

# District Notes & News



**South Indian River**  
*Water Control District™*

Established 1923

Summer 2015

## **SUPERVISORS**

**Michael Danchuk**  
*President*

**Tom Rice**  
*Vice-President*

**Stephen Hinkle**

**Tom Powell**

**Michael Ryan**

## **STAFF**

**Michael A. Dillon**  
*Manager of Operations*

**Holly Rigby**  
*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  
Jupiter High School  
at 7:30 p.m.*

*Contact the District Office  
for an agenda.*



*Michael Dillon*

## **Hurricane Season Is Here - Are You Ready?**

It's hard to believe that 10 years have gone by since Hurricane Wilma paid us an unwelcome visit. We have been fortunate the last decade and this year's forecast is calling for another quiet season, but like the old saying goes, it only takes one storm to make it busy.

At South Indian River Water Control District, there are two key components that help protect life and property in the event of a storm. One is our maintenance program and the other is our emergency plan. Throughout the year, we are constantly inspecting and replacing drainage culverts to restore proper stormwater runoff management throughout the District. We monitor our canals for debris or heavy vegetation and either remove or spray the potential blockage to make sure the canals are clear and functioning.

We also work with the landowners regarding driveway culvert replacements and swale maintenance. Now would be a good time for landowners to inspect their driveway culverts for erosion and sediment buildup. It is the responsibility of the landowner to keep their driveway culverts cleaned out and to replace any culvert when it becomes inoperable. These culverts, when fully functional, provide proper stormwater runoff not only for you, but for your neighbors as well. They also aid in draining stormwater from the internal swales to the main canal system. Here is a checklist of things you should look for:

- Signs of erosion around the culvert ends and/or excessive rust build-up
- Cracks or areas that might have settled leaving a gap between your concrete or asphalt driveway and the culvert
- Sink holes or depressions in dirt driveway at the top of the culvert
- Sediment buildup in the culvert (particularly after a heavy rainfall)

If you notice any of these issues, call the District office at 561-747-0550 to schedule an inspection. If your culvert needs to be replaced, we will remove the old culvert and then set the swale at the proper elevation. You are responsible for the purchase and installation of the new culvert, as well as the placement of concrete or rip-rap headwalls or sod to prevent erosion around the culvert ends. Don't wait until it's too late – inspect your culverts regularly and report any issues that might necessitate a replacement.

The District's emergency plan is a coordinated effort with other local and state agencies before, during, and after a storm. The District works closely with the South Florida Water Management District to receive the latest information on an approaching storm. They also provide assistance in flood control for Jupiter Farms with the G-92 and S-46 water control structures.

After the storm, we work with Palm Beach County to ensure the roads are clear of debris for emergency vehicles, we locate and mark any downed power lines, and assist landowners who may be in need. When a storm threatens our area, all of our operators are placed on standby, and if possible, will report shortly after the storm passes. I have been through five hurricanes since I moved to Florida and I wasn't prepared in the first one. That didn't happen again! Be ready – inspect your driveway culvert, make sure your swale is clear of any blockages, trim your trees early, and report anything you feel may be an issue in the event of a storm. Our website offers many tips and links on what you can do to prepare for a hurricane or tropical storm, as well as what to do after a storm impacts our area. Please visit [www.sirwcd.org/emergency.html](http://www.sirwcd.org/emergency.html) to learn more.

# Results of Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvements Referenda and Policy Changes

In 2014, the South Indian River Water Control District's Board of Supervisors had received verified petitions from more than 35% of the landowners along 20 roadways in Palm Beach Country Estates requesting the construction of a County Standard improvement for the application of asphalt to the road.

While receiving petitions for roadway improvements, the Board also received requests from a majority of landowners who wanted their roadway to remain a dirt road and would not vote for a proposed improvement on their road. At their November 20, 2014 meeting, the Board removed the following roadways from proceeding to referenda:

- 76th Trail N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 76th Trail N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 85th Avenue N between Canal C and Canal D
- 85th Way N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 154th Court N between 75th Avenue N to C-18 Canal
- 88th Trail N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N

As a result of the landowners' petitions and the District Engineer's recommendation and pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 2001-313, Laws of Florida, which is the Special Act of the Legislature that serves as the charter of the District, the Board of Supervisors of the District authorized referenda on the remaining roadways. The results, certified by the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections and accepted by the Board at their April 16, 2015 board meeting are listed below:

- 64th Way N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N  
– Passed with For - 7 • Against - 2
- 67th Trail N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N  
– Passed with For - 10 • Against - 3
- 68th Drive N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N  
– Passed with For - 10 • Against - 3
- 71st Drive N between 155th Place N and 160th Street N  
– Failed with For - 5 • Against - 9
- 74th Avenue N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N  
– Passed with For - 9 • Against - 4
- 75th Way N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N  
– Passed with For - 8 • Against - 7
- 77th Trail N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N  
– Passed with For - 8 • Against - 6
- 78th Drive N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N  
– Failed with For - 6 • Against - 6\*
- 78th Drive N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N  
– Passed with For - 11 • Against - 6
- 81st Terrace N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N  
– Passed with For - 12 • Against - 3
- 149th Place between 69th Drive N and 64th Way N  
– Passed with For - 11 • Against - 0
- 159th Court N between 75th Avenue N to East End  
– Failed with For - 6 • Against - 9
- 163rd Court N between 75th Avenue N and 79th Terrace N  
– Passed with For - 12 • Against - 4
- 163rd Court N between 75th Avenue N and East End  
– Passed with For - 7 • Against - 2

The total estimated annual payment per parcel is approximately \$1200.00 per year based upon current interest rates, over a term of up to twelve years. An option for paying the assessment up front will also be available.

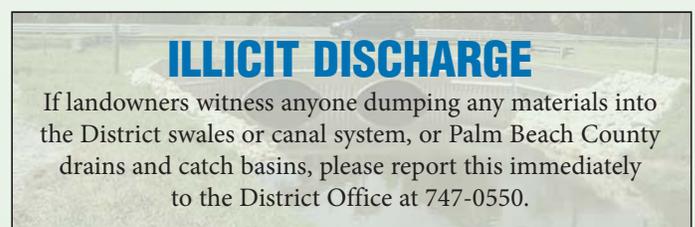
\*At a workshop and meeting held on May 14, 2015, the Board of Supervisors accepted an affidavit providing a signature for an unsigned ballot that was cast for 78th Drive N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N that had voted no, and as a result, the referendum failed with 6 for and 6 against paving. The Board did note that the landowners on this roadway, should they desire, could re-petition under the old policy of waiting one year, as opposed to the new policy of waiting three years.

The Board then amended and passed Resolution 2015-1 directing staff to proceed with a *Plan of Improvement* for the 11 landowner-initiated roadway improvement projects that passed and to prepare an amendment to the water control plan for the District and the levy of non-ad valorem assessments necessary to construct, maintain and operate said improvements. Staff was directed to schedule all necessary hearings and provide notice to all landowners and statutory parties of the proceedings as required by law. The District Engineer was directed to prepare a *Plan of Improvement* for the project.

Please check our website for updated information on this proposed *Plan of Improvement* as it becomes available.

At the April and May Board of Supervisors' meetings, there were extensive discussions by the Board, with input from numerous landowners in attendance, regarding changes to percentage requirements for petitioning and voting on capital improvement referenda. The Supervisors noted that many landowners had expressed interest in establishing different requirements for the east and west sides of the District. Some changes were implemented in April, however, at their June 11 meeting, the Board voted three to one (one Supervisor was absent) to set the requirement for petitioning for capital improvements at 35% for the entire District; require a 50+% majority of votes cast for passage of a referendum for the lands lying east of the C-18 Canal; and require a 50+% majority of all affected landowners for passage of a referendum for lands lying west of the C-18 Canal.

If a referendum passes based on these policies, all landowners benefiting from the improvement would be assessed on a per parcel basis, unless a per acre basis is requested and approved by the Board.



**ILLICIT DISCHARGE**

If landowners witness anyone dumping any materials into the District swales or canal system, or Palm Beach County drains and catch basins, please report this immediately to the District Office at 747-0550.

# DISTRICT POLL ON POTENTIAL POLICY CHANGE RESULTS

The South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD) Board of Supervisors had directed staff to send a poll to all District landowners concerning its policy for voting on landowner-initiated capital improvements. Currently, when a roadway or any other capital improvement petition obtains the minimum required number of signatures from all affected landowners, the Board may approve the petition to proceed to referendum. All affected landowners are then mailed a ballot to vote on the capital improvement. The ballot contains information concerning cost and financing of the capital improvement and allows each landowner to vote "For" or "Against" the improvement. The ballots are returned to SIRWCD and are delivered to the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections for counting and verifying of the results.

Like most traditional voting, the referendum is approved or denied **by a majority (more than 50%) of the ballots returned or cast**. For example, if there are 20 parcels in the affected area of an improvement referendum and only 12 ballots are returned, with 7 in favor and 5 against, the referendum passes and all landowners would be assessed.

The Board wanted landowner input on a proposed new policy that would require **more than 50% of the landowners affected by the capital improvement be in favor** in order for it to pass.

The poll was mailed to landowners on Jan. 28, 2015 and results shown below are the responses that were received by the District and were presented to the Board of Supervisors at their March 26 meeting:

## Palm Beach Country Estates

- Leave Policy 214 • Change Policy 270

**Jupiter Farms** - Leave Policy 354 • Change Policy 925

**Egret Landing** - Leave Policy 25 • Change Policy 40

**Jupiter Park of Commerce** - Leave Policy 2 • Change Policy 5

There was a total of 16 invalid responses that either checked both boxes or neither box.

**TOTALS** - Leave Policy 595 • Change Policy 1240

The total number of responses represented approximately 27.6% of the landowners in the District. Approximately 18.5% were in favor of changing the policy and 9.1% were in favor of leaving the current policy as is.

The Board heard comments from several residents of the District on both sides of the issue. Board President Michael Danchuk felt there was not enough response to warrant changing the policy and Mr. Rice thought Mr. Powell, who was not able to attend the meeting, should be present for the discussion on a very important potential policy change. Mr. Hinkle and Mr. Ryan stated there was a clear majority in the poll results and felt the policy should be changed.

A motion was made to change the policy on capital improvement project voting to require more than 50% of affected landowners be in favor in order to be passed. The motion was defeated with two Supervisors in favor and two against. One Supervisor, as previously noted, was not present.

# District Receives Insurance Reimbursement Check

The South Indian River Water Control District was awarded a reimbursement check for \$1422.41 on April 22 by Christopher Kittleson of Public Risk Underwriters of Florida, representing the District's insurer, Preferred Governmental Insurance Trust, for training and safety initiatives undertaken from October 2014 to March 2015. Mr. Kittleson congratulated the District for taking the initiative to utilize the Preferred Training Incentive Program for Safety, which not only provides an economic benefit to its members, but also assists them in protecting personnel and property by providing financial incentives for safety training and safety equipment procurement. The program provides matching incentives of up to \$5000.00 per year for safety-related signage, driver training, continuing education classes and more.

Over the past six months, the District has installed danger and no trespassing signs every 500 feet on canal banks and locks on gates, which are to be used by District personnel for maintenance purposes only. This will aid enforcement by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department and reduces liability issues. South Indian River Water Control District personnel continue to further their education and certifications with advanced training and programs to better serve the landowners, as well as ensure compliance with mandated safety requirements.

Operator Matt Wood recently attended the Florida Institute of Government seminar, "Customer Service for Supervisors and Managers of Municipalities" and along with Gregory Gell and George McGarry, completed the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's *Stormwater Erosion and Sedimentation Control Inspector Training Program* to become qualified Stormwater Management Inspectors. The program was developed to educate inspectors on proper installation, inspection and maintenance of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for use during and after construction to minimize erosion and sedimentation and to properly manage runoff stormwater. Florida's stormwater program is technology based, using performance standards and BMP design criteria. The use of innovative techniques and specifically designed erosion control systems is encouraged in order to prevent erosion and sedimentation during construction activity.

Employee CJ Wilbur attended a "Warehouse Safety" seminar, while operators Gregory Gell, Matt Wood and Arie Raz received certificates for first aid and CPR training sponsored by the Safety Council of Palm Beach County. In addition, the District received awards for driver and worker safety at the *18th Annual Safety Awards* by the Safety Council of Palm Beach County held on Thursday, March 12 in West Palm Beach.



Manager of Operations Michael Dillon, Office Administrator Holly Rigby and Supervisor Tom Rice, who also is a Trustee of Preferred Governmental Insurance, accept the reimbursement check on behalf of the District



# South Indian River Water Control District™

15600 Jupiter Farms Road  
Jupiter, FL 33478

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

## In this Issue...

**District Receives  
Reimbursement Check for  
Safety and Training**

**Landowner-Initiated  
Roadway Improvement  
Referenda Results**

**Poll Results on  
Potential Policy Change**

**Hurricane Season Is Here  
Are You Ready?**

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



*Visit our Updated Website!*

Please take a moment to visit our completely updated website at [www.sirwcd.org](http://www.sirwcd.org). You will find much more extensive information about the District in an easy to navigate format with quick links, drop-down menus and slide shows.

We'd like to thank all the landowners who participated in our previous photo contest and you will see we have used your great images throughout our site, as well as in our newsletters and District Engineer's Annual Reports.

We'd like to invite all landowners once again to submit digital images for our **2015 District Photo Contest!** Please visit [www.sirwcd.org/landownersphotos.html](http://www.sirwcd.org/landownersphotos.html) for digital image submission rules and guidelines. Medium to high-quality images are best – nature, landscape, water views, and images of life in the District are all welcome. Please submit your entries by August 31 at the latest.

## 24th Annual Landowners Family Day



This year's 24th Annual Landowners Family Day, held on Saturday, March 14, was a huge success with over 725 landowners enjoying the festivities. From the delicious Sonny's Bar-B-Q lunch, to the petting zoo, face painting, pony rides and bounce house for the kids, to the exhibits by community organizations, to live music by the Tom Jackson Band, a great time was had by all! Visit our website to see a slide show of Family Day fun!

Please join the Board of Supervisors and District Staff at next year's Family Day – our 25th year! See you then!