

# District Notes & News



Established 1923

June 2011

## SUPERVISORS

Thomas H. Powell

*President*

Tom Rice

*Vice-President*

David Beane

Michael Danchuk

Michael Ryan

## STAFF

Michael A. Dillon

*Manager of Operations*

Greta Rayman

*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 the Jupiter High School Guidance Office at 7:30 p.m. Contact the District Office for an agenda.*

## Gale English - In Memoriam

Gale English, General Manager of South Indian River Water Control District since 1981, passed away on March 13 after a brief illness.

Mr. English had just recently celebrated his 30th year with the District on January 14 and will be profoundly missed by the District's employees, Board of Supervisors, staff, landowners, family and friends.

He presided over the District from 1981 when the road system was comprised entirely of dirt roads and the drainage system was virtually non-existent. As the District experienced dramatic growth, he worked closely with the Board and District Engineer on the construction of the District's drainage systems and on landowner-initiated roadway improvement projects.

Besides his position as District General Manager, he was extremely active in many governmental organizations and agencies, including the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative; Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council; and Water Resources Task Force. In addition, he served on the boards of the Florida Association of Special Districts; Gold Coast League of Cities; Florida League of Cities; Intergovernmental



*Betty English and her daughters Cheryl Smith and Rhonda Gibson with a proclamation from Palm Beach County honoring Gale English*

Coordinating Element; Palm Beach County Municipal League; Safety Council of Palm Beach County Executive Board; Northern Palm Beach County Comprehensive Water Management Plan Technical Advisory Committee; and Florida Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations.

Additionally, he served as Mayor of Mangonia Park through most of the 1990s.

He was active in the community as well, serving on the Fern House Board of Directors, and he conducted fundraising auctions for charitable and civic groups. He was very dedicated to his church, Beacon Baptist in Jupiter.

Mr. English was a Florida native, born in Fort Meade in 1935 and resided in Palm Beach County since 1951. He served in the U.S. Army as an assistant regimental radio chief during the Korean War.

Mr. English is survived by his wife, Betty English; sons Andrew (Renee) of Salt Springs, FL and Lee of Georgia; step-daughters, Rhonda (Dan) Gibson of West Palm Beach and Cheryl Smith of Jupiter; six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his daughters, Mary Ellen English in 1978 and Cynthia S. Hammer in 2010.

Tom Powell, president of the District's Board of Supervisors said, "Gale English was dedicated to the District and worked tirelessly on behalf of its landowners over the last 30 years. He will be deeply missed."



*Gale English was dedicated to his job and enjoyed serving the landowners of the District for over 30 years*

# SOUTH INDIAN RIVER WATER CONTROL DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECENT ACTIONS

## FEBRUARY 10 WORKSHOP

The South Indian River Water Control District's (SIRWCD) Board of Supervisors held a workshop meeting on February 10 at the District's Work Center to discuss a proposed Palm Beach County environmental restoration plan adjacent to SIRWCD Canal No. 2 and the status of the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) operation of the G-160 structure and its effects on SIRWCD.

District Engineer Lennart J. Lindahl reported that the Palm Beach County proposal includes expanding the existing SIRWCD lake on Canal 2, adding a lake, and restoring existing wetlands. The project could function in concert with the District's system provided that a satisfactory operation agreement and protocol was executed and certain structural additions or modifications were included in the plan. SIRWCD would work with the county on concluding these details for the project.

Lindahl stated that the levees in Palm Beach Country Estates may be impacted by SFWMD's operation of the G-160 structure by raising the water elevations as mandated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. These levees were improved in 1984 under the *7th Plan of Reclamation*. Since 1984, new design standards have been developed by SFWMD. These standards and the operation of the G-160 are being studied for the purpose of understanding the potential risks that might occur with increased water surface elevation against the levees.

The Board discussed the need to improve the existing levee to its original design and to present SFWMD with a detailed plan to bring the levees to the standards necessary for the increased water levels. The District Engineer was directed to prepare a plan and an estimate for construction costs and engineering to restore the levees.

## FEBRUARY 17 MONTHLY MEETING

At the February 17 monthly board meeting at Jupiter High School, Lindahl reported that the proposed plan of improvements for applying open-graded emulsified mix on 1.5 miles of roads and asphalt on 4 miles of roads in the District would be ready to bid in March. The Board unanimously directed the District Engineer to proceed with the public bidding process.

In addition, staff presented a proposed Minor and Insubstantial Amendment to the *13th Plan of Improvements* for parking, a maintenance shed, drainage, paths,

landscaping and fencing in the Palm Beach Country Estates park, which was passed by the Board. Palm Beach Country Estates landowner Bob Berman requested that a budget be established for park improvements based on estimates that were submitted by the park committee. Board of Supervisors' President Tom Powell noted that because this was a maintenance item, the Board did not need to take action to fund it. After further discussion, it was agreed that expenditures for the park will be subject to Board approval.

The Board also approved awarding the contract for the District's monthly water quality sampling to HBEL, Inc., as recommended by the District Engineer. A presentation was made to the Board by Steve Lienhart, an expert in water quality, who discussed the EPA's numeric nutrient criteria and its potential impact on SIRWCD. Lindahl noted that because SIRWCD's NPDES permit is scheduled for renewal this year, the EPA rules will not affect the District until 2016; however, there was still the need to work with them to meet the criteria.

## MARCH 17 MONTHLY MEETING

A moment of silence for Gale English, who passed away on March 13 after a brief illness, was observed at the Board's monthly meeting on March 17. A crystal sculpture commemorating Mr. English's 30 years of service to the District has been presented to his wife Betty, along with a commemorative photo album.

District Treasurer Charles Haas discussed financing for the *16th Plan of Improvements* for road improvements and indicated a commitment letter had been received from the bank and the interest rate would be fixed at the time of closing.

Lindahl discussed the Palm Beach County proposed environmental restoration plan and noted that the concerns expressed by the Board had been addressed in a resubmittal of the application. The permitting process is expected to take approximately a year and construction approximately four years. Rob Robbins from Palm Beach County Environmental Resources stated the items still pending include an operating agreement between the County and SIRWCD. He requested a letter of support or no objection from the District to aid in their permitting process, and the Board unanimously approved staff to draft a letter of no objection.

Lindahl reported on the information that was sent to affected Palm Beach Country Estates residents regarding possible

FEMA insurance cost savings through a District application for a Letter of Map Revision. These 457 landowners were mailed two sets of notices and were notified in two issues of the District newsletter and through the website. Of the 457, only 79 responded with 64 landowners wishing to participate. At this number, Lindahl said the cost per parcel would be approximately \$500.00 to complete the application. The Board instructed the District Engineer to proceed with the application process, noting that if additional participants came forward before surveying was complete, they could be added to the application. *(The survey has been completed and the application is currently being submitted.)*

## APRIL 11 SPECIAL MEETING

A special meeting was held on April 11 at the District's Work Center. A number of policy options were discussed by the Board regarding referendums and petitions for capital improvements that are initiated by landowners. The following policies were approved at the meeting:

- Petitions must be acted upon within 12 months, subject to qualification if there are extenuating circumstances.
- Require a one-year waiting period after failed referendums, before a new petition is accepted, subject to qualification if there are extenuating circumstances.
- Require 35% of affected landowners to submit a petition before being approved for referendum. The previous percentage required was 25%.

## MAY 5 MONTHLY MEETING

At a rescheduled May monthly meeting, the Board of Supervisors discussed the community park in Palm Beach Country Estates. Haas noted that \$150,000 was transferred to a new fund for the park. The Board discussed the operation and maintenance of the parking, sidewalks and drainage, and directed the District Engineer to discuss the paving of the parking area with Lynch Paving, who submitted a successful bid for the asphalt paving of roadways in the *16th Plan of Improvements* (see story on next page), and determine if a better unit cost can be achieved over a previous initial estimate from the park committee.

In addition, the Board authorized staff to secure additional bids for the landscaping of the park, which was originally estimated at \$65,000-\$67,000 and to clarify what is constituted as an improvement and what is maintenance.

# Michael Dillon Named Manager of Operations for SIRWCD



At an emergency meeting held at the District's Work Center on March 5, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion to offer Michael Dillon, former Operations Superintendent for the District, the position of Manager of Operations, due to the sudden illness and subsequent passing of District General Manager Gale English.

Michael Dillon has worked for the South Indian River Water Control District for fifteen years.

He moved to Florida from Chesapeake, Virginia in 1991 and was Supervisor of Field Operations for C&L Hawthorne from 1991-1996. In 1996, Mr. Dillon came to work for SIRWCD and in 2000, was promoted to Shop Supervisor. Three years later, he advanced to Operations Superintendent and worked closely with the General Manager on the day-to-day operations of the District.

Mr. Dillon was instrumental in establishing the District's Safety Program and headed the program from 1998-2011. In 2000, he was appointed by Governor Jeb Bush to sit on the Board of Supervisors of the North Palm Beach Heights Water Control District and was then elected for a two-year term through 2003. Mr. Dillon completed the Florida Institute of Government Management Development Program in 2002. He has been a board member of the Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council since 2010.

Mr. Dillon maintains a working relationship with South Florida Water Management District, the Safety Council of Palm Beach County, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the National Resources Conservation Service, as well as various departments of Palm Beach County including the Sheriff's Office, Road and Bridge, and the Department of Environmental Resources Management.

"We look forward to working with Mr. Dillon and are confident he will be an asset to the District and its landowners," said Tom Powell, president of the Board of Supervisors.

## 16th Plan of Improvements Moves Forward

At the May 5 Board of Supervisors meeting, District Engineer Lennart J. Lindahl reported that the proposed *16th Plan of Improvements* was moving forward. As previously directed by the Board, invitations to bid on the construction of the project were published in the local newspaper on March 13 with the request that bidders obtain bid packages by March 16 and return their proposals to the District by April 12.

Of the two bid proposals received for the application of open-graded emulsified mix to five roadways in Jupiter Farms and Palm Beach Country Estates, the low bidder was Roadway Management, Inc. at \$305,315.

Three companies bid on the construction of 11 Palm Beach County standard asphalt roadways in Palm Beach Country Estates. The low bidder was Lynch Paving at an estimated \$1,003,260. The Board directed the District Engineer to negotiate with Lynch Paving to secure a final price on the asphalt roadways and to accept the bid by Roadway Management for the OGEM roadways and proceed with the project.

It was expected that the contractors will receive the notice to proceed around June 1 and they will have 120 days to complete the paving.

District Treasurer Charles Haas reported that the District was able to secure a very favorable interest rate of 4.07% for 15 years from Regions Bank. The Board then approved a resolution authorizing issuance of a promissory note in the principal amount not to exceed \$1,875,000 to provide funds for the *16th Plan of Improvements*.

In addition, they authorized a resolution directing staff to take all necessary steps to levy the special assessment for the *16th Plan of Improvements*, pursuant to Chapter 197, Florida Statutes.

The total estimated annual payment per parcel for the Palm Beach County standard asphalt roads is estimated at approximately \$975 per parcel, while the roadways seeking to apply OGEM would be approximately \$636 annually per parcel for a period of up to 15 years. If landowners choose to, they may pay in full without financing – estimated at \$9,036 for the asphalt roadways and \$5,208 for the OGEM roadways.

## Hurricane Season is Here!



Hurricane season is here once again and the state is concerned that Floridians are unprepared for what is predicted to be an above-average year for storms.

Palm Beach County offers comprehensive information on hurricane preparation and resources on their website at [www.pbcgov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/hurricanes.htm](http://www.pbcgov.com/publicsafety/emergencymanagement/hurricanes.htm).

As District landowners in a rural area, you are encouraged to get prepared now - do not wait until a storm is coming! Prune overgrown landscaping and remove dead tree branches. However, this should not be done just prior to a storm warning, as trash will not be picked up and could become a danger to others during a storm.

Yard waste is limited to 6 cubic yards per week (the equivalent of 3 standard refrigerators). All yard waste, with the exception of tree branches and palm fronds, must be containerized in standard 32-50 gallon cans or sealed plastic bags. Containers and contents can not weigh more than 50 pounds. Branches must be 6 feet or less in length and 50 pounds or less in weight.

Also, stock up on non-perishable food and water, batteries, flashlights, lanterns, first aid kits, prescription medications, gas for generators, propane for grills, tarps, and bug repellent.

If a hurricane warning is issued, secure your windows and doors with some type of protection. Toys, tools, garden decorations, and patio furniture should be brought inside or stored in a sturdy shed that has been secured against high winds.

After a hurricane, there will be downed trees and power lines, high water levels and possible flooding. Avoid walking in high water due to bacteria and pollutants that may be present. Also there may be downed power lines that may become active. Stay home until the "all clear" is given that it is safe to move about.

The District has a generator and all personnel have been trained in hurricane response procedures, so we will be ready in the event of a storm.



15600 Jupiter Farms Road  
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PERMIT # 611

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

## 20th Annual Landowners Family Day

The Board of Supervisors and Manager of Operations Mike Dillon were on hand to welcome everyone to the 20th Annual Landowners Day on Saturday, March 12.

The event was a big success, with attendance up 12 percent over the previous year and many young families enjoying the food, entertainment, petting zoo, bounce house, and pony rides.

Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q was a hit this year, and everyone enjoyed the music which was provided by Tom Jackson of Jupiter Farms.

Community and governmental agencies that exhibited this year included Citizens on Patrol - Jupiter Farms and Palm Beach Country Estates, Elks Lodge #2469, Florida Division of Forestry, Florida's Blood Centers, Florida Kid Care, Jupiter Farmer, Jupiter Farms Residents, Loxahatchee River Coalition, Northeast Everglades Trail Association, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue and Sheriff's Office, Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation, Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections, Safety Council of Palm Beach County, Inc., Solid Waste Authority, and South Florida Water Management District.

## Florida Stormwater Education Corner Protecting Florida's Water

Once again, a regional water shortage has been declared and residential irrigation, agriculture and other uses must be reduced.

A record-breaking dry season has left regional ground and surface water levels low and forecasts call for continued extremely dry conditions. The orders limit landscape irrigation to two days per week.

Florida experiences extremes in weather from the wet season to severe drought conditions. Therefore it is important to use all water wisely so there are ample supplies through the natural drought cycles - this includes rainfall, which can be infiltrated into the ground or captured and reused, instead of running off as stormwater. Conservation of water is the best way to stretch our water throughout the year.

For more information about the water shortage and water restrictions, visit the South Florida Water Management District website, [www.sfwmd.gov/waterwatch](http://www.sfwmd.gov/waterwatch).

**Q:** I water my lawn from a well, canal, pond or surface lake. Do these restrictions apply to me?

**A:** Yes. Surface and groundwater sources are connected so removing water from one source affects the others. Water in lakes, canals and swales helps to protect private and public wells from saltwater intrusion, and stores rainfall to recharge wells and aquifers.

**Q:** Is low-volume watering allowed?

**A:** Yes. Low-volume irrigation that applies water directly to root plant zones, such as drip, bubble and micro-jet systems, and watering cans may be used anytime. Water collected in cisterns and rain barrels may also be used for irrigation anytime. Low-volume irrigation should not produce water runoff.

### ILLICIT DISCHARGE

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