

District Notes & News



Established 1923

Spring 2006

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

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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.*



Left to right: Supervisors Tom Rice, Dave Beane, Mike Danchuk, Tom Powell, General Manager Gale English, Supervisor Bob Berman, Elwyn Cooper of NRCS, and District Engineers Len Lindahl, Jr. and Amy Eason

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY FOR SIRWCD SR 706 OUTFALL CANAL REVETMENT PROJECT

The South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD) held a ribbon cutting ceremony Friday, March 17 at the SR706 outfall canal, east of I-95 and south of Indiantown Road. The drainage canal provides stormwater outfall for Palm Beach Country Estates, Egret Landing, and the Jupiter Park of Commerce within the District. Additionally, it provides stormwater outfall for the Town of Jupiter and Palm Beach County's Kennedy Estates, as well as a recharge source for Jupiter's well fields.

SIRWCD's Board of Supervisors, Tom Powell, Tom Rice, Dave Beane, Bob Berman, and Mike Danchuk, and District General Manager Gale English welcomed over 30 invited guests to the event and barbeque luncheon.

The National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a division of the federal Department of Agriculture, was the principal funding source for the canal bank revetment project with two grants of \$400,000 and \$440,000, of which 25% was a matching share by SIRWCD. The grants covered repair and restoration work of the SR706 outfall canal banks that were

eroded by excessive rainfall and water levels generated by Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne in 2004.

The NRCS (originally called the Soil Conservation Service) was established in 1935 to manage natural resource conservation programs that provide environmental, societal, financial, and technical benefits. The NRCS primary mission goals are high-quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands. They work with conservation districts; local, state and federal agencies; agricultural and environmental groups; and educational institutions.

The outfall canal embankments were reinforced with a concrete block matting system that provides stabilization of the soils. Openings in the block allow for infiltration of rainwater into the ground and for the growth of vegetation. The blocks interlock to form a durable surface layer that can easily conform to changes in grade and help to solve a variety of erosion problems.

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2005 Landowner-Initiated Road Improvement Project Update



The SR706 Outfall Canal project features concrete block mats and rip-rap that stabilize canal banks

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Murray Logan Construction, Inc., of West Palm Beach was the contractor for the project. LBFH, Inc., the District's engineering firm, provided construction plans, as well as project inspection and oversight.

General Manager Gale English addressed the invited guests and Board of Supervisors, noting that the revetment installation is designed to eliminate future major maintenance issues and provide uninterrupted flood protection to several agencies and District landowners that are served by the canal.

"SIRWCD has received a total of approximately \$1,940,000 in grants from the NRCS and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for hurricane restoration efforts resulting from the 2004 storm season," he said.

Additionally, English announced that the NRCS had signed an agreement to provide \$1,102,000 for repairs to District systems and structures damaged by Hurricane Wilma in 2005. The agreement is for canal cleaning and installation of rock rubble rip-rap at designated locations in the District, primarily at Indiantown Road and surrounding areas. As with the previous NRCS project, SIRWCD contributes a 25% matching share. Palm Beach County has agreed to fund one-half of the District's obligation where the improvements fall within the County's right-of-way areas. FEMA is funding approximately \$150,000 for Wilma-related repairs as well.

"These grants cover a majority of the cost of hurricane repairs that would otherwise have been the responsibility of the District's landowners," said Tom Powell, president of the Board of Supervisors.



District Engineers Len Lindahl, Jr. and Amy Eason discuss the new NRCS agreement for Hurricane Wilma repairs with General Manager Gale English, Operations Superintendent Mike Dillon, David Logan of Murray Logan Construction, Inc. and Elwyn Cooper of the NRCS

The preparation and mailing of ballot referendums for the application of open-graded emulsified mix (OGEM) to 68 roads (approximately 32 miles) in Jupiter Farms has been delayed due to material supply problems. Statewide shortages of bitumen (asphalt) binders and aggregate for road construction have resulted in road projects of all types being postponed.

This problem has been compounded by the large number of hurricanes that have hit the Gulf states in the last two years, where many roads have been damaged or destroyed and have had to be rebuilt.

As a result of this and the rapid pace of development in Florida, material costs have soared. At the April 20 Board of Supervisors monthly meeting, District Engineer Len Lindahl, Jr., reported that costs for this project have increased 50% from the time petitions were received and verified by the District. He noted that at this time, costs have increased to approximately \$250,000 per mile for the application of OGEM to the roadways.

With the large increase in material costs, the estimate for the Jupiter Farms roadway improvements would be approximately \$8 million. This includes a construction cost of \$6.6 million and a contingency of \$1.4 million. Normally, contingency costs would not be so high, however, there is no way to know if material costs will continue to escalate. If the project is approved by the landowners and bids received are less than estimated, the total amount for construction could be reduced.

District Treasurer Charles Haas noted that typically roadway improvement projects using OGEM are financed for 12 years. Due to the higher costs for this project, it may be possible to finance it for up to 20 years, which could reduce the annual assessment figure.

The board voted to move forward with the referendums and directed District staff to proceed pending investigation of the longer-term financing option. Ballots will be sent out shortly to landowners in the affected areas. If a majority of the votes cast are in favor (51%), the project will be constructed. *You must cast your ballot to have your vote counted!*

In Palm Beach Country Estates, the District Engineer is finalizing petition status, construction, and cost estimates for county standard asphalt roadways. If approved, road construction would not begin until after the potable water project is completed.

GALE ENGLISH ACKNOWLEDGED FOR 25 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO SIRWCD

Tom Powell, president of the Board of Supervisors of SIRWCD presented an award commemorating 25 years of service to General Manager Gale English at the 15th Annual Landowners Family Day held Saturday, March 4.

Supervisors Tom Rice and Dave Beane,



Gale English discusses District operations with Congressman Clay Shaw

District Engineer Len Lindahl, Jr., District Attorneys William Capko and Terry Lewis, District Treasurer Charles Haas, and District Public Information Officer Donna DeNinno were in attendance.

Congressman Clay Shaw and his wife Emily enjoyed lunch with the landowners, discussed District concerns with the supervisors and staff, and toured the District offices.

Tom Powell congratulated Gale English on his dedication and commitment to the District and its land-owners and presented him with an engraved plaque.

"I have enjoyed working for the landowners over these last 25 years and look forward to many more years of service," said English. He also thanked

and acknowledged his staff for their hard work and dedication on behalf of the District.



From left to right: Supervisors Tom Rice and Dave Beane, General Manager Gale English, Supervisor Tom Powell, District Treasurer Charles Haas, District Engineer Len Lindahl, Jr. and future District Engineer Lenny Lindahl

Palm Beach Country Estates Potable Water Update

The SIRWCD Board of Supervisors held an emergency meeting on Tuesday, February 14 to review the construction bid for installation of a potable water system in Palm Beach Country Estates. District Engineer Lennart Lindahl reported to the Board that three bids had been received for the project ranging from approximately \$14.2 to \$16.2 million. District staff worked with the lowest bidder, Felix Associates, LLC, to obtain a reduced price of \$13,570,000 by making adjustments in material purchases, storage and staging, and construction details. Lindahl noted that costs for construction materials had increased dramatically since the original estimate of \$11,000,000 in early 2003 – a 60% increase for pipe, a 50% increase for fittings, valves, appurtenances, and hydrants, and a 31% increase for in-kind restoration, such as driveway repair and sod replacement. He added that if all price increases were factored into the original estimate, actual costs for the project would have exceeded \$15.3 million.

District Treasurer Charles Haas estimated that the landowners' assessments for the project would start at approximately \$690 next year and increase a nominal amount each year. Financing for the project would be for a period not to exceed 25 years. The proposed assessment will be collected by the Palm Beach County Tax Collector. Haas added that if landowners hooked up to the system quickly, assessment costs would be reduced for all landowners. All homes are not required to hook up to the system.

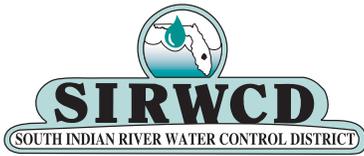
For those landowners who wish to hook up, the Town of Jupiter will charge a fee of approximately \$3,877. There would be an additional cost to run plumbing from the system to a home, which is the responsibility of the homeowner. If desired, SIRWCD also can arrange to finance the cost of hookup to the system. *There will be no annexation requirement by the Town of Jupiter.*

The board awarded the construction contract to Felix Associates and directed District staff to proceed with the project. Construction is scheduled to begin by June and should be completed within 18 months. The project includes approximately 46 miles of pipe and 445 fire hydrants. Construction will start in Section 9, then proceed to Section 17, then 16 and finally 22. There is a possibility that water may be turned on in sections as they are completed.

Supervisors Mike Danchuk, Bob Berman, Tom Rice and Dave Beane attended an April 4 workshop on the project hosted by the Donald Ross Landowner Association. Nearly 200 PBCE landowners were in attendance. Len Lindahl and Charles Haas presented project information and answered questions from the audience. Contractor Vincent Amato of Felix Associates also was on hand to answer construction questions. Residents asked questions regarding hydrant and pipe placement, financing, plumbing hookups, and coordination with proposed road improvements. A site map showing pipe placement was available for the residents' inspection. *(A copy of the map will be available at the District's office for those wishing to review it.)*

As required by Chapter 197 of the Florida Statutes, a Public Hearing regarding the District's intention to elect the uniform method of collection of non-ad valorem assessments for the project was held on April 20 in conjunction with its regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The board voted to adopt a bond resolution that provides for a delegated award and sets up parameters for the transaction so that another meeting would not be required when the bonds are priced and closed. Closing is planned for May 11. The board also approved the assessment resolution for the project.





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Visit www.sirwcd.org
for news updates!

New Spring Date for Landowners Family Day

The 15th Annual Landowner's Family Day was held on Saturday, March 4. It had been rescheduled when Hurricane Wilma paid us an unwelcome visit last October.

The weather was beautiful and many landowners and the Board of Supervisors agreed that springtime was a better time for the annual event.

Hundreds of landowners enjoyed a barbeque lunch and blue grass music and visited the 15 exhibits featuring community organizations that provide services to the District. Tree saplings, blood-pressure checks, coffee mugs, emergency preparedness information, visors, key chains, pens and pencils, and magnets were just a few of the free give-a-ways provided by exhibitors. The children enjoyed hotdogs, a petting zoo, clown face-painting and balloon-making, and free coloring books.

If you haven't been to a Landowners Family Day yet, you're missing out on all the family fun...plan to be there next year!

