place N. from 69th Drive N. to 69th Trail N.  
151st Court N. from 69th Drive N. to 69th Trail N.  
152nd Drive N. from 69th Drive N. to 69th Trail N.  
153rd Court N. from 69th Drive N. to 69th Trail N.  
154th Court N. from 69th Drive N. to 69th Trail N.  
69th Trail N. from 154th Court N. to 150th Place N.  
84th Avenue N. from 155th Place N. to 159th Court N.

An additional 16 petitions meeting the 25% minimum requirement have been received as of May 2. These petitions, as well as any additional petitions received, will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

159th Court N. from Mellen Lane to 129th Place N.  
169th Court N. from Alexander Run to Mellen Lane  
158th Street N. from 133rd Terrace N. to West Perimeter Canal  
150th Court N. from 125th Avenue N. to 128th Terrace N.  
153rd Road N. from West Perimeter Canal to 133rd Terrace N.  
153rd Road N. from 133rd Terrace N. to Canal 13  
126th Terrace N. from 164th Court N. to Randolph Siding  
126th Terrace N. from 165th Road N. to 169th Court N.  
93rd Lane N. from 159th Terrace N. to Sandy Run  
154th Place N. from 133rd Terrace N. to West Perimeter Canal  
128th Trail N. from 170th Court N. to 174th Court N.  
165th Road N. from Alexander Run to Haynie Lane  
123rd Terrace N. from 165th Road N. to 169th Court N.  
165th Road N. from Alexander Run to Mellen Lane  
165th Street N. from 75th Avenue N. to 79th Terrace N.  
88th Trail N. from 155th Place N. to 159th Court N.

This project is entitled the 2005 Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvement Project. The Board has set a cut-off date of June 16 for this package of improvements. Any group of landowners who are considering having their road upgraded this year must have completed the petition process by June 16. Any requests for improvements received after June 16 will be considered in the next improvement package. After the improvement package cut-off date, District staff will develop cost estimates and define benefited areas. If the Board accepts the District Engineer's plans for the proposed improvements, such improvements will be presented to the affected landowners for a vote in the form of a referendum for each petitioned roadway. If a referendum passes, the District may then levy a special assessment against the benefited landowners.

Under the District's Special Act and Chapter 298 of the Florida Statutes, improvement projects such as roadway upgrades, are initiated by District landowners through written petitions presented to the District office or to the Board of Supervisors at a monthly Board meeting. Currently, three types of roads are available in the District - dirt roads, which are maintained on a regular basis by the District, county standard asphalt roadways, and OGEM surface stabilization (approximately half the cost of a county standard roadway). County standard roads and OGEM surfacing are considered upgrades and are available through petition by residents.

## Florida Stormwater Education Corner

### Protecting Florida's Water

In a previous issue, we discussed non-point source (NPS) pollution (commonly referred to as stormwater runoff) and its impact on water quality. Reducing runoff is a mandate by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). By making changes in and around your home, you can help reduce stormwater runoff problems, as well as improve groundwater quality.

**Reduce impervious surfaces at home and increase the vegetated land cover of your property.** Reduce rooftop runoff by directing downspouts to vegetated areas. Use permeable paving materials for driveways or patios to allow water to filter into the ground. Native plants should be planted and/or preserved to minimize runoff and retain rainwater on site. Lawns, which require a lot of water, mowing, and maintenance, should be kept to a minimum.

**Cut down on fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.** Use these chemicals sparingly and consider using organic fertilizers. Don't fertilize just before rainstorms, and compost or mulch lawn clippings.

**Maintain your septic systems.** Septic systems require regular maintenance, inspection, and pumping, or they will fail, resulting in costly repairs and potential pollution of ground and surface waters.

**Water your landscape efficiently.** If you use an automatic sprinkler system, set timers to water early in the morning to maximize infiltration and minimize evaporation. Over-watering will only cause the excess water to run off. Do not use sprinkler systems after significant rainfall. Visit [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov) for more tips and information.



# GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



David Beane

David Beane has been a member of the Board of Supervisors since 1988, serving as vice-president for a number of years. He has been a resident of Jupiter Farms since 1979.

Mr. Beane grew up in Pennsylvania, moving to Palm Beach County in 1960 after graduation from Penn State University with a degree in mechanical engineering. He has been married for 39 years to his high-school sweetheart and has two grown children and two grandchildren.

Mr. Beane worked at Pratt & Whitney in West Palm Beach for his entire career. He started as a design engineer and worked on the team which developed the J58 engine that powers the record breaking SR71 "Blackbird" aircraft. Mr. Beane contributed to the design of most of Pratt & Whitney's military aircraft engines through the 60s and 70s and holds five patents for various engine design features. He founded and managed an engineering organization that develops designs and maintenance procedures for U.S. and foreign government customers to use in reducing the cost of ownership and enhancing operational readiness of P&W powered military aircraft. Mr. Beane retired in 1997 after 37 years of service.

He has been active in several civic and professional organizations over the years.



Bob Berman

Bob Berman has been a SIRWCD supervisor since early 1999. A resident of Palm Beach County since 1963, he has been involved with every issue in the District for 26 years, including

legislative, road and drainage construction, and political issues.

In the District, Mr. Berman was the co-developer of Egret Landing. Various companies owned by Mr. Berman include Berman Home Builders, Inc., Jupiter Farms Realty, Inc., Egret Landing Realty, Inc. and Berman Realty. He has been involved in over 5,000 real estate transactions in the District. In addition, he has started, owned, and operated companies in the fields of home construction, insurance, mortgage brokerage, equipment leasing, title company, flight training, and aircraft sales.

Mr. Berman has served on the board of directors of many organizations, highlighted by his election as president of the Northern Palm Beach County Board of Realtors. He is a graduate of Miami-Dade Junior College and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.



Michael Danchuk

Michael Danchuk is the newest member of the South Indian River Water Control District Board of Directors and was elected to the Board in October 2001. He was re-elected in October 2004. He is a strong supporter of allowing property owners to decide their future as long as it does not have a negative effect on neighbors and the environment.

Mr. Danchuk has been a landowner in the District since 1984 and lives in Palm Beach Country Estates. He has been president of the Donald Ross Landowners Association in Palm Beach Country Estates, a position he has held for over 10 years.

He was one of the founding members of the Coalition of Northwestern Communities, which was instrumental in saving the Loxahatchee Slough and having the FAU campus located in the current Abacoa development. He was a member of the Palm Beach County Planning Forum, the Jupiter Farms/Palm Beach Country Estates Wetlands Task Force, and was appointed to the Solid Waste Authority Advisory Board that was able to find a location for the north area transfer station. Currently he is a member of the Northern Educational Coalition which he helped create in 2002.

Mr. Danchuk has been married to Nicole for over 22 years. They have one daughter who is studying to be an environmental engineer. He has been in the marine industry for over 10 years and holds a trailer patent. He graduated from Rutgers College in 1975 with a degree in economics. A former insurance executive, he now also works as an administrator for a local law firm.



Tom Powell

Tom Powell has served as a supervisor since 1981. He has been a strong advocate of using the District's resources for permanent community improvements. Several major road paving programs and drainage system improvement programs have been completed by the District during his tenure.

Mr. Powell graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in aeronautical engineering in 1964 and moved to Palm Beach County in 1966 where he has lived with his wife and two children. Mr. Powell worked for McDonnell Aircraft Corporation as a test engineer on the Gemini spacecraft program in mid-60s. He worked for Pratt & Whitney in West Palm Beach for 33 years. Before retiring in 1999, he was responsible for managing the advanced technology

programs for the U.S. Government and international customers.

Mr. Powell has been a member of numerous professional and technical societies and has served on numerous special panels and technical committees. Mr. Powell and his wife attend St. Paul church.



Tom Rice, Sr.

Tom Rice, Sr. has been a SIRWCD supervisor since 1989. Mr. Rice served on the Palm Beach County Code Enforcement Board for 10 years, including several years as chairman.

Mr. Rice has been a resident of Florida and has had his real estate license since 1980. After two years, he received his Broker's license and formed Best of Florida Realty ([www.bestflrealty.com](http://www.bestflrealty.com)), which primarily provides residential sales and property management as well as some commercial real estate services.

Intracoastal Management Services, which provides property management and financial services for condominium and property owners' associations, was established by Mr. Rice in 2001.

He was selected as one of the original trustees in the formation of Preferred Government Insurance Trust of Florida (PGIT). This trust provides workers compensation and other insurance coverage to government entities, such as SIRWCD. In five years, PGIT has become one of the top five providers in the nation to offer these services.

Mr. Rice has served as president of the Regional Multiple Listing Service and the Northern Palm Beach County Board of Realtors. He was selected as Realtor of the Year in 1990. He is a graduate of the Realtors Institute (GRI) and holds a Florida Community Association Manager's License (LCAM). He attended American University in Washington, D.C.

Prior to moving to Florida, Mr. Rice owned and managed WSCR Radio in Scranton, PA, following years of broadcast management in Maryland and Washington D.C. In Washington, he worked for NBC as an assistant TV director on many network news and special events programs and for WRC-TV. He also worked in the NBC Government Affairs Division.

Mr. Rice has been active in civic and professional organizations and is the recipient of many awards for his outstanding service and contributions.

David Beane - [beane@sirwcd.org](mailto:beane@sirwcd.org)

Bob Berman - [berman@sirwcd.org](mailto:berman@sirwcd.org)

Michael Danchuk - [danchuk@sirwcd.org](mailto:danchuk@sirwcd.org)

Tom Powell - [powell@sirwcd.org](mailto:powell@sirwcd.org)

Tom Rice - [rice@sirwcd.org](mailto:rice@sirwcd.org)



15600 Jupiter Farms Road  
Jupiter, FL 33478

PRSR STD  
U S POSTAGE  
PAID  
WEST PALM BCH FL  
PERMIT # 611

## 2005 Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvement Project

Cut-off date for  
roadway improvement  
petitions is June 16

Visit [www.sirwcd.org](http://www.sirwcd.org)  
for news updates!

## SIRWCD Receives Grants from NRCS

SIRWCD has received a grant from the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for repair and restoration work on hurricane damaged systems in the amount of \$1 million, of which 25% is a matching share and the balance of \$750,000 is additional income. As a result, the Board approved a budget amendment adding \$750,000 to West Side Water Control - Intergovernmental Income and \$750,000 to West Side Water Control - Sub Contract Canal Cleaning.

Two additional applications to NRCS for further funding assistance have recently been approved. One application was for \$400,000 to harden the 706 outfall canal banks, and the other was for \$100,000 to perform in-house drainage facilities restoration activities.

In a related matter, the Board approved special gain share bonuses for District Manager Gale English, Operations Superintendent Michael Dillion, and Office Manager Greta Raymond for their initiative and diligence in the aftermath of last year's hurricanes and their efforts in securing the grants from the NRCS, which has greatly benefited the District.

## Ribbon Cutting for Palm Beach Country Estates Road Improvement Project



*From left to right:* District Manager Gale English and SIRWCD Supervisors Tom Rice, Tom Powell, Michael Danchuk and Bob Berman at a ribbon cutting ceremony marking the completion of construction of the county-standard asphalt roadways in Section 22 of Palm Beach Country Estates.