

District Notes & News



South Indian River
Water Control District™

Established 1923

February 2016

SUPERVISORS

Stephen Hinkle
President

Michael Ryan
Vice-President

Michael Danchuk

John Meyer

Tom Powell

STAFF

Michael A. Dillon
Manager of Operations

Holly Rigsby
Office Administrator

DISTRICT OFFICE

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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
Jupiter High School
at 7:00 p.m.
Contact the District Office
for an agenda.*



Michael Dillon

El Nino Year Means Wet Conditions for SIRWCD

Weather experts have been talking about it since last spring and their predictions have been right on the money. The El Nino of 2015-2016 is the strongest on record and South Indian River Water Control District has felt its effects. The last time an El Nino of this magnitude had formed in the Pacific was the winter of 1997-1998 and it wreaked havoc over much of the country. That winter, SIRWCD recorded over 17 inches of rain between the months of December and February and forecasters are calling for much of the same with this El Nino.

What does that mean for SIRWCD? RAIN, RAIN, AND MORE RAIN! December was one of the wettest on record with almost 11 inches recorded at the District offices and in January, we received nearly 8 inches. Over the last 10 years, our average rainfall in the District from December through February is just over 9 inches for the three-month period. Wetter conditions mean drainage swales will have more water for longer periods, roads become saturated and at times may hold water, and of course, those pesky mosquitoes appear, something we are not accustomed to seeing this time of year.

With the official rainy season just around the corner, please take a moment to inspect your driveway culvert and swale area for any signs of drainage issues, and feel free to contact the District for any assistance needed. I wish I had better news regarding the El Nino forecast, but let's hope that this upcoming hurricane season will be just as quiet as the last few years! If you have any questions regarding our services, please call our offices, send us an e-mail, or visit our website at www.sirwcd.org.

District Holds Workshop on Driveway Culvert Installation

The South Indian River Water Control District Board of Supervisors discussed the installation of driveway culverts at a workshop held at the District's offices on February 4, 2016. Currently, the policy is that landowners are responsible for the maintenance and replacement of their driveway culverts.

The Supervisors noted there are problems with old driveway culverts that are non-functioning and have not been replaced by owners, as well as culverts that were installed years ago at the wrong elevation, both of which impact the drainage capabilities of the District. Discussions included whether the District should take over installation and replacement of culverts and provide maintenance to help ensure better drainage overall.

Supervisor Powell said that the Board is obligated to implement and maintain the District's Plan of Reclamation and the swales are part of the secondary drainage system. Supervisor Hinkle noted that there are naturally low areas and the water on each street may flow differently, which is challenging. Manager of Operations Michael Dillon reported that some landowners are changing the topography of their lot, creating additional problems and that more control over the process may be beneficial. The District is considering requiring a permit for installation of driveway culverts associated with new construction in coordination with Palm Beach County. In addition, there was some discussion regarding the implementation of a District-wide, long-term replacement program, however, the Board asked staff to provide additional information for the February Board meeting.

New District Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvement Petitions

Please see the story to the right regarding new policies enacted for petitions and referenda for capital improvement projects in South Indian River Water Control District.

The District has received petitions from landowners requesting roadway improvement projects. Currently, the District has received petitions that have been verified as meeting the requirement of obtaining signatures from more than 50% of the landowners within the project area requesting a referendum for the application of asphalt to the road. The following list represents approximately 2.0 miles of roadway:

- 76th Trail N between 160th Lane N and 162 Court N
- 78th Drive N between 165th Street N and 167th Court N
- 93rd Lane N between 155th Road N and 167th Court N
- 159th Court N between 79th Terrace N and 84th Avenue N
- 159th Court N between 78th Drive N and 79th Terrace N
- 175th Road N between Jupiter Farms Road and West End
- 179th Court N between Mellen Lane N and Alexander Run

The following list of roadways petitioning for the application of asphalt had been submitted under the old requirement of a minimum of 35% of landowners within the benefitted area. The contact persons for these roadway petitions were notified regarding the Board of Supervisors updated policy requirement of more than 50% of affected landowners, which has been applied retroactively, and that the cut-off date had been extended to February 29, 2016 to allow time to secure the additional signatures needed. The following list represents approximately 2.2 miles of roadway:

- 70th Trail N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 75th Avenue N between 150th Court N and 155th Place N
- 76th Trail N between 163rd Court N and 165th Street N
- 85th Way N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 126th Terrace N between Indiantown Road and 185th Street N
- 133rd Drive N between 165th Road N and 169th Court N

Landowners on the following roadway have also petitioned to distribute a referendum for open-graded emulsified mix (OGEM):

- 93rd Lane N between 155th Road N and 159th Court N

Note: This information was presented at the January 21, 2016 Board of Supervisors monthly meeting. Due to the limitations of printing and mailing times, this information is subject to change.



Board of Supervisors Sets New Policies for Petitions and Referenda

At a policy workshop held on November 12, 2015, the South Indian River Water Control District Board of Supervisors debated changing the minimum requirements for submitting capital improvement petitions, as well as for voting on any resulting referenda for these projects. In addition, the Board heard from a number of landowners on these issues.

At the Board of Supervisors' monthly meeting on November 19, 2015, after additional discussion and landowner input, the Board voted three to two to change the minimum requirement for new capital improvement petitions from the previous **35% of affected landowners to a majority of affected landowners (more than 50%)**. The Board directed that this new policy was to be applied retroactively to those petitions already received by the District during 2015.

The Board had previously established a cut-off date of December 31 for petitions received in 2015. However, as a result of the new policy requirements, the Board decided to extend the cut-off date to **February 29, 2016** to allow time for landowners whose petitions did not meet the new minimum to secure the additional signatures needed. (See the story to the left for a list of roadways that previously petitioned under the old requirement that have yet to meet the new standard.)

In addition, the Board voted three to two to change the policy for voting on a referendum for a capital improvement to require that **a majority of affected landowners (more than 50%)** vote yes in order for the referendum to pass. The old policy required *a majority of votes cast in favor* in Palm Beach Country Estates and *a majority of affected landowners in favor* in Jupiter Farms.

Both new policies apply to the entire District. This information was included in a special insert in the December issue of this newsletter, but due to the important nature of these policy changes, we are repeating it here.

For more information, please visit the District website at www.sirwcd.org or call the District office at 561-747- 0550.

REESE'S BRIDGE TRANSFERRED TO SIRWCD

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has transferred the Right of Way Occupancy Permit for Reese's Bridge on the C-18 Canal to South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD). This bridge provides access for SIRWCD to transport maintenance equipment to operate and maintain facilities within Palm Beach Country Estates.

At their January 21, 2016 monthly meeting, the Board of Supervisors authorized the District Engineer to move forward with a contract to make necessary updates to the bridge, including the installation of riprap, right-of-way gates, and no trespassing signs.

The bridge is to be used by District vehicles only and District landowners and the public will not be allowed to access the bridge for fishing, walking, equestrian or other recreational use. However, the County has a bridge just to the south, which allows access for these recreational activities.

25th Annual Landowners Family Day



Saturday, March 12

11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the District Work Center

Jupiter Farms, Palm Beach Country Estates, Egret Landing and Jupiter Commerce Park

Meet the Supervisors & Staff • Get to know your neighbors

Fun for the Whole Family!

New this year - McCray's Backyard Bar-B-Q

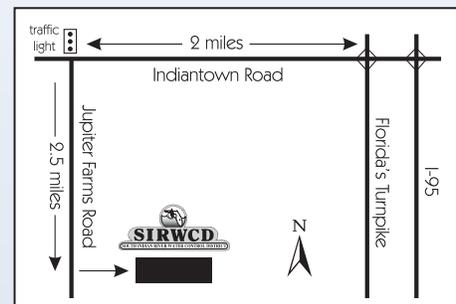
Tom Jackson Band - National Recording Artist • Jupiter Farms Community Band

Cock-A-Doodle-Do Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Bounce House & Face Painting

Community Exhibits

Free Information & Give-A-Ways!

Florida Department of Environmental Resources Management
Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County
Citizens Observer Patrol Unit 103 • Florida Forest Service
Jupiter Farmer • Jupiter Farms Residents Association
Florida Trail Association, Loxahatchee Chapter
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue • Sheriff's Office
Safety Council of Palm Beach County, Inc. • 211 Help Line
Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County



Please RSVP to Holly or Carol
at 747-0550



**South Indian River
Water Control District™**

15600 Jupiter Farms Road
Jupiter, FL 33478

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WEST PALM BCH FL
PERMIT # 611

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See you there!**

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Visit www.sirwcd.org
for news updates!

25th Annual Landowners Family Day



Fun for the Family! Saturday, March 12

Join us from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm
for our 25th Annual Landowners Family Day.
Enjoy McCray's Backyard Bar-B-Q, activities
for the kids, live music by the Tom Jackson Band,
and exhibits by community organizations!