

Manager's Report for October 2016- September 2017

South Indian River Water Control District (The District) is a special Taxing District established in 1923 and serves Jupiter Farms, Palm Beach Country Estates, Jupiter Commerce Park, and Egret Landing. Within the District's 12,600 acres, there are 189 miles of roads, 378 miles of drainage swales, and 60 miles of canals. The District provides both water control and road maintenance for landowners and operates under limitations imposed by Chapter 298 of the Florida Statutes.

The District's day to day operations focus on road maintenance, drainage, culvert replacement, and mowing. Other areas of maintenance that are subcontracted include aquatic weed control, repair and restoration of paved roads, canal construction projects, tree removal, and park maintenance.

The District currently has 15 employees; 14 full-time and 1 part-time. Office staff includes the Manager of Operations, Office Administrator, and Office Assistant. Our field crew includes one Superintendent, one Field Supervisor, one Mechanic, and 9 operators. This year, long time operator Matt Wood was promoted to Superintendent and I hired a new mechanic, two operators, and one laborer.

The District's equipment includes two motor graders, two combination backhoes, three tractors with 10 foot batwing mowers, three side boom mowers, one trackhoe with multiple attachments, one loader, three dump trucks, and four fleet trucks. This year, we replaced our 2006 boom mower for a new John Deere 6110M mower. We also purchased a used dump truck, a mechanic's truck, and added another new Kubota mini-excavator. These excavators have allowed us to access confined areas and have enabled us to make significant improvements to our drainage.

The District has over 100 miles of dirt roads that are graded once a week, on average. Throughout the year, roads are monitored and when needed, material is spread to restore road surfaces. "Crowning" the road is a method we

use to provide proper storm water runoff and minimize standing water which can create ponding and deterioration. During this process, the shoulders of the road are pulled into the center, and then the material is mixed, re-graded, and re-sloped for proper runoff.

There are approximately 53 miles of District roads that are paved with Asphalt or Open Graded Emulsion Mix (OGEM), which is a cold mix asphalt base. Once paved, these roads are inspected each year, and when needed, re-surfaced with Asphalt or Micro Overlay. The District does not pave roads unless initiated by the landowners.

The District's storm water discharge system functions as a dual basin system with Palm Beach Country Estates, Jupiter Commerce Park, and Egret Landing east of South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) Canal 18 and Jupiter Farms which is west of Canal 18. East of Canal 18, there are 15 miles of canals that drain west to east through 4 set weirs prior to entering the Florida Turnpikes East Borrow Canal system. Waters are then routed towards the SW fork of the Loxahatchee River. West of Canal 18, there are 45 miles of canals that also drain west to east through 5 water control structures into the District's Canal 14, then north to the NW fork of the Loxahatchee River. During heavy rainfall events, we receive assistance from SFWMD to drain excess water from Jupiter Farms through Canal 18 by way the of SFWMD G-92 structure, and in Palm Beach Country Estates by way of SFWMD PC8-A Riser Culvert located at the west end of Canal C.

This year, our focus has been clearing and re-contouring outfall drainage swales as well as making improvements to roadside swales. Roadside swales are part of our secondary drainage system. Their three main functions are stormwater runoff, retention and percolation. The outfall swales are swales that run between two properties and connect with one of our main canal systems. They were designed to shorten the distance stormwater has to travel and are located in some of the lowest areas of the District. Over the past couple of years, we have made significant improvements to outfalls that were inaccessible due to heavy vegetation and erosion. The landowners who live by these outfalls have

been very cooperative and understanding to the needs of the District, and we have been able to move forward with no complications or delays.

With the economy back on its feet, we have noticed an increase in new construction within the District. Vacant lots, which for years, acted as water retention and drainage for other properties, are now being filled in and built upon, therefore changing the topography of the land and the way the water flows. By doing this, roadside swales now play a more prominent role for drainage than ever before. To compound the issue, some residents fill their swale in for the convenience of mowing, or to eliminate standing water in front of their property. Together, these situations have created drainage concerns for some residents and for the District. The re-contouring of swales, combined with our *Driveway Culvert Replacement Program* has helped minimize these concerns and provides the most effective drainage possible. Keep in mind that during heavy rainfall events, the drainage system could get overwhelmed and some flooding may occur, but with culverts and swales that are properly designed, I feel that the drainage will be much improved. It is the combined efforts of the District and the landowners that will make the difference.

Our *Driveway Culvert Replacement Program* has been very productive. To date, we have installed 207 culverts and have 59 on schedule. This program allows the District to replace culverts at a cost of \$300.00 for a standard install. This fee includes an 18" - 20' culvert, rip-rap headwalls, and sod along the culvert ends. We also install driveway culverts on County roads at a cost of \$750.00. This fee includes a County approved 24" mitered end culvert with poured concrete end-walls. Keep in mind, that culvert maintenance is still the responsibility of the landowner. Landowners are responsible to remove sediment buildup in the culvert and to regularly inspect for erosion or for any type of damage. We have seen improvements in many areas of the District where driveway culverts have been replaced and as a result receive fewer calls related to drainage issues. If you have questions regarding the condition of your culvert, please contact our office and we can set up an inspection.

With 378 miles of drainage swales and 60 miles of canals, our mowing program can be challenging at times. It takes an average of 6-8 weeks to complete our mowing schedule, with June through October being the busiest months. A few years back, the District created a “Do Not Mow” list for landowners who choose to mow their easements. This list is checked by the operators each day to ensure that they these properties are bypassed. However, if someone on the list is not maintaining the easement, the District will mow, and then try to contact the landowner for updated information. We also have a maintenance agreement with Palm Beach County to mow county roads in Jupiter Farms and Palm Beach Country Estates.

This year 51.57 inches of rain was recorded at the District Work Center from September 2016 to August 2017. Here is a breakdown of the monthly totals and the ten year average:

2016-2017	Monthly Total	10 Year Average by Month
September	4.2	6.87
October	4.71	3.82
November	.21	2.25
December	2.48	3.42
January	2.25	3.37
February	3.19	3.65
March	1.32	4.54
April	6.64	2.95
May	4.22	6.23
June	11.26	7.71
July	11.04	7.46
August	2.48	9.55

The District continues to apply regulated and permitted herbicides in the canal and outfall systems for the control of Aquatic Weeds. These systems are checked regularly and sprayed on an as needed basis.

In addition to the District's day to day operations, we interact with agencies and municipalities who also serve the community. They include Palm Beach County Road and Bridge, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Wildland Taskforce, Fire and Rescue, South Florida Water Management District, Solid Waste Authority, Town of Jupiter, and The Loxahatchee River District. The District also participates as committee members with the Florida Association of Special Districts, The Loxahatchee River Coordinating Council, The Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative, and The Safety Council of Palm Beach County. These interactions ensure good relationships with governmental department heads to provide service and information within the District.

One agency that has provided much needed support has been the Wild Land Taskforce. This Taskforce helps monitor for unauthorized motor vehicles which are prohibited on District canal right-of-ways. Use of any unauthorized vehicle on a District canal has the potential for property damage, injuries or even fatalities. Operators are subject to citations and vehicles will be confiscated if apprehended. If you notice any type of vehicle on canals, please call the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

In May of this year, operator Jeff Borus completed the Stormwater Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector Training Program sponsored by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. This course is logged as a part of our annual report for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES report also includes inspections of illicit discharge in the District's drainage system, structural inspections of canal culverts, flood control structures, weir structures, and field reports for construction projects.

Safety is of utmost importance and I am happy to report that this year there were no reported work-related accidents at the District. As a result, the District received awards from the Safety Council of Palm Beach County for Outstanding Achievements in Driver and Employee safety. This marks the 20th year in a row that the District has received these awards. Employees regularly participate in safety related seminars presented by the Safety Council, such as First Aid, CPR,

and equipment safety. In addition, safety meetings are held throughout the year at the District Work Center for all employees.

In July, The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit performed a safety assessment of the District Work Center. As a result, security cameras were installed. More preventative measures are planned in the future to ensure the safety of all District employees.

Throughout the year, the District receives numerous calls requesting services that we do not provide. One of more frequent requests is the removal of landscape debris. Solid Waste Authority is responsible for debris pick-up. The debris needs to be properly cut and placed in front of your property before they will pick up, they do not pick up debris in front of vacant lots, and they do not transport tree stumps. It is illegal to dump any kind of trash onto District right-of-ways, or any type of illicit discharge that could enter the District's drainage system. If you notice any of these illegal activities, please call our office at 561-747-0550.

The District office is open Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. Please call or stop by if you have a question or concern regarding District related issues. We will do our best to assist you within the realm of our responsibility.