

# District Notes & News

Established 1923



Winter 2013

## SUPERVISORS

**Michael Danchuk**

*President*

**Tom Rice**

*Vice-President*

**Stephen Hinkle**

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## STAFF

**Michael A. Dillon**

*Manager of Operations*

**Holly Rigsby**

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

*Contact the District Office for an agenda.*

## Manager of Operations Annual Report

*(October 2012-September 2013)*



*Michael Dillon*

The District's structure is generally defined by its personnel and management, the maintenance and improvement of the works of the District and our interrelations with outside agencies and governments, as well as with the landowners who live in the District.

Maintaining this structural coherence is always a work in progress. This was evident this past year with our canal projects: the Canal 6 clearing project and the Canal 3 extension project, both in Jupiter Farms; the canal restoration project in Egret Landing, and the canal maintenance project in Jupiter Park of Commerce.

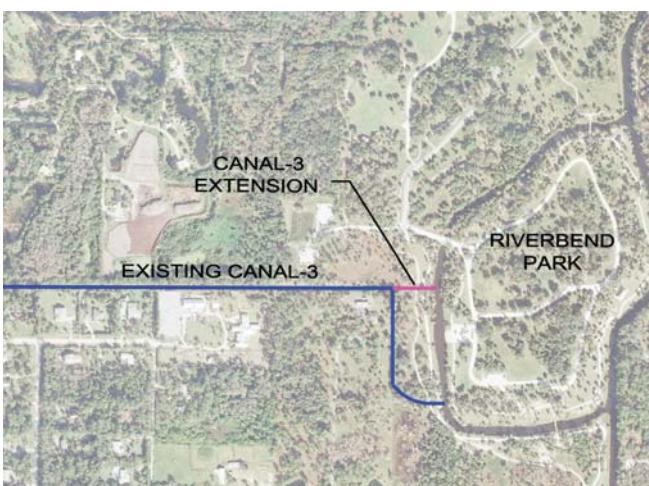
Earlier this year, the District removed approximately two miles of trees and vegetation along the Canal 6 right-of-way. These areas were impassable, therefore limiting our ability to perform mowing and canal cleaning operations. By working with the landowners, we were allowed access through properties in order to reach and remove the heavily-vegetated areas. These

landowners understand the importance of the District having access in the event of a storm in order to remove any debris that could create a blockage in the system. The Canal 3 extension project at Riverbend Park was a collaboration of local agencies and governments working together to provide better stormwater runoff management for the residents who are affected in this area. With a cooperative effort by Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation, South Florida Water Management District, Town of Jupiter, Archeological and Historical Conservancy Inc., The Seminole Nation, Construction Technology Inc., and District staff, we were able to install larger culverts at the east end of C-3 in order to decrease the headloss during heavy rainfall events.

In Egret Landing, we worked together with North Palm Beach Heights Water Control District to restore the banks along the Leslie Street Canal that divides The Heights and Egret Landing. Also, cooperation from the landowners was vital to accomplish the removal of trees and vegetation along the easement to provide access and make necessary repairs.

In Jupiter Park of Commerce, shrubs were removed along the Canal J right-of-way to provide crews and equipment access to perform mowing operations and maintenance. In the past, crews had to mow the canal banks by hand, which created safety issues and poor time management. What took eight hours with three men now takes less than two hours with equipment. This utilizes our time and resources more effectively and minimizes the safety risks to the operators.

For the benefit of new landowners in the District, the following is a brief overview  
*(continued on pg. 2)*



*Canal 3 Extension in Jupiter Farms reduces headloss and provides better stormwater runoff management for the area*

## Manager of Operations Report

(continued from pg. 1)

of our function as a special taxing District. The District provides both water control and road maintenance services for landowners and operates under limitations imposed by Chapter 298 of the Florida Statutes. On-going services include road grading, swale and canal maintenance, and aquatic weed control in our canal and outfall systems. Assessments are levied in the amount necessary to provide these services and are closely monitored with monthly reports and annual audits to ensure accountability of available funds.

This year the rainy season came early and often, as we received a record 29.31 inches of rain at the District work center between May and July! Equipment Foreman Greg Gell and his crew did an excellent job in keeping the roads passable for the landowners and responding quickly to any drainage issues that developed. Roads were re-contoured to provide maximum stormwater runoff and minimize standing water. In some cases, material was brought in to repair roads due to weather or man-made related issues.

Backhoe operators were very busy as well, and we took advantage of the rainy conditions, pinpointing areas where improvements could be made. Culvert replacement and recontouring of the roadside swales provided increased stormwater runoff storage in many areas of the District. In all, we replaced 1240 linear feet of drainage culverts at various street intersections and canal outfalls, followed by the installation of rip-rap headwalls and sod to reduce erosion and sediment build up. This allows the culverts to drain to their full capacity. And though the responsibility of the homeowners, driveway culverts, which allow ingress/egress onto private property, need to meet the same

standards of installation as District drainage culverts. Each homeowner is responsible to ensure their driveway culverts are clear of sediment and debris to provide maximum flow.

Within the 12,000 acre service area of the District, there are 60 miles of canals, and 370 miles of roadside swales that are maintained on a regular basis. Our mowing operation is perhaps the most challenging of all maintenance services we provide, especially between the months of June through October. During these months the number of calls for mowing increases and we usually respond to these requests within 2 days. Under normal operations, it takes 6 to 8 weeks to complete the District mowing schedule, although unforeseen circumstances, such as weather and mechanical or personnel issues, can alter that schedule at any time.

Ten of the District's twelve employees are responsible for operating motor graders, backhoes, and mowers necessary to the maintenance program. Our employees have a combined 115 years of experience with the District. Last year, Equipment Foreman Greg Gell completed 20 years of service, and this year, equipment operators David Duckett and Arie Raz will have completed 15 years of service to the District. These employees represent the values of commitment, faithful service and work ethics that are encouraged in all our employees. They form the essential backbone of the program and provide excellent role models that contribute to the availability of a future high-quality work force.

Safety is always a priority at the District. In fact, South Indian River is a member of the Safety Council of Palm Beach County. They offer training classes on equipment maintenance, CPR, and first aid. This training is then implemented into our day-to-day operations, which maximizes the safety of life and property. Regularly scheduled safety meetings are conducted jointly by the District safety committee and staff to discuss concerns and resolve any in-house issues. Our operators are trained to be aware of their surroundings and they realize that the equipment may be a source of interest, especially to children. Therefore, we ask that all landowners keep a safe distance from the machines while they are operating in the area.

In addition to the Safety Council, the District participates as committee members on several agencies including Florida Association of Special Districts, Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council, Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative, and North County Land Managers Council. We also coordinate with Palm Beach County Road and Bridge, South Florida Water Management District, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, and Solid Waste Authority on various issues and projects. These agencies have the potential for major impact on District landowners and participation remains vital to ensure that our best interests are considered.

Additionally, the District continues to work with the Sheriff's Wild Land Task Force in regards to the illegal and reckless use of ATVs and dirt bikes on roadways and public right-of-ways such as canals and other restricted areas. Property damage, injuries, and even fatalities have occurred as a result of this behavior. These machines are illegal on public roadways and canal berms and are subject to Palm Beach County Sheriff's office citations and confiscation.

Landscape debris that is deposited on roadsides must be correctly cut and placed between the edge of the road and drainage swales before Solid Waste Authority will remove it. The debris must be in front of your property. Solid Waste will not pick up debris from in front of a vacant lot. Also, they will not remove tree stumps. And remember, it is illegal to dump any type of trash on right-of-ways or easements in the District.

The District continues to apply regulated and permitted herbicides in the canal and outfall systems for the control of aquatic weeds. In order to keep our canals clean of hazardous materials, please be vigilant for any type of dumping or illicit discharge into the District's drainage system. This activity is illegal and should be reported immediately to the District office at 561-747-0550 so corrective action can be promptly taken.

The District's office is open and available to any interested landowners from Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm. You are invited to stop by and make us aware of any problems or concerns with which we can assist you within the scope of our responsibility and authority. You can also access detailed information about the District on our website at [www.sirwcd.org](http://www.sirwcd.org).



Canal 2 culverts and riprap installation at Jupiter Farms Road



# District Engineer's Annual Report (October 2012-September 2013)

South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD) is positioned in Northern Palm Beach County as a strategic entity in the planning and

Amy Eason, P.E.

management of water resources to the surrounding area. Approximately 12,500 acres of SIRWCD discharges into the Loxahatchee River Basin, and therefore, as plans are being developed and implemented, the geographic location of the District is an element in any water management plan for the Loxahatchee River Basin.

Over the past year, water quality continues to be a major focus within the state of Florida. With the development of the Numeric Nutrient Criteria (NNC) and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL), the potential impacts from development are being monitored by agencies and/or individuals that have a focused interest on maintaining a healthy ecosystem within the Loxahatchee River Basin and, specifically, the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River.

The Board of Supervisors and staff actively engage in the many external dealings that are influencing the District from a water supply, flood control, water quality, and ecosystem management perspective. The Board of Supervisors and staff are focused on making sure that the goals and expectations of these external activities do not conflict with the District's best interests with regard to the functioning of SIRWCD's system and the ability to deliver an appropriate level of service.

Annually, the District examines the need to implement capital improvement

projects that could enhance the works of the District. Capital improvements may occur on existing infrastructure such as roads, canals, and drainage structures. Roadway improvements are usually initiated where the traffic volumes for a specific roadway necessitate the improvements or the improvements are undertaken as a result of landowner initiatives. Landowner-initiated roadway petitions for the application of Palm Beach County Standard Asphalt or Open Graded Emulsified Mix (OGEM) are received and analyzed by staff on a regular basis.

From an operation and maintenance standpoint, the District continues to work with the landowners at improving conditions affecting water management and roadways. District staff also continues to assist the Board of Supervisors with operation and maintenance involving site specific drainage improvements that impact landowners, canal and culvert maintenance, and replacement or renewal of facilities that affect the works of the District.

The District's operation and maintenance is discussed in detail at the Annual Landowners' meeting with the goal of informing residents about how and why the water management system and roadways are operated and maintained. Discussions include, but are not limited to the level of service and performance standards represented by the existing system and how, to a large extent, the system is regulated by local, regional, state, and federal agencies. Each year, it is appropriately restated and recognized in the engineering report that the SIRWCD Board of Supervisors, through its policies and procedures, is responsible for formulating direction regarding District operations and intergovernmental issues.

This is accomplished through a respected structure in which the District is managed through its Board of Supervisors and supporting staff. The Board of Supervisors establishes policy and provides direction to staff concerning budget, priorities, relationship with other public entities, and landowner issues. Staff is responsible for implementing Board policy. Accordingly, staff responds pursuant to the Board's direction. Engineering tasks continue to be formulated to respond to the Board of

Supervisors by implementing their policies and directives, as well as supporting the Manager of Operations in resolving various landowner issues. The relationship between the Board of Supervisors and District staff has been extremely effective in both the delivery of services to the residents and landowners within the District, and prospective management in response to requirements that are imposed upon the District by other governmental entities.

With regard to the current status of the District, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the District is in compliance with all regulatory requirements that affect works of the District and their operation, and the works of the District continue to be operated and maintained in a manner that achieves the available level of service. We continue to respond to the Board of Supervisors by implementing their policies and directives, as well as working with the Manager of Operations in resolving various landowner issues.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS Seventeenth Plan of Improvements

Based on a landowner initiative, referenda were prepared by SIRWCD and verified by the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections to implement the application of OGEM and asphalt on the petitioner's roadway surfaces as a roadway improvement project. The applications were divided into two units of development RI-17A and RI-17B. RI-17A consists of the application of OGEM on approximately 0.4 miles of roadway within Jupiter Farms and RI-17B consists of the application of Palm Beach County Standard asphalt on approximately 1.5 miles within Palm Beach Country Estates. These roads are listed as follows:

### Unit of Development RI-17A (0.4 miles)

- 127th Drive N between 187th Place N and Old Indiantown Grade
- 90th Trail N between 165th Place N and 166th Way N

### Unit of Development RI-17B (1.5 miles)

- 73rd Terrace N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 79th Terrace N between 155th Place N and 162nd Court N
- 75th Way N between 163rd Court N and 165th Street N
- 77th Trail N between 165th Street N and 167th Court N

*(continued on pg. 4)*



Palm Beach County Standard Asphalt on 67th Avenue in  
Palm Beach Country Estates

(continued from pg. 3)

The construction documents for Unit of Development RI-17A have been executed and construction is scheduled for October 2013. Survey is beginning this month on the Unit of Development RI-17B in preparation for the design of the project. Construction is planned for December 2013. See update on page 11.

## Proposed Plan of Improvement

The District has received petitions from landowners to apply asphalt on certain roadways within the District. Landowners on the following roadways are petitioning to distribute a referendum for asphalt in Palm Beach Country Estates (approx. 0.75 miles):

- 74th Avenue N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 88th Trail N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N

The District will continue to accept petitions for this next plan of improvements through the end of the year. As a result of the February 2013 workshop, landowners, who want to start a petition, must notify the District office. The District reviews the request before distributing a petition to the landowner. Once a petition has been requested, the District installs notification signs within the area of the petition to inform the residents that a petition is being circulated. See updated information on page 11.

## Resource Regulation

### National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

The current Palm Beach County Municipal NPDES Permit was issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on March 2, 2011. SIRWCD is a co-permittee along with 34 municipalities, the Department of Transportation, Palm Beach County, and four special districts. In order to complete the permit-related activities that are performed collectively by the co-permittees, an NPDES Steering Committee was formed. The Steering Committee meets on a regular basis to evaluate the program, to provide training and resources to the co-permittees, and to assist with the preparation of the annual reports. Staff continues to attend the Committee Meetings as a Steering Committee Board member. This past year the meetings included a discussion of EPA proposed water quality

regulations, including a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Lake Worth Lagoon and tributaries and Numeric Nutrient Criteria (NNC) for South Florida canals and estuaries, public education, TMDL updates and NPDES permit implications, the Annual Reports, and Joint Report. A training video session was also conducted to satisfy permit requirements.

standards. The rule was then presented to the Florida Environmental Regulation Commission (ERC), the Florida Legislature, and the Governor, who signed House Bill (HB) 7051, ratifying the proposed rule. There was a challenge on the rule that was filed by Earthjustice, however an administrative law judge upheld the state's proposed new water quality rules on June 7, 2012.



### Environmental Protection Agency

#### Numeric Nutrient Criteria

On January 14, 2010, EPA proposed a rule entitled "Water Quality Standards for the State of Florida's Lakes and Flowing Waters." With this rule, the EPA has proposed water quality standards in the State of Florida that would set a series of numeric limits on the amount of phosphorus and nitrogen, also known as "nutrients," that would be allowed in Florida's lakes, rivers, streams, springs and canals.

After several public hearings, on April 22, 2011, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) submitted a petition to EPA requesting EPA to withdraw its January 2009 determination that NNC are necessary in Florida, repeal Federal rulemaking completed in November 2010 to establish such criteria for inland lakes and streams, and refrain from proposing or promulgating any further NNC. The petition outlined FDEP's plans to undertake its own rulemaking for nutrient criteria for state waters. The projected rulemaking schedule called for a Notice of Rule Development in June 2011, a rule development and public outreach process through the summer and early fall of 2011, and adoption of a final rule was anticipated in January 2012, to be followed by a legislative ratification process under Florida law. EPA supported FDEP's commitment to recommence its rulemaking efforts for both inland and estuarine waters. EPA recognized that states have the primary role in establishing and implementing water quality standards for their waters.

On September 29, 2011, FDEP published a draft of the proposed rule in the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) titled Chapter 62-302 regarding nutrient

On November 30, 2012, EPA announced its approval of FDEP's NNC. However, EPA also proposed additional regulations that would apply EPA's criteria to those waters not covered by FDEP's NNC, such as urban stormwater conveyances, open ocean waters, and many estuaries where FDEP Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) have already been adopted. Since EPA developed NNC on waters not covered by FDEP's NNC, EPA and FDEP entered into an agreement on March 15, 2013, known as "Path Forward", to develop a plan for FDEP to develop NNC for the remaining waterbodies before EPA's consent decree deadline of September 30, 2013. Since the agreement, FDEP adopted a NNC Implementation Document on April 23, 2013; adopted criteria for additional estuaries such as the Loxahatchee River Estuary on June 20, 2013; and have developed a report titled, "Status of Efforts to Establish Numeric Interpretations of the Narrative Nutrient Criterion for Florida Estuaries and Current Nutrient Conditions of Unimpaired Waters" for the Governor as required by the "Path Forward" agreement with EPA and Chapter 2013-71, Laws of Florida on August 1, 2013.

Neither EPA nor FDEP have NNC for South Florida waterbodies, especially the canals. FDEP drafted the "South Florida Canal Aquatic Life Study" and presented the study to stakeholders on November 1, 2012. This study proposes to perform a comprehensive assessment of South Florida canals and the aquatic life associated with those canals. The objectives of the study are:

1. Assess aquatic life in South Florida canals;
2. Determine interrelationships between aquatic life in canals and other variables that affect aquatic life;
3. Evaluate the differences in conditions for South Florida canals; and
4. Collect information that can be used to guide management decisions.

Eventually, this study will be used to determine if NNC are necessary for these waterbodies.

(continued on pg. 5)

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## ■ Statewide Environmental Resource Permitting (SWERP) Rules

On April 14, 2012, Governor Rick Scott signed legislation granting FDEP the authority to create one statewide rule for the environmental resource permit (ERP) program. One of the top priorities in this rulemaking is creating a more certain regulatory process that is applied consistently across Florida to protect the environment and foster a sustainable economy.

Currently, between FDEP and Florida's five water management districts, at least five different versions of the ERP rules are in place statewide. A statewide rule will reduce the confusion over having to determine which of five different sets of criteria or requirements are needed to fulfill and what type of permit, if any, is required. The goal is to develop a streamlined, straightforward core rule that is applicable statewide, but that still accounts for each region's differing physical and natural characteristics.

A statewide rule will not raise or lower environmental standards. It will simply reconcile conflicts and inconsistencies in the existing requirements, as well as consolidate and streamline regulatory processes. FDEP has conducted several workshops on the rule development. It is anticipated that the effective date of the rule is October 1, 2013.

## ■ Public Facilities Report/Water Control Plan

Chapter 189 of the Florida Statutes, the Uniform Special District Accountability Act, requires the preparation and submission of a Public Facilities Report to governmental jurisdictions in which the District resides such as Palm Beach County, Town of Jupiter, and South Florida Water Management District.

Special Districts are required to submit an update to this report every five years and, at a minimum, the report must contain information as to the status of the District's public facilities and changes or revisions to those facilities that have occurred in the past year.

Since 1991, when the District filed its first Public Facilities Report, data collection has been an ongoing process to provide for better and more accurate mapping of the works of the District. The Public Facilities Report is continually modified as each Plan

of Improvement is added to the District's facilities. The next modification will include the *Seventeenth Plan of Improvements*, and proposed capital improvements for next year. In accordance with Chapter 298.225 Florida Statutes, the Water Control Plan is amended consistent with the preparation of any proposed *Plan of Improvements* during the last year.

## **Intergovernmental Coordination**

## ■ Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council

SIRWCD continues to participate as an active member of the Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council. The Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River is the primary stormwater outfall for that entire portion of SIRWCD lying west of the SFWMD C-18 Canal. SIRWCD and the Coordinating Council also have several mutual issues and interests. In the last year, the Coordinating Council meetings have emphasized the following topics of importance to SIRWCD:

- Loxahatchee River Dashboard
  - Water Quality Monitoring
  - S-46 Structure Repair Project & Planned Assessment of Lainhart & Masten Dam Structures
  - I-95 Project
  - Jupiter Waterway Trail
  - Loxahatchee River/Cypress Creek Management Area
  - Mecca Farms



## ■ South Florida Water Management District Everglades Restoration Strategies

SFWMD's *"Everglades Restoration Strategies"* program has been developed in order to address water quality-based

effluent limits for Stormwater Treatment Areas (STA) to meet NPDES permitting requirements by EPA. As part of the program's Technical Plan, both STA expansions and Flow Equalization Basins (FEB) upstream of the STA's are proposed. The plan includes designation of the L-8 Reservoir as a 45,000 ac-feet FEB for STA's 1W and 1E. As a "replacement feature", the plan proposes to acquire and construct replacement storage to capture flows from the western C-18 Basin and discharge those flows down via "Flow-way 2" (C-18 West Canal through C-18 and Loxahatchee Slough) to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River to meet Minimum Flows and Levels. There are a number of options under consideration, including the potential acquisition of the Mecca property.

To date, the SFWMD has not made available the modeling assumptions or results in support of the Plan. AECOM will be participating in a Technical Advisory Committee as the Plan moves forward.

- Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Program (Part 1) – North Palm Beach County Project – Part 1 Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP)

Additional modeling work to be performed by SFWMD in support of the Loxahatchee River Restoration Program (Part 1) continues to be on hold, while SFWMD develops the Everglades Restoration Strategies outlined above. SFWMD does plan to continue the Corps' planning process, however, not in the immediate future.

However, several components of the Northern Palm Beach County Comprehensive Water Management Plan (NPBCCWMP) continue to move forward. Accepted by the SFWMD Governing Board on May 2002, the NPBCCWMP proposed improvements to store and convey water that would otherwise be lost to tide in the wet season and provide supplemental supplies in the dry season, thus meeting environmental needs, and the projected 2020 urban and agricultural demands.

Activities on components located outside of the Loxahatchee River Basin that are integral to the NPBCCWMP include:

1. SFWMD has proceeded with a Design-Build Contract for construction of a new permanent L-8 Reservoir 450 cfs outflow

(continued on pg. 6)

(continued from pg. 5)

pump station, slope protection, and a new 2000-3000 cfs inflow structure from the L-8 Canal. Although high chlorides have been an issue with the water discharged from the 45,000 acre-foot L-8 reservoir in the past, especially because the M-Canal and the City of West Palm Beach's Grassy Waters Preserve are designated Class I waters and must meet drinking water standards, the theory is that once dredging is completed, and the pits are "exercised" with fresh water being stored and released from the pits, the chloride levels will decrease. The current design-build contract includes provisions for delivery of the reservoir with water that meets drinking water standards for chlorides.

The slope protection or revetment work has been permitted and construction is underway. Permitting is ongoing through FDEP and the Corps of Engineers for the pump station and inflow structure. Dewatering of the pits is ongoing in preparation for construction.

2. The City of West Palm Beach (City) is proceeding with the construction of a new 300+/- cfs Control No. 2 pump station. The existing Control No. 2 pump station lifts water from the SFWMD's L-8 Tie-back Canal to the City's M-Canal where it flows eastward to the City's water supply lakes. However, the current capacity is limited to 165 cfs. Under the current Murray Logan contract, the bypass structure has been completed and work has begun on the pump station. The construction is scheduled to be completed in April 2014.

3. The USGS has replaced stage recorders at the Lainhart Dam and is recalibrating the flow rating curve.

4. Martin County is improving the berm on the Culpepper Property (adjacent to Ranch Colony) and has replaced uncontrolled twin 84" culverts and two southern culverts that discharge to the Cypress Creek/Ranch Colony canal with control structures.

Operational agreements among SFWMD, the City of West Palm Beach, Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District, and SIRWCD may need to be developed for operation of the various facilities described above.

## ■ Review of G-160 Impact Analysis Study

In January 2004, the SFWMD completed construction of the G-160 or Loxahatchee Slough structure in the east

leg of the C-18 Canal, immediately south of the C-18 Canal's confluence with the west leg. The purpose of the G-160 structure is to provide for restoration of a more natural hydroperiod for wetland areas located upstream of the structure, while maintaining flood protection for adjacent developed areas and providing base flow augmentation to help restore freshwater flows in the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. During the process of conducting an Impact Analysis Study and subsequent discussions between the interested parties, the structure remained open until execution of an interlocal agreement between SIRWCD, the City of Palm Beach Gardens, and NPBCID in August 2005. The agreement addresses a future planned course of action regarding the phased operation schedule for the structure and a study of potential mitigation measures to protect existing facilities. The original agreement authorized operation of the G-160 structure in a limited range from 15.0 feet to 15.5 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD).

In February of 2009, FDEP issued a letter to SFWMD requiring permit compliance by incremental increases in control elevation of the G-160 structure, with monitoring, to begin by June 1, 2009. SFWMD initiated the incremental operating schedule on June 1, 2009, with a wet season G-160 headwater stage of 16.5 feet NGVD (e.g., open 16.7 feet, close 16.3 feet) and a dry season G-160 headwater stage of 15.5 feet NGVD. In conjunction with this schedule, SFWMD coordinated with NPBCID, City of Palm Beach Gardens, and SIRWCD staff to establish a plan to monitor the influence of the increased G-160 levels on communities adjacent to the east side of the Loxahatchee Slough. Regular meetings with SFWMD and interested parties have been held since June 2009 to discuss implementation of the monitoring program. The monitoring wells were completed in March 2010 and water level data has been collected since July 12, 2010. SFWMD is working on a report of the compiled data.

SFWMD has expressed interest in the potential for reconnecting Project Culvert PC-10 to allow water to return to the C-18 canal through the culvert located at the west end of SIRWCD Canal E. SFWMD would like to explore an opportunity to capture excess water from end of wet season or dry season storm events to contribute flows to the Loxahatchee River. An initial meeting was held at SFWMD on July 30, 2013 to discuss the possibility and it was determined that based on elevation difference, SFWMD would need to explore different options.



Photo by Don Marchetto, Palm Beach Country Estates

## ■ Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD)

SIRWCD's Board of Supervisors and staff are active participants in the Florida Association of Special Districts (FASD). The purpose of the FASD is to keep the public informed of the benefits of Special Districts, update members with information useful to themselves and their community, review all government activities as they affect the interest of Special Districts, and to forward requests and comments to the Florida Legislature. FASD provides primary education and training to satisfy the educational requirements of Chapter 189, Florida Statute. The purpose of the education program is to ensure that elected boards and district managers comply with Florida Statutes governing special districts.

FASD holds regular meetings throughout the year where information from other water control districts, improvement districts, community development districts, and special taxing districts can be shared with regard to policies, procedures, operation, and maintenance issues. In addition, members of the Association are "watch-dogs" for codes, ordinances, rules, and/or legislation that can either help or hinder the activities of Special Districts. To this end, a significant effort is put forward during the annual legislative session. The FASD continues to benefit from each other's experiences.

This year the FASD has been monitoring the activities of the Florida Legislature. On January 11, 2012, Governor Rick Scott issued an Executive Order (No. 12-10) to

(continued on pg. 7)

(continued from pg. 6)

review Special Districts in the State of Florida. This review involves:

- The method of creation and the legislative intent behind the creation of each special district
- The governance structure
- The functions and activities
- The annual budgets
- The special districts' levy of ad valorem and non-ad valorem taxes
- Policies
- The required disclosures for properties with district jurisdiction
- The level of oversight

FASD will continue to follow this order and represent the interests of its members and provide information on pertinent legal requirements, sunshine laws, economical challenges, and environmental, emergency management, and homeland security issues.

## ■ Palm Beach County - Hatcher/Halpryn Joint Venture Property

In 2008, Palm Beach County purchased the Hatcher/Halpryn property and presented their plan for development to the SIRWCD Board of Supervisors. The County plans to expand the existing lake and rehydrate the existing slough. In addition, the County proposes a park use on the property.

A permit application has been submitted and approved by SFWMD and copied to SIRWCD. In accordance with Board direction, staff submitted a letter of conceptual approval to Palm Beach County subject to satisfying certain items that were discussed at the Board of Supervisors meeting.



SFWMD issued a permit for the project on July 5, 2011. Palm Beach

County submitted and received their Army Corps of Engineers Permit for the project. On October 16, 2012, Palm Beach County revised its original plan and attended the November 29, 2012 SIRWCD meeting to present the revised plan to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors authorized and directed staff to prepare a letter of conceptual approval to Palm Beach County on the revised plan. Palm Beach County applied for a permit modification from both SFWMD and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Palm Beach County applied for a South Indian River Water Control District permit and the District approved the application on August 1, 2013. Palm Beach County is currently proposing a trail connection from Riverbend Park and has been removing the exotic vegetation within the area.

## ■ Palm Beach Country Estates Park Margaret Berman Memorial Park

In accordance with the direction provided at the December 2010 Board of Supervisors meeting, staff prepared a *Minor and Insubstantial Plan Amendment* to the *13th Plan of Improvements* for the Board's consideration to allow for maintenance of the park in Palm Beach Country Estates. The Amendment was approved at the February 2011 Board meeting.

As part of the *16th Plan of Improvement* construction activities, the contractor, Lynch Paving and Construction Company, Inc., assisted with the initial maintenance activities for the park. These activities included a stormwater management system, asphalt exercise path, asphalt parking area, fire hydrant relocation, landscaping, and irrigation, all of which were completed on July 27, 2012.

The District continues to operate and maintain this facility. This year, the District assisted the community with the installation of playground facilities.

## ■ Canal 3 Extension

In order to aid in flood control, the District extended Canal 3 directly to the east into the NW Fork of the Loxahatchee River in Riverbend Park. The District has an existing canal right-of-way in the project area that is consistent with the original intent of the *Sixth Plan of Reclamation* to connect at this location. Prior to construction of the extension,



Newly-installed playground equipment at the Margaret Berman Memorial Park in Palm Beach Country Estates

Canal 3 extended east past the control structure to the District boundary at Riverbend Park. At Riverbend Park, the canal flowed through two culverts and then turned south for approximately 500 feet, then turned east and flowed through two 42-inch pipes in series before discharging into the NW Fork of the Loxahatchee River. By adding the extension, the head loss in Canal 3 is reduced and therefore provides better flood protection.

After receiving all the necessary approvals on the project, on May 27, 2013, construction began on the installation of 114 feet of 58" by 91" elliptical reinforced concrete pipe and approximately 126 feet of canal with rip rap. Construction was completed in September.

## Operations and Maintenance

■ The District's canal network consists of over 60 miles of canals which are continuously in need of being maintained, restored, and enhanced. The canal clearing and maintenance program's objective is to keep the canal sections easily accessible and, to the extent possible, free from trees and other vegetation that may potentially enter the canal during a major storm event and thereby create a restriction that would aggravate flooding.

The canal clearing and maintenance program provides services that include clearing, grading, and shaping of the canals as well as restoring, replacing or enhancing structural improvements. The program is an ongoing effort and the District has continued to work to maintain and achieve the desired goals.

The Board of Supervisors has authorized an on-going swale maintenance program which allows the District Engineer and Manager of Operations to identify areas within SIRWCD that could be improved for conveyance and storage.

(continued on pg. 8)

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Staff will continue to work toward the desired goals of the Board in the swale maintenance program.

■ There are approximately 189 miles of roads within SIRWCD. These roads give access to each subdivided parcel of land. Currently there are 50 miles of roads paved to Palm Beach County standards, 34 miles of roads which are surfaced with OGEM material, and 10 miles of OGEM roads which have been overlaid. Approximately 95 miles of roads within SIRWCD are currently unpaved.

■ SIRWCD implements an Aquatic Weed Control Program in order to maintain the primary canals throughout the District. This program is an ongoing process aimed at reducing and managing the amount of weeds in the canal network to allow unobstructed drainage following rain events. The Aquatic Weed Control Program is necessary to prevent canals from becoming overgrown and to provide a clean channel through the canal system to the outfall.

The program controls emergent vegetation growth through the use of herbicides approved in permits obtained from the State of Florida, as well as mechanical removal of dead or accumulated vegetation that may present a potential for impeding the flow of storm water through the primary canal system.

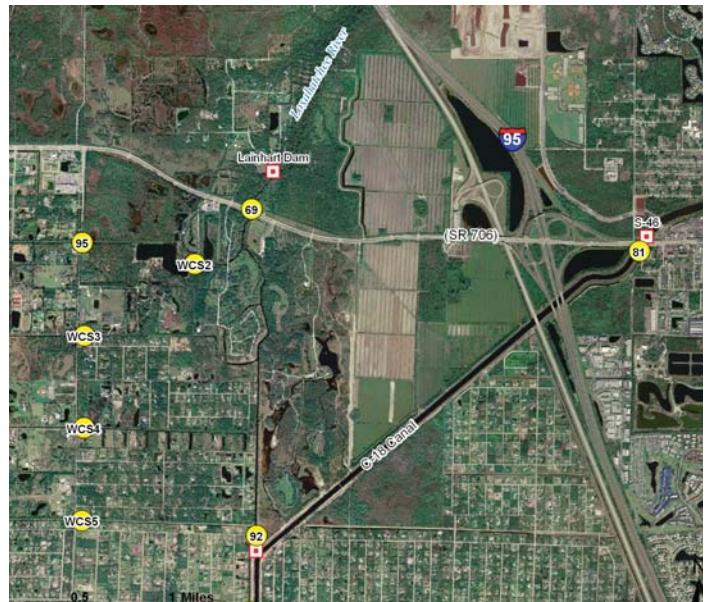
In the future, greater emphasis may be needed for this program as a result of NPDES water quality programs, the FDEP and EPA proposed storm water criteria, the Ecosystem Management Area Plan, and other intergovernmental coordinating activities.

## Water Quality Monitoring

Due to the many ecological and regulatory pressures being exerted over the

Loxahatchee River Basin area, it was recommended that the District sample and monitor water quality within and adjacent to its boundaries. SIRWCD had historically taken samples through a co-operative agreement with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and the Loxahatchee River District (LRD) has been obtaining water quality sampling in recent years. Due to the new water quality legislation being proposed, the Board of Supervisors had instructed staff to implement a water quality monitoring program that augments and expands the current LRD program.

In July 2011, SIRWCD entered into a contract with a water sampling and testing firm. The samples are tested to analyze the surface water and groundwater for various metal, organic and inorganic contaminants as well as water quality criteria. The Lateral Control Structures as part of the *9th Plan of Improvements* have provided the District with a significant amount of water level monitoring data that is very valuable to better manage the system for flood protection and environmental benefits.



LRD Water quality monitoring stations

## Rainfall Totals

The SIRWCD work center monitors and records the total rainfall the District receives throughout the year. For the twelve month period from September 2012 through August 2013, the District received 59.49 inches of rainfall. The average annual rainfall for SIRWCD is 65.13 inches.

The 2012-2013 year rainfall is lower than the historical rainfall average within the District. Historical rainfall data obtained by the Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District (LRECD), the Town of Jupiter Water Department (TOJ), and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) can be found in the full Engineer's Annual Report on the SIRWCD website.

## General Operation and Maintenance

The overall focus of SIRWCD operations is maintaining the surface water management system and graded roadways throughout the District. The District staff has an effective system to receive information, requests, and complaints with regard to the condition of the works of the District. Also, when SIRWCD becomes aware of issues with regard to County, Regional, or State responsibility, District staff facilitates the transfer of information to the appropriate personnel within these agencies. Routine activities to operate and maintain the surface water management system and graded roadways throughout the District are scheduled by District staff

utilizing available manpower, equipment and financial resources. The District also authorizes mobilizing manpower and equipment during emergency management conditions.

The District maintenance activities involve a great deal of interagency coordination with other public entities that share assets within the District. There is much ongoing coordination with other agencies and some inter-agency agreements are in place to share maintenance responsibilities through financial reimbursement. Public entities that share and maintain assets within the District include, but are not limited to, Palm Beach County Roadway Department, Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation, Palm Beach County Fire Control, Palm Beach County School Board, Town of Jupiter, Florida Department of Transportation, and SFWMD.

The Manager of Operations is in continuous contact with other governmental entities to coordinate the integration of District operations with the operation and maintenance of facilities under other jurisdictions. In addition, the District periodically participates as a committee member, board director, or chair on several agencies including the FASD, Loxahatchee Council of Governments, Palm Beach County League of Cities, Safety Council of Palm Beach County, Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council, and other committees.

The District's surface water management system is designed, operated, and maintained for a rural residential community. Accordingly, certain low-lying

(continued on pg. 9)

(continued from pg. 8)

areas within the District will experience ponding and storage of water during the wet season and following significant storms. Also, swales may have standing water and many areas will be saturated for extended periods of time during the wet season. Continued development of low-lying areas within the District will result in consumption of storage within the District's watershed. Consumption of available storage is not as severe in development where ponds are excavated onsite to supply the fill for house pads and related improvements, due to the fact that the pond serves as compensating storage.

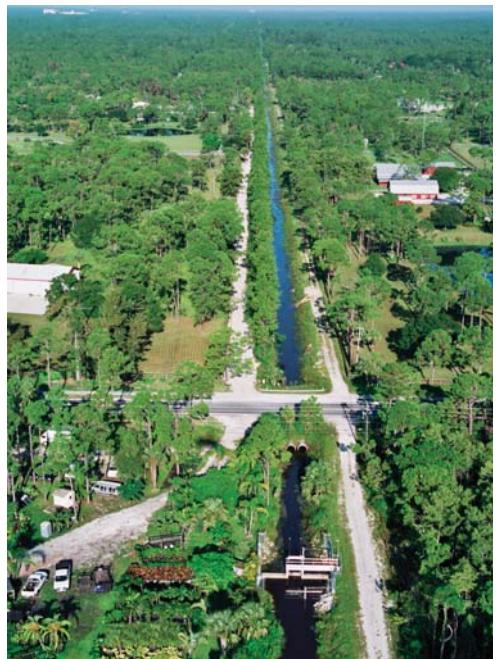
The District's Board of Supervisors and staff regularly discuss these factors at the monthly Board of Supervisors meetings, with individual landowners, in forums and meetings within the District, and within the District's newsletter and other publications distributed throughout the District. The Board of Supervisors and staff work to assure that the surface water

management system functions to the extent of its permitted capacity while recognizing the regulatory requirements imposed on the District by other agencies.

All of the District work must be implemented within the adopted budget and utilization of existing manpower, equipment and any other resources available to accomplish the tasks.

## General Comments

Due to the location of the District within Palm Beach County, a major portion of SIRWCD's activities, both internal and external to the District, require participation from others, particularly activities that look at infrastructure needs and ecosystem management for the region. The District and its landowners share in the continued responsibility of being good stewards in maintaining compatibility with these natural systems. Coordination with other entities who share in that responsibility are an asset in bettering the area.



The District is responsible for managing over 12,000 acres



District landowners enjoy riding their horses in natural areas of the District

The goals and objectives of SIRWCD are consistent with those for the Northern Palm Beach County Comprehensive Water Management Plan, the Loxahatchee Basin Ecosystem Management Area, and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The District will continue to work with South Florida Water Management District and other agencies in developing and

implementing compatible plans for the District and the Loxahatchee River Basin to serve its landowners and its surrounding community.

SIRWCD will continue to serve its landowners by providing support during emergency situations, maintaining and operating the surface water management system at optimal levels, and providing services that coincide with the system capabilities, board policies, and the community.

AECOM has appreciated the opportunity to continue serving as the South Indian River Water Control District Engineer, and we look forward to working with the Board of Supervisors, landowners, and in the coming year.

## SIRWCD AND REGULATORY AGENCIES

Each year, a summary of regulatory agencies affecting SIRWCD is listed in the Annual Report to help landowners be aware of the number of regulatory agencies and cooperative associations the District deals with and their potential impact on District capital improvements, operations, and maintenance:

- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- United States Fish and Wildlife Services
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Loxahatchee River Ecosystem Management Area Committee
- Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District
- Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District
- Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County (SWA)
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- South Florida Water Management District
- Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council
- Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council
- City of Palm Beach Gardens
- Indian Trail Improvement District Committees
- Numerous Citizen Interest Groups & Committees
- Jupiter Inlet District
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Palm Beach County
- Town of Jupiter
- Martin County
- City of West Palm Beach

# 23rd Annual Landowners Family Day

Mark your calendars for the 23rd Annual Landowners Family Day to be held on March 15, 2014. Jupiter Farms own Tom Jackson will be back to provide live entertainment and there'll be free barbecue, community organization booths, and fun for the kids!



*Merry Christmas  
and Happy Holidays  
from the Board  
of Supervisors  
and District Staff!*



Supervisors Tom Rice, Michael Danchuk, Michael Ryan and Steve Hinkle at the Jupiter Farms Christmas Parade

## David Duckett Retires After 15 Years of Service to the District

Equipment operator David Duckett was honored at a retirement luncheon at the South Indian River Water Control District's offices on Friday, October 4.

In attendance were Mr. Duckett's co-workers, former District employees, the District Engineer and Public Information Officer, and Board of Supervisors Michael Danchuk, Tom Rice and Steve Hinkle.

Mike Dillon, Manager of Operations for the District noted that Mr. Duckett was a valued employee and friend who would be difficult to replace. "He always went the extra mile for the District landowners, even leaving his Jupiter Farms home at night if an emergency situation warranted it," he said. "The day after Hurricane Frances, he was out working, helping to clear the area of debris."

Mr. Duckett thanked everyone for coming to wish him well in the future and was sad to leave Jupiter Farms and the District. "Most of all, I'll miss working with all of you," he said.

Mike Danchuk, President of the Board of Supervisors, added that David's hard work on behalf



Manager of Operations Mike Dillon and Supervisors Michael Danchuk and Steve Hinkle congratulate Gregory Gell on his 20 years of service to the District.

of the District's manager, board, and landowners was greatly appreciated. "We are most fortunate to have employees who work closely together and are more like a family than just co-workers." Mr. Duckett was presented with a plaque acknowledging his 15 years of service.

# Landowner-Initiated Roadway Project Update and New Petitions Received

At the November 21 Board of Supervisors meeting, District Engineer Amy Eason presented her report on the *17th Plan of Improvements* bids for asphalt paving in Palm Beach Country Estates. Four bids were received with Lynch Paving submitting the low bid, which came in under design estimates. She asked the board for the authorization to proceed with the project and award the contract to Lynch Paving and the board approved it unanimously. Construction is estimated to begin in early January.

She added that the contractor for the open-graded emulsified mix (OGEM) project in Jupiter Farms has mobilized their equipment to begin construction. (*Please note this project has now been completed.*)

The following roadways in Palm Beach Country Estates were included in this Plan of Improvements:

- 73rd Terrace N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 75th Way N between 163rd Court N and 165th Street N
- 77th Trail N between 165th Street N and 167th Court N
- 79th Terrace N between 155th Place N and 162nd Court N

The following roadways in Jupiter Farms were included in this Plan of Improvements:

- 90th Trail N between 165th Place N and 166th Way N
- 127th Drive N between 187th Place N and Old Indiantown Grade

The estimated annual payment per parcel for the Palm Beach County standard asphalt roads is approximately \$1100 per parcel, while the OGEM roadways is approximately \$1100 per parcel for a period of up to 12 years. Landowners also had the opportunity to

pay in full up front without financing.

At the November 21 meeting, District Treasurer Charles Haas presented the proposal from Regions Bank for the financing of the *17th Plan of Improvements*, noting a very favorable rate of 3.75% with a term of 12 years, which is within the parameters of the referenda. He recommended accepting the proposal and the District Attorney, William Capko, had prepared a resolution authorizing the issuance of a promissory note to provide funds for the District's *17th Plan of Improvements*. After discussion, the board unanimously approved the resolution. Mr. Haas estimated the closing would be in December.

Mrs. Eason reported that she had received and verified new petitions for construction of asphalt roadways on the following roadways in Palm Beach Country:

- 67th Trail N between 146th Road N and 149th Place N
- 74th Avenue N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N
- 88th Trail N between 155th Place N and 159th Court N

The following roadway in Jupiter Farms has petitioned for the application of OGEM:

- 164th Court N between Mellen Lane and Alexander Run

She added that several more petitions are being circulated by landowners, but had yet to be returned. The Board discussed whether there would be enough road mileage to move forward with the referenda in 2014 and noted that landowners circulating petitions need to get them in by the end of the year should they wish to proceed.

## Board of Supervisors Election Results and Election of Officers

Michael Danchuk and Michael Ryan were sworn in at the monthly board meeting of the South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD) Board of Supervisors on November 21.

The board accepted the certified results from the Supervisor of Elections office with Mr. Danchuk receiving 1,057 votes and Mr. Ryan receiving 1,118 votes. Mr. Danchuk has served on the board since 2001 and Mr. Ryan since 2010.



Supervisor Michael Danchuk (center) with Manager of Operations Mike Dillon and District Engineer Amy Eason

Michael Danchuk was elected President, Tom Rice as Vice-President, and Jane Woodward as Secretary. In addition, the following committee heads remain in their positions: Tom Powell – Budgeting; Tom Rice – Communications; Michael Ryan – Parks, Recreation and Water; and Stephen Hinkle – Policies and Procedures.



Supervisor Michael Ryan (right) with Manager of Operations Mike Dillon



15600 Jupiter Farms Road  
Jupiter, FL 33478

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PERMIT # 611

## In this Issue...

**Manager of Operations  
and District Engineer  
Annual Reports**

**Road Improvement Status  
and New Petitions**

**Election Results**

**David Duckett Retires  
From the District**

**Budget Approved**

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

## Florida Stormwater Education Protecting Florida's Water

The District experienced near-record levels of rainfall in May, June and July of this year and as a result, the swales were often filled with water.

A number of residents called the District office, concerned about the water in the swales. However, holding water is what swales are designed to do. They are intended to capture water and infiltrate it into the earth to help replenish groundwater, a precious commodity. Only in the case of high water levels will the swales drain through culverts and out to the canal system.

This method of stormwater management also helps filter pollutants such as nitrates and phosphorous as the rain water migrates through the soil. Since these pollutants are of concern and must be managed to meet NPDES requirements, they help the District achieve these goals.

In fact, the use of swales, as well as rain gardens and other types of bio-filtration practices, is being encouraged nationwide by the USEPA as part of a green infrastructure focus on managing stormwater and its detrimental impacts on lakes, streams, rivers, and oceans.

### ILICIT 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.

## Board of Supervisors Approve District Budget for 2013-2014

The Board of Supervisors of South Indian River Water Control District approved the 2013/2014 budget at their monthly board meeting on August 15. A public hearing on the budget was publicized as per Florida Statutes and was held prior to the regular board meeting.

District Treasurer Charles Haas reported that the District assessments from ongoing programs will decrease slightly from \$5,136,000 in 2012/2013 to \$5,102,000 in the 2013/2014 budget year.

New to the budget this year were assessments of \$98,534 for the landowner-initiated 17th Plan of Improvements for the asphalt roadways in Palm Beach Country Estates and the open-graded emulsified mix (OGEM) roadways in Jupiter Farms, as well as a small assessment on those parcels who signed up for the Town Of Jupiter's Hookup Financing Program.

Mr. Haas also stated that the District is fiscally sound and has received a total of \$4,995,321 in assessment receipts through June 30, representing 97% of the budgeted assessments.

After his presentation, Mr. Haas recommended the Board adopt the budget for the fiscal year 2013/2014.

After a discussion, the board approved a resolution adopting the budget and the levying of special assessments for 2013 on all lands within the District, pursuant to Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes.