

District Notes & News



South Indian River
Water Control District™

Established 1923

August 2018

SUPERVISORS

Stephen Hinkle
President

Tom Powell
Vice-President

Michael Howard

John Jones

John Meyer

STAFF

Michael A. Dillon
Manager of Operations

Holly Rigsby
Office Administrator

DISTRICT OFFICE

15600 Jupiter Farms Road
Jupiter, FL 33478
(561) 747-0550

www.sirwcd.org
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 7:00 p.m.
Contact the District Office
for an agenda.*

Manager of Operations Michael Dillon Awarded Certified District Manager Program Certificate



Board of Supervisors President Stephen Hinkle and Manager of Operations Michael Dillon

South Indian River Water Control District Manager of Operations, Michael Dillon, was awarded the Florida Association of Special District's (FASD) Certified District Manager Program certificate at the 2018 Annual FASD Conference in June.

This education program ensures that District Managers comply with the Florida Statutes governing Special Districts. The program recognizes the professional and educational accomplishments of District Managers of Special Districts and promotes professionalism among its members.

Mr. Dillon completed subjects such as Contract Management and Procurement, Project Management, Intergovernmental Affairs, Public Information and Public Relations, Strategic Planning and Budgeting, Board Relations, Ethics and Sunshine Laws, and Collective Bargaining in a four-day course at Florida State University in Tallahassee, as well as a written project.

The Certified District Manager designation requires renewal every three years, and to maintain their certification, all Certified District Managers must attend FASD-sponsored, certified training programs and complete 15 hours (Continuing Education Units or CEUs) of verifiable training within the three-year period.

"I would like to congratulate Mr. Dillon on achieving this certification, which will be an asset to not only the Board of Supervisors, but also the landowners of this District," said Board of Supervisors President, Stephen Hinkle.

Historic Rains Create Soggy Start to Wet Season



*Michael Dillon
Manager of Operations*

May and June brought historic rainfall to the District and throughout Palm Beach County. To date, the District Work Center has measured over 40 inches of rain since May and some areas of the District have received over 50 inches! Our annual rainfall is approximately 65 inches, so we have received about 70% of our annual total in ten weeks.

These unusual rainy weather events have affected the District's Maintenance Program, from road grading, to swale mowing, to our driveway culvert replacement projects. In addition, the heavy rainfall has also saturated the District, which results in a lot of standing water in the swales, and in some cases, on personal property.

The District's drainage operates on a gravity-fed system, which means we rely on the land for percolation as much as we do the canals that move the stormwater. Under normal to dry conditions, the land can absorb as much as 10 inches of rain before becoming saturated.

With that said, this year the land was already saturated before Memorial Day. Under saturated conditions, any heavy rainfall will result in more standing water throughout the District, and as we continue to receive more rain, the longer it will take to drain and percolate. With August and September historically being our wettest months, I expect conditions to be the same through October.

Despite all this, there have been positive results related to our Driveway Culvert Replacement Program and recontouring of drainage swales within our secondary system. We have received many compliments from landowners related to the extensive swale work and driveway culvert replacements throughout the District.

We have inspected the areas of the District where we have made improvements and are pleased with the results. Still, we have a lot of work to do and hopefully the weather will cooperate so we can return to our normal maintenance schedule and continue with our drainage projects.



Two Seats Up for 2018 Board of Supervisors Election

SIRWCD is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors who serve three-year terms. Supervisors are elected by landowner vote based on parcel acreage.

Two Supervisors will be elected for terms of three (3) years each. At least one of the two Supervisors to be elected must reside in the District. Candidates must own land in the District and must be residents of Palm Beach County.

Stephen Hinkle and John Meyer, who both live in Jupiter Farms and currently serve on the Board, are running for re-election. Mr. Hinkle has been on the Board since 2012 and Mr. Meyer was elected in 2015. In addition, Robert Berman of Palm Beach Country Estates, who previously served on the Board from 1999-2010, has filed to run.

Official ballots will be sent out in mid-August. 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. Candidate biographies are posted on the District's website at www.sirwcd.org/elections.html.

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

Election ballots must be received at the District office no later than 4:30 pm on September 20, 2018 or you may cast your ballot in person at the start of the Annual Landowners Meeting that evening at 7:00 pm in the Jupiter High School Auditorium.

All candidates have signed the Oath of Candidate, which states that 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.

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.

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.

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.



Florida Stormwater Education Corner

Protecting Florida's Water

In the Manager of Operations article *Historic Rains Create Soggy Start to Wet Season*, Michael Dillon notes that some areas of the District have received over 50 inches of rainfall since May, when the rainy season typically begins. This is nearly three-quarters of the typical annual total received for the area.

With improvements in drainage due to swale recontouring and the District's Driveway Replacement Culvert Program, there are also practices that District landowners can undertake to help reduce stormwater runoff from their property. As we've previously noted, with the District rapidly approaching full build-out, the previously undeveloped lots that were once available to hold and retain stormwater now have homes, patios and driveways, which are typically impervious surfaces. These all contribute to increased runoff of stormwater.

While the primary drainage system in the District is the canals, the swales are designed to capture and hold stormwater generated by runoff from landowners' property, roadways and surrounding areas, where it can then naturally infiltrate into the ground to allow filtration of pollutants, including nitrogen, phosphorous, oils, metals, fertilizer and pesticides, through the soil. In addition, the water storage in swales provides for the recharge of groundwater, which is especially important in areas that rely on wells for their water.

South Indian River Water Control District is one of the stakeholders in the area's National Pollutant Discharge Pollutant Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The NPDES Steering Committee recently met on June 6, 2018. At this meeting, the committee discussed pollutant load estimating required coverages and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) audit. FDEP also gave a presentation on compliance and enforcement actions, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in the area, status of assessment plans, the Year 2 reporting requirements, and the common annual report deficiencies. Their next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2018.



South Indian River Water Control District - Canal 3

Landowners can utilize other stormwater management practices to reduce the amount of stormwater running off their property. These include utilizing rain barrels to collect water for plant irrigation, rain gardens to help store water on site, stormwater retention ponds, and the use of permeable pavements for patios or driveways, which infiltrate rainwater through their surface. In addition, the use of native and drought-resistant plants can reduce the amount of irrigation needed, thereby reducing runoff. It is recommended to use fertilizers sparingly and according to directions.

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. Both 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, as well as the Environmental Protection Agency, offer tips and guidance on maintaining home septic systems.

Onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS), commonly referred to as septic systems, are a safe and effective means of wastewater disposal for 30 percent of Florida's population. With an estimated 2.6 million systems in operation, Florida represents 12 percent of the United States' septic systems. Properly designed, constructed, and maintained systems help protect Florida's groundwater, which provides 90 percent of Florida's drinking water. Permitting and inspection of OSTDS is handled by the Environmental Health Section of the Florida Department of Health in each county.

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? 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, and may potentially end up in your local rivers, lakes and coastal waters. In addition, using a kitchen sink garbage disposal on a regular basis to dispose of many types of food by-products can be harmful to a septic system, so should be used sparingly.



15600 Jupiter Farms Road
Jupiter, FL 33478

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PERMIT # 611

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Visit www.sirwcd.org
for news updates!

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 16, 2018** at the Jupiter High School Media Center at 7:00 pm.

Total assessments from ongoing programs are proposed to increase from last year's level of \$4,798,800 to \$5,583,000 for the 2018-2019 budget year.

Continuing with the Board's increased emphasis on drainage improvements and culvert rehabilitation, the preliminary budget seeks to adequately fund the efforts of the District for functions that the Board has expressed a desire for increased focus. As a result, there are significant increases in the funds for Water Control services.

For the majority of parcels that are assessed for both Water Control and Road Maintenance services, the refocus of funding will be substantially offset (approximately 6,120 of 7,427 parcels). However the balance of approximately 747 parcels in Egret Landing and Jupiter Park of Commerce and 558 parcels in Jupiter Farms that are not assessed for Road Maintenance will see the full increase in the Water Control rate, while not receiving the decrease in Road Maintenance.

Enhanced initiatives include the Driveway Culvert Replacement Program, Palm Beach Country Estates Outfall Clearing Initiative and a Detailed Section 7 Review of analysis of drainage characteristics by the District Engineer.

The preliminary budget also includes a District Work

Center expansion that is needed to meet future requirements. The existing structure, built in 1983 is no longer adequate to protect the District's investment in equipment or fulfill the Board, staff and landowner needs. The cost of this project would be a one-time charge.

New initiatives for 2018-2019 include the 19th Plan of Improvement debt assessment for those landowners affected and the construction of models of water quality/quantity parameters to provide a scientific basis of the District's position for future discussion with regulatory agencies.

The assessment rates contained in the preliminary budget are subject to minor changes upon completion of the assessment roll. The preliminary budget will be available on the District's website at www.sirwcd.org/budget.html. Previous fiscal years' approved budgets and financial audits are also available on this page for your reference.

The Annual Landowners Meeting will be held September 20, 2018 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 election 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.