

District Notes & News



South Indian River
Water Control District™

Established 1923

August 2016

SUPERVISORS

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Vice-President

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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
Media Center at 7:00 p.m.
Contact the District Office
for an agenda.*



Michael Dillon

District Institutes Culvert Replacement Program

Replacement Culverts

The South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD) Board of Supervisors has approved a culvert replacement program for properties fronting SIRWCD roadways, as well as properties located on Palm Beach County roadways. This program is for the replacement of driveway culverts that are no longer functional. Landowners must notify the District when their culvert has been crushed, damaged or has collapsed. This is important to ensure proper stormwater management for not only your property, but also your neighbors' properties.

For properties located on District roadways, SIRWCD will remove the old culvert and install a new replacement 18" x 20' HPDE corrugated culvert pipe or corrugated metal culvert pipe with rip rap and sod at a cost of \$300.00 for a single basic culvert, or \$600 for two basic culverts, to the landowner. A permit is not required from the County for this work.

For properties located on County roadways, a permit is not required if SIRWCD will be doing the replacement. Palm Beach County requires a 24" diameter aluminum culvert with mitered ends and cast-in-place concrete headwalls, which results in higher installation costs. For these installations, the cost to the landowner is \$750.00 for a single basic culvert or \$1,500 for two basic culverts.

For both types of culvert replacement, each site will be reviewed prior to installation and landowners will be notified if additional fill will be needed to complete the installation. This must be supplied by the landowner.

To schedule an installation, visit the District Office to fill out the appropriate Driveway Culvert Installation Agreement for your property, or download it from the SIRWCD website and take it to the District Office. A check made payable to SIRWCD is required.



New Construction and Temporary Culverts

Palm Beach County issues permits for driveway culvert installations for new construction. The District is responsible for preparing the area for the culvert to ensure proper elevations for drainage. Landowners should call the District office at 561-747-0550 to schedule this service. The homeowner is then responsible for the purchase and installation of the culvert. The District recommends installation of a concrete header for the ends of the culvert to protect it from being crushed. This can be accomplished with cast-in-place concrete or rip-rap bags. Sod should be installed around the culvert to prevent erosion and sediment build up in or around the culvert.

After installation, the District will come out and inspect the site to ensure it was properly constructed and issue a final inspection sticker that can be provided to Palm Beach County.

Note: There are only two culverts per parcel allowed per Palm Beach County Ordinance 2007-013, "Lots located on local or residential access streets shall have a maximum of two access connections."

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Four Candidates Seek Two Seats on Board of Supervisors

The South Indian River Water Control District is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors who serve three-year terms. Supervisors are elected landowner vote based on parcel acreage.

This year, two supervisors will be elected for terms of three years each. Both supervisors to be elected must own land in the District and must reside in Palm Beach County. At least one supervisor to be elected must reside in the area of the District east of the South Florida Water Management District Canal 18 (C-18).

Official ballots will be sent out in mid-August. Please note that if you vote for two candidates, *at least one candidate must reside in the District in the area east of the C-18*.

Signed ballots are to be returned to the SIRWCD office using the enclosed pre-addressed envelope so as to be received no later than September 15, 2016. You may also present your ballot at the Annual meeting.

If you own more than one parcel and receive more than one official ballot, you need only sign and return one ballot indicating the total acreage owned by you for which District assessments are not delinquent.

The District requests that you return your ballot promptly to prevent last minute processing delays. If a change of name of the landowner or a change of ownership has occurred, or a ballot has been lost or damaged, please notify the District office.

This year, four candidates will seek the two seats up for election. Michael Ryan, a resident of Palm Beach Country Estates, has been on the board since 2010 and is running for reelection. Kevin Baker, a Palm Beach Country Estates resident, who has previously run for a seat on the board, and two new candidates, Michael Howard, a resident of Jupiter Farms, and Tony Capute, a resident of Palm Beach Country Estates, are running for the first time this year. Candidate biographies are posted on the District's website at www.sirwcd.org/elections.html.

All candidates have signed the Oath of Candidate, which states they will resign from office within 30 days if their residency changes and causes the District's Board of Supervisors to no longer be in compliance with Chapter 2001-313, Laws of Florida.

Election ballots must be received at the District office no later than 4:30 pm on September 15, or you may cast your ballot in person at the start of the Annual Landowners Meeting that evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Jupiter High School Auditorium. Landowners should contact the District office at 561-747-0550 if they have questions regarding the election or if a ballot has not been received or has been lost or damaged.

Culvert Replacement Program

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When a landowner is building a new home or extensive renovation of their property within SIRWCD, they must ensure that their contractor installs a temporary culvert to prevent blockages in the swales that could impact their ability to handle stormwater runoff and cause flooding in that area. All construction entrances must have at least a 12" x 20' temporary culvert. We do not recommend installing a permanent culvert during construction due to risk of damage by heavy vehicles accessing the site.

Any construction entrances that do not have a temporary culvert in place will be dug out without notice to allow for proper drainage.

Hard Surface Covering Over Culverts

If landowners wish to install in the future, or have already installed, a hard surface covering such as concrete, asphalt, pavers or brick over their culvert as part of their driveway, please be aware that when replacement of the culvert becomes necessary, the District is not responsible for the cost of replacement or repair of the hard surfacing. This is a landowner expense. A permit is also required by Palm Beach County – please contact them at 561-233-5000 to apply.

Driveway Culvert Maintenance

Landowners are responsible for the maintenance of their driveway culverts. When fully functional, driveway culverts help provide proper stormwater runoff management, not only for yourself, but also for your neighbors. They also aid in draining stormwater from the internal swales to the main canal system. Culverts should be regularly inspected by the landowner to ensure it is functioning properly and is not blocked with debris or has been crushed or damaged. Here's a checklist of things you should look for:

- Signs of erosion around the culvert ends
- Excessive rust build-up on metal culverts
- Cracks or areas that may have settled, leaving a gap between your concrete or asphalt driveway and the culvert
- Sink holes or depressions in a 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.

Palm Beach Country Estates Potable Water Update

An amendment to the District's agreement with the Town of Jupiter approved by the Board of Supervisors in October 2015 revised the number of remaining connection reservations to the potable water system as follows: June 21, 2015-June 20, 2016 -300 reservations; June 21, 2016-June 20, 2017 -160 reservations; and June 21, 2017-June 20, 2018 -80 reservations.

As the number of available reservations will decrease each year, any landowners who are planning to hook up to the potable water system should do so in a timely manner to ensure receiving the District's discounted connection rates. After June of 2018, the rates for hooking up to the system will be the Town of Jupiter's prevailing rates, which are substantially higher than the District's negotiated rates.

As of June 21, 2016, there have been 1,119 connections to the potable water system and the number of remaining available connections is currently 160.

For more information, contact the District office or visit the District's website at www.sirwcd.org/PBCEwater.html for the latest update on the number of remaining available connections.

District Policies for Petitions and Referenda

At their monthly meeting on November 19, 2015, after holding a workshop and receiving input from District landowners, the Board of Supervisors 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 be applied retroactively to those petitions already received by the District during 2015, however, the previously established cut-off date of December 31 for petitions received in 2015 was extended to **February 29, 2016** to allow time for landowners whose petitions did not meet the new minimum to secure the additional signatures needed.

In addition, the Board voted three to two to change the policy for voting on a referendum for a capital improvement in Palm Beach Country Estates from **a majority of votes cast in favor**, to **a majority of affected landowners in favor**, in order for the referendum to pass. This policy was already in place for Jupiter Farms.

At their April 21, 2016 monthly meeting, after extensive discussion on corner lot voting, the Board unanimously agreed that lots adjacent to more than one road and already being assessed for a previous roadway improvement, will be assessed at 50% for a subsequent roadway improvement should a referendum pass. Previously, corner lots were allowed to vote on the adjacent roadway improvement, but were not assessed.

The corner lot policy change was deemed necessary by the Board to more accurately reflect benefits received from an adjacent roadway improvement. The new policy information will be included on the District's official roadway improvement petition forms. The Board noted that the 2015 Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvement petitions already received and verified by the District did not need to re-petition with the new policy information. The new policy will apply to all future referendums and will be included on ballots where applicable, including the proposed *19th Plan of Improvements* referenda. (See article at right).

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

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Help reduce negative impacts on the environment by reducing or eliminating the use of fertilizers and pesticides, which end up in stormwater runoff and can affect the quality of nearby surface waters. Consider using native, drought-resistant plants and irrigate your landscape properly so that it minimizes runoff and instead allows for natural infiltration into the ground, where soils will help filter it, and recharge groundwater.

ILLCIT DISCHARGE

If landowners witness anyone dumping materials into the District swales, canal system, or Palm Beach County catch basins, please call the District Office at 747-0550.

2015 Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvement Petitions

The petitions shown below were received and have been verified by the District Engineer as of February 29, 2016, as meeting the minimum 50+% requirement to apply asphalt on the following roadways in the District (approximately 3.6 miles):

- 70th Trail N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 76th Trail N between 163rd Court N and 165th Street N
- 76th Trail N between 160th Lane N and 162nd Court N
- 78th Drive N between 165th Street N and 167th Court N
- 93rd Lane N between 155th Road N and 159th Court N
- 154th Court N. between 75th Avenue N and 81st Terrace N
- 159th Court N between 79th Terrace N and 84th Avenue N
- 159th Court N between 78th Drive N and 79th Terrace N
- 160th Street N between 72nd Drive N and 75th Avenue N and 72nd Drive N from 160th Street N to 160th Lane N
- 175th Road N between Jupiter Farms Road and West End
- 179th Court N between Mellen Lane N and Alexander Run

Pursuant to Board direction at their April 21, 2016 monthly meeting, District staff is preparing a referendum for this landowner-initiated improvement project, which will include estimated costs and define the benefitted area for the proposed *19th Plan of Improvements*.

Note: For the most up-to-date information on this proposed improvement project, please visit the District's website at www.sirwcd.org/petitions.html.

18th Plan of Improvements

The *18th Plan of Improvements* was approved by the Board of Supervisors at their October 15, 2015 Board Meeting. The following roadways in Palm Beach Country Estates voted in favor of the application of asphalt:

- 64th Way N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 67th Trail N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 68th Drive N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 74th Avenue N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 75th Way N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 77th Trail N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 78th Drive N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 81st Terrace N between 150th Court N and 154th Court N
- 149th Place between 69th Drive N and 64th Way N
- 163rd Court N between 75th Avenue N and 79th Terrace N
- 163rd Court N between 75th Avenue N and East End

The Board of Supervisors approved the loan financing for the *18th Plan of Improvements* at their March 2016 meeting. The cost to affected landowners is estimated to be \$1150 per year for 10 years. Landowners were offered an option to pay a one-time, up-front cost of \$8,813 in lieu of financing.

At the June 30, 2016 Board Meeting, the District Engineer presented the three bids that were received, with Hardrives being the low bidder. The Board of Supervisors accepted the Engineer's recommendation and awarded the project to Hardrives. Project construction is expected to start in August.



South Indian River Water Control District™

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*Serving Palm Beach Country Estates, Jupiter Farms,
Egret Landing & Jupiter Park of Commerce*

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August 18, 2016

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Visit www.sirwcd.org today!

SIRWCD Annual Budget Hearing & Annual Landowners Meeting

The South Indian River Water Control District's (SIRWCD) Annual Budget Public Hearing will be held prior to the monthly board meeting on August 18 at the Jupiter High School Media Center at 7:00 pm.

Total assessments from ongoing programs are proposed to decrease from last year's level by .6% (\$30,500) to \$5,245,300 for the 2016-2017 budget year. New assessments this year are for the 18th Plan of Improvements, adding \$189,000 to the assessment roll. The operations and maintenance budget is proposed to increase 4% to allow for the addition of two staff members to bring staffing levels back up to previous levels, as well as for increases in health insurance.

The Water Control Budgets are proposed to increase \$50,000 for the East Basin and \$150,000 for the West Basin. This would result in an increased assessment of \$23 on the East side and \$17 per acre on the West side. The increases are necessary, to replenish fund draw-downs from past and current fiscal years.

The Road Maintenance budget for Palm Beach Country Estates (PBCE) is proposed to increase by \$28 per parcel, while Jupiter Farms will remain the same. As with the Water Control Budget, the Road Maintenance Budget for PBCE largely reflects replenishment of reduced fund balances from past and current fiscal years.

Debt assessments have been reduced due to refunding of PBCE Water Distribution Bonds, which saved \$63 per parcel.

Pay downs of the 2004 Road Improvement Series A Note has reduced assessments by \$56 and Series B Note by \$95 for 1062 parcels in Jupiter Farms. This is the last year for those assessments. The assessment for the 2011 Egret Landing Improvement Note is being reduced by \$106 per parcel and this is the last year for this assessment.

The increase in assessments in PBCE and Egret Landing will be offset by the debt service savings noted above. For most of the landowners in PBCE, the proposed overall Debt and Maintenance assessment will decrease about 2% or \$23. For Egret Landing, the proposed assessment will decrease almost 11% or \$100 per parcel. For most of the landowners in the Jupiter Farms neighborhood, the proposed increase in assessments will be about \$19 per parcel or 6.5%. Information on the proposed budget is available on the District's website.

The Annual Landowners Meeting will be held September 15 at 7:00 pm at the Jupiter High School Auditorium. Annual reports by the Manager of Operations and District Engineer will be presented.

Landowners are reminded that ballots for the SIRWCD Board of Supervisors are also due by this date.

If you have any questions about either of these meetings, please contact the District office at 561-747-0550.