

District Notes & News



South Indian River
Water Control District™

Established 1923

May 2017

SUPERVISORS

Stephen Hinkle
President

Michael Ryan
Vice-President

Michael Howard

John Meyer

Tom Powell

STAFF

Michael A. Dillon
Manager of Operations

Holly Rigsby
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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
at 7:00 p.m.
Contact the District Office
for an agenda.*

Board of Supervisors Adopts New Enhanced Stabilization/Paving Policy for District Roadways

The South Indian River Water Control District Board of Supervisors, by a vote of four to one, approved a new Enhanced Stabilization/Paving Policy for District Roadways at their April 20, 2017 board meeting. The new policy had been conceptually approved at the Board's February meeting and discussed in detail at a workshop held on March 9, 2017. The new policy is effective as of April 20, 2017 and includes new "No-Pave Petition" procedures. District staff was directed to update the official petition forms and incorporate the policy into the District's Policies & Procedures Manual, which is currently being updated.

I. PURPOSE

To create a systematic procedure for South Indian River Water Control District's landowners to apply for road surface upgrades on roads maintained by SIRWCD.

II. PROCEDURE

The South Indian River Water Control District Board of Supervisors hereby establishes the following:

1. No roadway will be considered for enhanced stabilization unless the easement width, drainage swales, and road base are considered suitable by the District Manager of Operations and the District Engineer.
2. Enhanced stabilization shall be in accordance with the design and specifications approved by the District Manager of Operations and District Engineer.
3. Should a roadway need enhancements to be considered suitable for the project as determined by the District Manager of Operations and District Engineer, the landowners shall pay the costs of these improvements.
4. Enhanced stabilization projects require a petition by landowners having signatures from more than 50% of the lots abutting the road segment or lots within the benefitted area, as determined by the District Engineer. Petitions shall be submitted to the District Office requesting the project along with a petition review fee (as recommended by the District Engineer and approved by the Board of Supervisors). Petitions shall be on a District approved form which provides a range of preliminary estimated paving costs provided by the District Engineer and such petitions shall state whether the project will be financed by the District. The Board of Supervisors may approve or deny the Petition after the District Manager of Operations and District Engineer review, verify, and make recommendations.
5. After submission of a qualified petition, Board approval, and review by the District Manager of Operations and District Engineer, a referendum ballot will be sent to all landowners on the road segment or all landowners in the benefitted area reflecting the estimated assessments. A successful referendum under this policy requires an affirmative vote by at least 90% of benefitted landowners for passage.
6. There are two options for funding a project. The choice between Landowner financing or District financing must be part of the initial petition request and the choice must be clearly noted on the petition:

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a. District financing: benefited landowners will be assessed for their portion of the actual cost of the project over the term of the financing secured by the District. Landowners who wish to pay their portion of the project without financing charges must submit their portion of the estimated project cost to SIRWCD prior to District financing of the project. Payment due dates will be announced to affected landowners.

b. Landowner financing: Projects not financed by the District must have all estimated costs paid in full prior to the project being added to a Plan of Improvement.

7. Petitions for landowner initiated enhanced stabilization projects will be available from the SIRWCD office on the first business day in February of each year and must be returned to SIRWCD by the last business day in April of the same year. Petitions meeting the requirements of the District Manager of Operations and District Engineer will be presented for approval by the Board no later than August 31 of the same year.

Once approved, referendum ballots will be mailed via certified mail to benefitted landowners. Landowners will have at least 30 days to return a completed referendum ballot with the date due for return clearly noted on the envelope and/or referendum ballot.

III. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. The District Board of Supervisors has the right to deny any landowner initiated project.
2. Petitions are only for one road section, defined as a continuous section of roadway of the same street name. Road sections considered for enhanced stabilization shall connect to existing stabilization of equal or greater durability on at least one end and consisting of a logical section of roadway (i.e., 1/4 mile, 1/2 mile, 4-way intersection, etc.).
3. For projects not financed through SIRWCD, no landowner shall be required by SIRWCD to provide funds. Funds collected for these projects will be held in escrow in a non-interest bearing account until all funds are collected and paid out. All funds must be collected by SIRWCD within one (1) year of a successful referendum. If adequate funds are not collected, the collected funds, less administrative, staff, and other fees or costs incurred by the District, will be returned to the landowners who paid. In the event of a project exceeding the budgeted amount, the additional funds needed to complete the project will be collected as a SIRWCD non-ad valorem assessment on the benefitted properties. Funds in excess of the project cost will be refunded proportionally to the amounts paid by each landowner.
4. Projects financed through SIRWCD are generally assessed on a per parcel benefited basis, although a per acre benefited or per foot of benefited frontage basis may be used, as determined by the Board of Supervisors.
5. Landowners must wait a minimum of three (3) years before a section of a road which failed in a referendum may be included in a new referendum. In addition, the failed section cannot be added to another section prior to the expiration of the three (3) year wait period.
6. Neighborhood plans approved by the Palm Beach County Commission shall be considered by the SIRWCD Board of Supervisors when making decisions about project approvals.
7. District Roads do not qualify for traffic calming devices.
8. Paving a road does not eliminate or reduce the annual road maintenance non-ad valorem assessment on a landowner's tax bill.

9. A public record notice will be filed for all benefited properties within a project upon a successful referendum.

10. Landowners may choose to utilize a road paving program provided by Palm Beach County.

IV. NO PAVE PETITIONS

Landowners interested in placing a "no enhanced stabilization" or "no-pave" restriction on the roadway adjacent to their property for a period of five (5) years may make a request in writing per the following procedures.

1. No-Pave Petitions shall be submitted to the District Office on a District-approved form within the time-frames specified for Enhanced Stabilization Petitions in Section II.7.
2. A No-Pave Petition fee (as recommended by the District Engineer and approved by the Board of Supervisors) shall be submitted at the time a petition is returned to the District office.
3. To be considered for approval, a No-Pave Petition shall be signed by landowners owning more than 50% of the lots abutting the road segment subject to the petition indicating their objection to paving. No-Pave Petitions shall be held on file with the District for a period of five (5) years following Board approval.
4. The Board of Supervisors may approve or deny the Petition after the District Manager of Operations and District Engineer review, verify, and make recommendations.
5. If the road segment designated in the No-Pave Petition overlaps a majority of parcels contained within an Enhanced Stabilization Petition submitted after the No-Pave Petition is approved by the Board, the Enhanced Stabilization Petition will not be accepted and no additional Enhanced Stabilization Petitions for such road segment will be accepted for five (5) years following approval of the No-Pave Petition by the Board.
6. No-Pave Petitions must meet the same criteria as Enhanced Stabilization Petitions regarding continuity, connection, and size as specified in Section III.2 of the Enhanced Stabilization Policy.
7. All No-Pave Petitions currently on file with the District as of April 20, 2017 shall expire five (5) years from their original submittal date.
8. Unverified No-Pave Petitions on file with the District when this policy is adopted shall remain unverified until such time as an Enhanced Stabilization Petition is submitted having the majority of its parcels overlapped by the road segment in the No-Pave Petition, but in no case following the expiration date of the No-Pave Petition.
9. If a signature of a landowner for a specific parcel appears on both a "No-Pave" and an "Enhanced Stabilization" petition, the signature is not valid for either petition and will not be counted as part of the percentage of approval.

Landowners may contact the District office via e-mail or at 561-747-0550 with any questions.

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.

First Public Hearing on Proposed Plan of Improvements

The first of two required public hearings on the proposed 19th Plan of Improvements will be held on May 18, 2017 at the Board of Supervisors monthly meeting in the Jupiter High School Media Center at 7:00 pm. Written objections to the proposed plan may be filed at the District's office on or before the scheduled meeting.

The South Indian River Water Control District has filed, in the office of the Secretary of the District, a resolution to consider approval of an amendment to its current water control plan to provide for the 2016 Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvement Project as requested by the landowners within the benefited areas. Pursuant to Board direction, after petitioners met the minimum requirements, staff prepared a referendum for the landowner-proposed project that was mailed on October 17, 2016 and due back to the District office by December 9, 2016. On December 14, 2016 staff received the certification from the Supervisor of Elections on the results of the referenda. The majority of the landowners who voted on the following roadways were in favor of the proposed project for the application of asphalt (approximately 2.4 miles):

- 76th Trail N between 160th Lane N and 162nd Court N
- 76th Trail N between 163rd Court N and 165th Street N
- 78th Drive N between 165th Street N and 167th Court N
- 154th Court N. between 75th Avenue N and 81st Terrace N
- 159th Court N between 78th Drive N and 84th Avenue 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

Please note that the Board of Supervisors requested at their February 16, 2017 Board meeting that 76th Trail N between 160th Lane N and 162nd Court N be included in the proposed Plan of Improvements dependent upon the results of another verified petition process. Those petitions were due at the District office by April 12, 2017 and were then forwarded to the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections for certification of the results. The Supervisor of Elections certified the results on April 14, 2017 as follows:

- Five in favor of the project
- Zero against the project.

The District Engineer presented the results to the Board at the April 20, 2017 Board of Supervisors meeting and was directed by the Board to add the roadway to the proposed Plan of Improvements by a four to one vote.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board may determine to proceed with the process of approval of the proposed plan amendment and direct the District Engineer to prepare an Engineer's Report identifying any property to be taken, determining benefits and damages, and estimating the costs of implementing the improvements associated with the plan.

A final hearing on approval of the plan amendment and Engineer's Report shall be noticed and held at a regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting at least 25 days, but no later than 60 days after the last scheduled publication of the notice of filing of the Engineer's report with the Secretary of the District. Please visit our website for the latest updated information on this project.

District Receives Safety Awards for 20th Consecutive Year



From left to right: Michael Dillon, George McGarry, Matt Wood, Arie Raz and Board Supervisor, John Meyer

For the 20th consecutive year, SIRWCD has received awards from the Safety Council of Palm Beach County, recognizing the District for its dedication and commitment to workplace safety. The Awards of Excellence for Vehicle and Worker safety were presented to SIRWCD staff at the annual awards luncheon held on March 9, 2017. Manager of Operations Michael Dillon and Board Supervisor John Meyer acknowledged George McGarry, Matt Wood, Arie Raz and the entire staff for their fine work on behalf of the District and its landowners.

Matt Wood and Carol Wise Celebrate Five Year Anniversaries



From left to right: Michael Dillon, Matt Wood, Carol Wise and Board Supervisor, John Meyer

Superintendent Matt Wood and Carol Wise, office assistant, were awarded certificates of appreciation by Michael Dillon, Manager of Operations and John Meyer, Supervisor, on April 25 for five years of service to South Indian River Water Control District. Matt was originally hired as a Level 2 Operator in May of 2012. He was the District's full-time Backhoe and Motor Grader Operator until he was promoted to Superintendent in December of 2016.

Carol had previously worked part time for the District for 7 1/2 years from July 2003 thru December 2010. She returned as the office assistant in 2012, providing valuable guidance and expertise when Holly Rigsby took over the office administrator position from Greta Rayman after she retired. As a long-time resident of Jupiter Farms, Carol provides insight into the workings of the District.



**South Indian River
Water Control District™**

15600 Jupiter Farms Road
Jupiter, FL 33478

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Visit www.sirwcd.org
for news updates!



**Florida Stormwater
Education Corner
Protecting Florida's Water**

Though not under the direct purview of South Indian River Water Control District, we encourage all landowners to keep septic systems in good working order to help maintain the water quality for our area.

We will be adding some information to our website with tips and guidance provided by the Environmental Protection Agency, as well as the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Environmental Health, which is charged with regulating, permitting and monitoring proper on-site sewage treatment and disposal and is responsible for reviewing plans for septic systems and private wells.

Did you know that homeowners should generally have their system inspected every three years by a qualified professional and pumped every three to five years as per state recommendations? Are you aware that you should not pour household products, such as cleansers, medicine, paint and lawn care products down the drain as these items can pollute groundwater, which supplies your drinking water, or surface waters and may end up in your local rivers, lakes and coastal waters?

Please watch for the new page to be added to our site soon!

***Palm Beach Country Estates
Potable Water Update***

An amendment to the South Indian River Water Control District's agreement with the Town of Jupiter to provide potable water to Palm Beach Country Estates (PBCE) was approved by the Board of Supervisors in October 2015 to revise the number of remaining water hook-up reservations. **From June 21, 2017 to June 20, 2018, the final year of the agreement, the remaining number of reservations will be reduced to 80.**

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 20, 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 March 31, 2017, there have been 1,155 connections to the potable water system. For more information, contact the District office or visit our website at www.sirwcd.org for the latest update on the number of remaining available connections.

UNAUTHORIZED VEHICLES

Unauthorized motor vehicles are prohibited on District canal right-of-ways per Florida Statutes.

Please contact the Sheriff's Office if you see any vehicles trespassing on canal right-of-ways.