



South Indian River Water Control District™

Established 1923 • A Florida Special District
15600 Jupiter Farms Road • Jupiter, Florida 33478-9399 • (561) 747-0550 • Fax (561) 747-9182

www.sirwcd.org
sirwcd@sirwcd.org

Board of Supervisors Rescheduled Meeting & Zoom Video Conference

November 6, 2024 – 9:00 a.m.
District Work Center
15600 Jupiter Farms Rd., Jupiter, FL 33478

Board Meeting Agenda

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Consent Agenda
 - A) Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
 - B) Approval of Warrant List
- 3) Landowner Items
- 4) Public Information Report
 - A) Hurricane Milton Communications
 - B) Website Update
- 5) Treasurer's Report
- 6) Executive Director's Report
 - A) Vegetation Management Contract Update
 - B) Discussion of Employee Retirement 2% Match
 - C) Palm Beach County Mowing and Grading Contract Update
 - D) Egret Landing Update
 - E) Solid Waste Authority Update
 - F) Natural Resources Conservation Service Cost Share Authorization
 - G) Vehicle Replacement Update
- 7) Supervisor of Operations Report
 - A) Hurricane Milton Update
- 8) Engineer's Report
 - A) Finalization of Palm Beach Country Estates Referendum for Paving Petitions
 - B) Palm Beach Country Estates Modeling Update
 - C) Busch Wildlife Update
 - D) Water Quality Update
- 9) Attorney's Report
- 10) Old Business
- 11) New Business
- 12) Adjourn

Public Information Monthly Report September-October 2024

**TO: Board of Supervisors
South Indian River Water Control District**

**FROM: Dick Gruenwald Associates
District Public Information Specialists**

News releases/Notices were sent out to local newspapers and community publications:

- 1) Monthly Board of Supervisors Meeting and Annual Landowners Meeting (Sept. 19) release
- 2) Monthly Board of Supervisors Meeting (Oct. 17) release
- 3) Tropical Storm Winds, Heavy Rainfall and Flooding Forecast releases (Oct. 4-11)

The following items were updated or added to the website:

- 1) Multiple copy changes on several pages
 - Statistics, Board Meetings, Elections, District News, Emergencies, Stormwater
- 2) Monthly Meeting (July 18) minutes, Annual Landowners (Sept. 19, 2023) minutes
- 3) Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting and Annual Landowners Meeting (Sept. 19) information and Zoom registration invitation
 - Agenda, Staff Reports and Slide Presentation
- 4) Information and ongoing updates on Tropical Storm Winds, Heavy Rainfall and Flooding Forecast for Oct. 6-10, 2024
- 5) Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting (Oct. 17) information and Zoom registration invitation
 - Agenda, Staff Reports and Slide Presentation

Attended Monthly Meeting (Aug. 15), Monthly Meeting and Annual Landowners Meeting (Sept. 19) at District Office and Team Meetings (Aug. 29 and Sept. 18). In addition, Laura Bender assisted Office Administrator Jennifer Hammond with proxy verification and supervisor compensation vote tabulation at the Annual Meeting.

We worked closely with Executive Director Chad Kennedy, Dustin Fazio, and Supervisor Kennedy during the Hurricane Milton storm event. We kept the District landowners apprised of preparations for the storm, as well as ongoing efforts over the duration of the storm event and afterwards, with multiple news releases to community social media and continuous updates on the website. Janny Rodriguez from WPTV broadcast live four times Wednesday night from Palm Beach Country Estates where the temporary pump was installed to reduce flooding risk.

Once we receive the 2024-25 Approved Budget Overview from Chuck Haas, we will send it out for professional remediation and will add that to the website once it is received.

The 2024 Welcome to the District letter for new residents has been updated and revised and will be sent out to new landowners shortly. There are 95 names on the mailing list, a substantial reduction from the last few years.

We will begin working next month on the winter newsletter that includes the Executive Director's and Engineer's Annual Reports, Approved Budget overview, election results, the passing of John Jones, a storm overview, and more.

We worked with Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Fazio and Janice Rustin of LLW on the Request for Proposal for Vegetation Management in the District. We created a new webpage for Requests for Proposals and posted the legal advertisement prepared by Ms. Rustin. This is to comply with Florida law, as the legal ad and the notice of intent to award (the evaluation committee ranking) has to be published on a dedicated location on the District website. In addition, we listed the Request for Proposal with a brief description and link to the dedicated webpage under Latest District News which appears on all pages of the site, as well as including a link under the About Us navigation dropdown menu at the top of the website. **The webpage was updated with three Addendums, and we will post the required Notice of Intent to Award on the site once the contract has been finalized by the Board of Supervisors.**

Donna DeNinno originally secured four initial proposals for accessibility-compliant website development and hosting and did extensive research and prepared outlines to work with legal, Michael Howard, John Meyer, and Holly Rigsby on content and changes for the District's website. Keeping costs within budget was a primary consideration, as well as meeting the accessibility guidance. We do have the accessibility statement suggested by legal on the existing website regarding creating a new compliant site and that the District will provide content upon request to those currently unable to access any information. Covid-delayed Florida Senate and House bills sponsored by Florida Association of Special Districts to change requirements for special district websites were signed into law on July 1, 2020. Ms. DeNinno and Legal reviewed changes and reported on options at the July 16, 2020, Board Meeting. The Board approved creating the new site based on the latest information required by the State.

We are continuing to update pages within the existing website that will be included in the creation of the new site, once reviewed by the committee and Board. Nine Portable Document Files (PDFs) that are required to be on the website have been remediated through a third-party accessibility company. As requested by the Board, we are now including Staff Reports and Presentations in addition to the Agenda for meetings. We are currently updating these files dating back to October of 2020. New PDF remediation checkers have been released and we are using these to check our remediated files for compliance. We have sent staff information with tips for preparing more accessible documents that will be used as PDF files on the website so remediation will be easier.

Municode is now a wholly owned subsidiary of CivicsPlus (these are companies we quoted with for the creation of an accessible website). Both companies use the same software, have the same features and similar costs. An updated quote was received for \$4,050 per year, which incorporates design of the site, hosting, maintenance. We continue to edit and revise the existing website, remediate PDF files, and prepare for moving the website to a new host. We are concerned with the rapidly increasing cost of website hosting with CivicsPlus/Municode. The last quote received in September of 2022 had increased almost \$1,000 from January. This could mean hefty increases each year. While this quote is still less than other government-oriented hosting companies, it may be much more beneficial to create an accessible WordPress site and use accessibility checking software/company to ensure Americans with Disabilities Act compliance. As per Ms. Kennedy's request, we spoke with Todd Wodraska at Special District Solutions to ask whether they offered website creation and hosting for special districts. As a company that creates, manages, and provides administrative and financial services, they do provide website hosting through GoDaddy and use a stock WordPress template for the companies they manage. They said that it hasn't been done before but they could provide a quote to allow us to use their template and host on their server, however this is something the District can do on its own. **Staff is beginning a comprehensive**

review of the website in preparation for creating a new, ADA accessible website. We have also been in discussions with two web development and hosting providers who specialize in Special District and governmental websites and accessibility.

The District office and staff met on April 23, 2021, to review and discuss updates by Legal of the District's Policy & Procedures Manual. These revisions to Chapters 1-6 and associated Appendices have been incorporated into the manual. Mike Dillon, Donna DeNinno, and Mike Howard met on June 16, 2021, for additional discussion. A Policy Committee Meeting was held on October 5, 2021, at the District Office with John Meyer, John Jones, Mike Dillon, Donna DeNinno, Bill Capko and Seth Behn in attendance and Amy Eason attending via Zoom. Three landowners also attended. The Policy & Procedures Manual Update was discussed, and additional revisions were made. John Meyers and Donna DeNinno made additional updates and changes to Chapters 1-6 and the Table of Contents in December and January, and the latest revision was submitted to Michael Howard, Mike Dillon, Legal, and Engineering, with comments due back by January 20, 2022. Michael Howard and John Meyers made a few additional changes after the January 20 meeting. Mr. Meyer asked at the February 17, 2022, meeting if Chapters 7-9 and Chapter 10 could be completed by the end of the year. Comments have been received from legal, Laura Bender, and Mrs. Rigsby for additional updates to Chapters 1-6 and Appendix C, which includes election information, and a draft was sent to the Board and Staff for review. Chapters 7 and 8 were received from engineering and reviewed by Mr. Meyer, Mr. Howard, and the staff and after comments, Chapters 7 and 8 have been combined and revisions made. Mr. Behn sent a draft of the procurement policy to staff and the Board for comments and changes in late November. This will be the new Chapter 9. Chapters 7-9 were incorporated into the draft manual and sent to the committee for review prior to the December 8 meeting. Mr. Meyer has sent changes, and these are being reviewed by Engineering and Legal. The board approved the Procurement Policy section separately in January.

Changes to Chapters 7 and 8 were made by Engineering and were forwarded to the committee for review in April 2023. We received responses in May 2023, and these were incorporated into the manual. The manual was updated with an interactive Table of Contents and formatted to prepare for accessibility.

We prepared and sent out an overview of all the items/comments that still need to be addressed by staff on November 1, 2023. In addition, we have been working with the committee on a list of additional definitions for possible inclusion in the manual. Revisions and additions to the manual regarding the Executive Director and Supervisor of Operations job descriptions were made and the Manager of Operations title has been replaced throughout the rest of the manual with the Executive Director title. Staff held a Zoom meeting on January 10, 2024, to discuss all outstanding questions and comments in the manual, revisions were made, and the revised draft was sent to the committee for final review prior to being sent to the rest of the Board. The Board received the updated draft, which now exceeds 100 pages on January 16, 2024, and to allow time for a thorough review, a date of February 15, 2024, was set for approval by the Board. After receiving no comments or revisions from the Board, the final updated version of the Policies and Procedures Manual was adopted. We worked on the remediation of the PDF version of the Manual for posting on the website and created a Policies and Procedures webpage. We also updated the Culverts and Permits webpage to reference the Manual per request by Robert Eustice at AECOM. We continue working on recreating the engineering drawings in the Appendix in a format that can be remediated. We added the "No-Pave" petition with the April 18, 2024, Board-approved correction to the Manual. **The Manual has been temporarily uploaded to the website while we continue to remediate the PDF file once again. We have completed the remediation of the engineering exhibits, which are currently under review by the District Engineer for the accuracy of alternative text for the illustrations (required for accessibility).**

The premier of the Drainage in the District Video was shown at the Annual Landowners' Meeting in September 2022, and links to the video on YouTube were provided to community social media. **The YouTube video has received 648 views, 13 likes, and 4 subscribers as of October 1, 2024. The video has also been run on Jupiter Farms Resident's social media a few times, which has increased views.**

We continue to work with Mr. Howard, Ms. Kennedy, the Executive Director, and Supervisor of Operations on a regular basis. We review and monitor print and online media for all District-related stories articles on roads, drainage, and other issues of interest in Palm Beach County and Florida, as well as nationally, then prepare and distribute material to supervisors and members of the staff via e-mail.



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Memorandum

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Executive Director
SUBJECT: Report for September 20, 2024, through October 17, 2024
DATE: October 11, 2024

Storm

- A) The day after the storm on October 11, District staff started preliminary discussions with one of the two preapproved FEMA qualified debris removal contractors. The federal government will provide up to 75% reimbursement of eligible cost. We will schedule an on-site meeting with the contractor to determine the number of subcontractors required and establish a draft schedule of events.
- B) In preparation for the On-Site meeting listed above, the District Engineer has been asked to provide a cost estimate to collect drone aerial video of the canals in Jupiter Farms. This information will be used to determine the scale and scope of the woody vegetation removal effort needed to return the canals to pre-storm flow capacities.

Administrative

- A) The Request For Proposal No. 2024-001: South Indian River Water Control District Vegetation Management Services had the highest ranked vendor withdraw their bid which we did anticipate. Initial negotiations with the second ranked respondent are scheduled for October 16, 2024.
- B) Contractual discussions with Palm Beach County Engineering Department staff regarding the South Indian River Water Control District roadside mowing contract, road sign installations, and other maintenance items resulted in a tentative agreement to increase the compensation provided to South Indian River Water Control District from \$39K to \$75K. The increased funding sufficiently covers current South Indian River Water Control District costs. To achieve the 100% increase in funding, South Indian River Water Control District will concede the removal of the annual 4% inflator funding increase in the current agreement.

South Indian River Water Control District staff recommend for the board approve the Executive Director to execute a contract with Palm Beach County to continue roadside mowing and other work for \$75K annually.

Outreach

- A) Represented South Indian River Water Control District at the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative meeting.
- B) The Supervisor of Operations and I attended a “in person” meeting with Indian Trails Improvement District’s Office staff, Operations and Maintenance staff, Director of Stormwater Ops and Aquatics Gary Shafer. In addition, I had several telephone conversations with the Executive Director, Burgess Hanson. The meeting

has already resulted in information sharing regarding security of the office staff, maintenance, human resources lessons learned, and preliminary discussions to consider “leasing” equipment to each other when it is mutually beneficial.

Human Resource Management

- A) Increased inflation has resulted in the target retirement savings increasing from 10% to 15% annually to achieve the same level of benefit. The current South Indian River Water Control District 401(a) retirement plan provides 10% of each employee’s annual salary. To retain staff and provide an incentive to staff to be more active in their own saving for retirement, the Executive Director requests the board of supervisors to consider amending the existing benefits plan to include a two percent investment match option in the existing 401(a) plan. The staff participation in the “Match” option would be optional. If an employee does not participate there will be no change to the South Indian River Water Control District cost. However, if the employee contributes an additional 2% to the retirement, then South Indian River Water Control District would provide a match of up to 2%. Thus, for employees that fully participate would obtain an increase of 4% making the total retirement funding 14% of their salary annually. This potential funding change has been discussed with the Treasurer. The Treasurer will assume 100% participation to confirm the effects to the budget.

Infrastructure and Equipment

- A) Reverse flows into Egret Landing were counteracted by the South Indian River Water Control District installation of a temporary dam that proved effective at stopping flows into the community’s stormwater system. South Indian River Water Control District coordinated with the Town of Jupiter’s stormwater management staff to ensure the communities lakes were drawn down through the eastern discharge structure to avoid lake overflows. South Indian River Water Control District engineers are investigating the high tail water stages to develop a remedy.
- B) Conducted post-storm site visit with District Engineers and the conclusion was that the system responded well to this nearly “25-year” storm event.
- C) The office/shop experienced a power outage during the storm and the portable diesel generator was used to keep the telephones operational during work hours. The existing generator provided sufficient power for communication, security, and lighting.
- D) Prior to the storm preparation, the inspection report from Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management’s Petroleum Storage Tank Compliance Program indicated some corrective actions needed to be completed by South Indian River Water Control District. We have resolved several issues and will be replacing the current waste oil tank and secondary containment during this month and installing a new seal on one of the underground tank covers.
- E) Continued data gathering for development of the ‘Equipment Replacement Schedule’.
- F) Ordered replacement dump truck authorized by the Board last month.

Policies and Procedures

- A) Continued updates to the employee manual are being worked on including updates to position descriptions and the development of annual performance reviews, training plans, detailed human resource policies, and performance-based salary adjustments.

William C. Kennedy

William Chad Kennedy
Executive Director



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Memorandum

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Supervisor of Operations
SUBJECT: Report for August 16, 2024, to October 17, 2024
DATE: October 11, 2024

Hurricane Milton Update

In an abundance of caution for the upcoming Hurricane Milton, the District made operational adjustments and coordinated with South Florida Water Management District, Palm Beach County Environmental Resource Management, and the Town of Jupiter.

South Florida Water Management District

With a low confidence forecast for rain totals, we wanted to be prepared for substantial amounts of rainfall. Normally, Jupiter Farms canals flow from East to West and outfall through the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. Palm Beach Country Estates also normally flows East to West and crosses under the Turnpike and I-95 before discharging into the Southwest fork of the Loxahatchee estuary through the 706 Outfall. Because of this, we requested additional discharges into the C-18 canal through a reverse flow of the South Florida Water Management District G-92 structure (Jupiter Farms) and the pulling of riser boards at the PC-8A and the PC-10 structures in Palm Beach Country Estates. South Florida Water Management District approved this request and opened the S-46 structure (Duffy's Spillway) and brought down the water in the C-18 to make capacity for our discharges. This coordination began on Monday, October 7, 2024, and continued through Thursday, October 10, 2024. The structures were returned to their standard operation on Friday morning, October 11, 2024.

Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management

With multiple days of rain before Hurricane Milton made landfall, Canal E in Palm Beach Country Estates was higher than we would like to see before a storm. On the south side of Canal E is the Loxahatchee Slough Nature area (Slough). The elevation of the water in this area is sometimes multiple feet higher than in our system. Canal E and the Slough are separated by a narrow levee, to protect this levee and the property on the north side, coordination between South Indian River Water Control District, South Florida Water Management District, and Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management was needed. When we need to drop the level of Canal E to make capacity for upcoming storm events, the level in the Slough must also be dropped. If the water is too high in the Slough, it can weaken or damage the levee through underground piping because of the head difference. With clear coordination between these agencies, the water can be safely moved or stored and at the same time protect the levee from damage.

In an innovative move, South Indian River Water Control District rented a farmer-style pump powered by our tractor to lower stages in Canal E. The pump was featured on a Channel 5 news report showing our action to create capacity in the system. The pumping operation was also a field-scale real-world test of our ability to acquire, install, and operate a portable pump. The portable pump proved to be a tool worth exploring further and could be used in situations where the system is obstructed, or above capacity, and flows need to be rerouted to help protect life and property if needed in events that exceed the “25-year” storm.

Town of Jupiter

The District is responsible for the weir structure that controls the water in Egret Landing Lakes. With multiple days of rain before Hurricane Milton making landfall, the lakes were staging up higher than expected. With coordination with the Town of Jupiter, they were able to discharge some of the lake water into their recharge canal and give the lakes some relief keeping the lakes at safe levels during the storm.

South Indian River Water Control District

The maximum three-day rainfall was 11.82 inches with us receiving 12.18 inches of rain between Monday, October 7, 2024, through Friday, October 11, 2024.

Before, during, and after Hurricane Milton, South Indian River Water Control District worked to keep all canals, swales, and roads in full operation aided by locals in our community to assist with debris removal in clogged canals and impassable roadways. Clearing debris out of the canals and roadways was the top priority after the storm. After those are fully operational, road grading will be executed, however, wet roads are not easily graded, and as more rain comes after the storm, road grading will be slowed. Pine needles, branches, and palm fronds add difficulty, slow down, and also affect the quality of grading. We plan to have all roads graded at least once by the end of next week Friday, October 18, 2024, but it may take additional time to grade and bring in road material before the road is back to “normal”.

Dustin Fazio

Dustin Fazio
Supervisor of Operations

Memorandum

To South Indian River Water Control District
Board of Supervisors

CC William Chad Kennedy, Executive Director

Subject Engineer's Report for September

From Karen D. Brandon, PE, District Engineer

Board Meeting Date October 17, 2024

The following is a summary of activities and communications that were of significance during the past month. Updated information is presented in **bold**:

I. **Current Capital Improvements And Other District Projects**

- A. Staff has executed a contract for the surveying of Canal C. Survey has been obtained. Staff prepared design cross sections and preliminary plans for the permit applications to expand and relocate Canal C to allow for maintenance on both sides of the canal. Staff also investigated the ownership of Canal C and has attended a meeting with South Florida Water Management District to discuss permitting. Per Board direction, staff submitted an Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative grant application for this project and was ranked on August 9, 2021. Staff submitted the House of Representatives forms for submission to the Florida Legislation for consideration. Notification was received March 9, 2022, that Legislative funding was approved for the Canal C project in the amount of \$312,500 for FY 23. Staff is also researching the US Army Corps 404 Permitting and the delegation to Florida Department of Environmental Protection. It is anticipated that the project will qualify for an exemption for stormwater maintenance. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has confirmed that as long as there are no wetland impacts that are in Waters of the United States then a 404/Federal authorization will not be required. Staff submitted a letter to Florida Department of Environmental Protection requesting confirmation of qualification as an exemption or "No Permit Required". The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has requested completion of a Waters of the United States form followed by a site inspection for verification. Staff was notified by Florida Department of Environmental Protection this week that we have been assigned a new permit reviewer. A site inspection with the new reviewer has been requested. After requesting a site inspection with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection reviewer, we were informed on January 26, 2023, that our application has been assigned to yet another new reviewer (our third). We have requested a site inspection with the new reviewer.

A site inspection was held with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection permit reviewer on April 4, 2023. The reviewer, David White, was still unsure as to which permit route – No Permit Required, Exemption or General Permit will be required. He will review historic aerials and discuss with his manager. He also requested the fill quantity up to the top of bank. He now has a much better understanding of the project.



Staff has followed up with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection reviewer via email to request Florida Department of Environmental Protection's decision on the permit required. On June 21, 2023, staff received an email from the reviewer stating that he has reviewed the Waters of the United States information, and the additional historic aerials provided and will be drafting a No Permit Required letter for review and signature by his management.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection Grants office forwarded Agreement Forms and Insurance Requirements which are necessary for Florida Department of Environmental Protection to draft the grant agreement. These forms and the Certificate of Insurance were submitted to Florida Department of Environmental Protection in early December 2022.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection Grants office is currently working to finalize the Grant Agreement. Arlene Acevedo, has been assigned as the Project Manager for this Agreement.

South Indian River Water Control District received the Grant Funding Agreement from Florida Department of Environmental Protection for execution on May 2, 2023.

The Grant Funding Agreement was fully executed on May 18, 2023, and the first quarterly Progress Report was submitted to Florida Department of Environmental Protection on July 17, 2023. The Bid Documents are being prepared to advertise the project for bidding.

The construction contract was advertised for bids on November 19, 2023, with bids due on December 21, 2023. We have contacted four contractors and emailed bid documents. We will follow-up with phone calls as well.

Two bids were received on December 21, 2023. The bids came in very high. Staff has discussed options with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Grant Manager. A meeting is scheduled with the low bidder on January 16th to discuss reducing the scope of work.

A meeting was held with the low bidder on January 16th to discuss reducing the scope of work. They were interested in doing a portion of the work to allow the District to utilize the grant funding. At this time we are awaiting their response.

The low bidder, Rio-bak, is interested in performing one-third of the work. Staff is working with the Manager to decide which segment gives the District the best value. The canal water levels remain abnormally high for this time of year. The contractor will need to wait until conditions dry out.

Staff has reviewed the canal sections and cut/fill quantities and determined the one third segment to move forward with. Rio-bak is pricing out their cost based on the original bid unit costs for District review by April 19, 2024.

Rio-bak submitted their revised bid. Staff has adjusted the scope slightly and reduced the contingency from 10% to 5%. The revised documents have been sent to Rio-bak. Once they are signed, staff will proceed with issuance of a Notice of Award. Rio-bak is finalizing their revised bid. Staff anticipates requesting award of the contract at the June Board meeting.



The Contract was awarded at the June Board meeting. The contract documents have been sent to Rio-Bak for their execution.

Rio-Bak has requested that the Notice To Proceed be pushed back until conditions are drier. The contract documents have been fully executed.

- B. The funding for the 20th Plan of Improvements has been received from the landowners. The next step is for the Engineer to prepare the Amendment for the 20th Plan of Improvements.

The draft 20th Plan of Improvements is being reviewed by legal, the Treasurer and staff. The draft Plan of Improvements will be submitted for Board consideration at the May Board meeting. The 20th Plan of Improvements was approved by the Board at the June meeting.

Legacy Survey, who proposed the lower price for the survey work, has been delayed in uploading their documentation required to get approved by our Procurement Dept as a subcontractor. We spoke with Legacy most recently on August 8, and they were working on the submittal. As soon as they are approved in our system, a purchase order will be issued to Legacy so that the survey work can proceed.

Legacy Survey has been approved in AECOM's Procurement system, the survey Task Order has been sent to Legacy for execution and the survey work is tentatively scheduled for October 18, 2023, weather permitting.

Legacy Survey provided the survey data on October 31, 2023. The construction plan sheets are in the process of being set up for the engineer to prepare the design.

The bid documents have been drafted and the engineer is in the process of finalizing the design. As the contract documents are finalized, a permit application will be submitted to Palm Beach County.

The project was advertised for bids on February 4th. Bids are due on March 7, 2024.

The bid opening was held on March 7, 2024. Only one bid was received for the project and it was considerably higher than the original estimate. Staff is in discussions with the contractor to see if they are willing to negotiate a lower cost.

Since only one bid was received, the project was advertised for bid again on March 31, 2024, with bids due on May 1, 2024.

The bid opening was held on May 1, 2024. Two bids were received, which are higher than the bid received on March 7. Staff has been in discussions with the landowner who filed the petition and the District Attorney.

Staff received a request from the landowner who filed the petition to reduce the specification requirements for the road base thickness and the amount of driveway restoration required, in order to reduce the cost of the project.

A conference call was held on September 26, 2024, with the landowner who filed the petition to discuss the engineering and survey fees to date. The 20th Plan of Improvement is on hold pending the Referendum process for the future Plan of Improvement.



- C. Future Plan of Improvements – The Referendum documents, exhibits and cost estimates have been drafted and will be sent to the Treasurer to finalize the Notices with the amount of the assessments.

The Referendum documents, exhibits and cost estimates have been drafted and were sent to the Treasurer to finalize the amount of the assessments. The Referendum is on the agenda for the October 17, 2024, Board of Supervisor’s meeting for authorization to proceed with submittal to Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections.

- D. The Drainage Study for Palm Beach Country Estates was approved at the June Board meeting. The first task is to complete the survey work, which has been delayed in getting started.

Legacy Survey has been approved in AECOM’s Procurement system, the survey Task Order has been sent to Legacy for execution and Legacy is in the process of scheduling the work. Once started, the work should take two months to complete.

Legacy Survey began the survey field work on November 20, 2023 and the final survey data is expected to be delivered by the middle of February.

Legacy Survey is working to complete the survey deliverables, including the canal cross sections. They are expected to be done next week. Legacy Survey has submitted the topographic survey and AECOM has begun delineation of the subbasins. The next step will be to develop the other basin input data.

Work is being finalized on the Palm Beach Country Estates hydraulic model. Final Quality Assurance/Quality Control checks and calibration are being performed while the report is being drafted.

II. Operation And Maintenance

- A. **Asphalt Overlay Project** - Bid documents were prepared and an Advertisement for Bids was published on February 4, 2024 for the asphalt overlay of approximately 2.45 miles of roads including: Haynie Lane from south of 167th Place North to Randolph Siding Road, 145th Place North, 64th Way, 65th Way, 66th Trail North, 67th Trail North and 68th Drive North the bids are due by March 7, 2024.

The bid opening was held on March 7, 2024. Four bids were received for the Asphalt Overlay project. The bid submittals are under review for responsiveness.

The final contract documents are being reviewed by the District Attorney.

The final contract documents were sent to JW Cheatham for their execution and submittal of the bonds and Certificate of Insurance . With one modification to the Certificate of Insurance, the Contract will be ready for execution by South Indian River Water Control District.

The pre-construction meeting was held on May 23, 2024. The Notice to Proceed was issued to JW Cheatham for June 17, 2024. Due to the wet weather experience this week, they have pushed their start date back to June 24th. Weather permitting, they anticipate the work taking less than one month to complete.

JW Cheatham has requested a final inspection. District staff inspected the roadways on August 7, 2024, and found some issues. A follow-up meeting with the contractor will be scheduled. The Contractor has submitted a final Pay Application for review.

The final inspection was completed, and the final Pay Application was approved at the September Board Meeting.

- B. **Storm Debris Removal Contract** - The Storm Debris Removal Contract was advertised for bids on March 10, 2024. The bid due date was extended to April 22, 2024, in response to one of the current contract holders. We anticipate awarding contracts at the May Board meeting.

Four bids were received on April 22, 2024. Staff recommends awarding contracts to the lowest three (3) bidders.

The three (3) lowest bids were awarded at the May Board meeting. The contract documents have been sent out to the contractors for execution. Contract documents have been fully executed with two of the three contractors. The third contractor had some questions that are currently being reviewed with legal staff.

The third contractor, who was the lowest bidder, did not include the cost of “tipping” fees to dispose of debris at a landfill. As a result, they did not execute the contract. Two contractors have fully executed contracts.

- C. **A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Steering Committee Meeting was held on September 18, 2024. The agenda included a Cycle 5 Permit Update/Discussion and the Program Budgets.**
- D. Staff continues to monitor and participate in the activities of the Loxahatchee River Ecosystem Management Committee, the Loxahatchee River Initiative, and the Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council.

Staff assisted the Executive Director with preparation of a PowerPoint presentation regarding a grant application for easement surveys and GIS services for the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative meeting on August 5, 2024.

- E. Staff had a conference call with South Florida Water Management District staff members Beth Kacvinsky and Jeff Buck on February 10, 2022, to discuss the G-92 Agreement between South Indian River Water Control District and South Florida Water Management District for operation of the structure. Beth will discuss with South Florida Water Management District operations staff and others to initiate the process of developing an updated agreement. Staff received an email with flow graphs for G-92 on March 9, 2022, for review. An update on the status of internal discussions at South Florida Water Management District regarding a new G-92 agreement was requested on March 11, 2022.

Staff attended the Palm Beach County Water Resources Task Force Meeting on March 31, 2022, and had the opportunity to speak with Jennifer Reynolds, who is the Director of Ecosystem Restoration and Capital Projects for South Florida Water Management District. The South Florida Water Management District is proposing to amend consumptive use permitting criteria to protect water made available by the



Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project. This water resource protection is a prerequisite for the South Florida Water Management District signing a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) with the US Army Corps of Engineers for the Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project by September 2022. Ms. Reynolds is not authorized to begin drafting agreements, such as the new G-92 Agreement, until after the rule is final. Staff reached out to Jeff Buck on December 2, 2022, to request an update as to when South Florida Water Management District will be ready to start discussing a new G-92 Agreement.

Staff had a conference call with Jeff Buck, Adnan Mirza (Operations), and Matt Alexander (Lead Engineer for Flow-way 2) of South Florida Water Management District on January 6, 2023. South Florida Water Management District is currently working on the C-18 West Impoundment design, and it is scheduled to take 2-3 years. No discharge through the G-92 structure is proposed during rainfall events. However, there may be the need for emergency releases from the reservoir. Staff explained that keeping the stages in the 13-13.5 ft National Geodetic Vertical Datum range in the C-14 Canal works best for South Indian River Water Control District. The C-14, C-4, C-5 and C-6 Canals are the most impacted when South Florida Water Management District discharges through the G-92 structure.

The stages in the South Indian River Water Control District canals come up very quickly, especially when the ground is saturated. For now, South Florida Water Management District recommended that South Indian River Water Control District continue to work with Operations. More detailed modeling information will become available during the C-18 W Impoundment design process. South Indian River Water Control District can coordinate with Jeff Buck and Matt Alexander. Staff requested an update from Jeff Buck on August 10, 2023. A detailed update was received from Jeff Buck and included in the Annual Report of the Engineer.

- F. Staff was contacted by the Palm Beach County Building Dept regarding the Policies and Procedures Manual for Regulation of Lot Filling and Grading Activity. As a result of comments from both homeowners and contractors, they are considering making some changes. The Engineer for Indian Trail Improvement District is going to suggest some edits based on the Village of Wellington's policy and send them to South Indian River Water Control District to review.

The Engineer for Indian Trail Improvement District forwarded some suggested edits based on the Village of Wellington's policy to South Indian River Water Control District, and the revisions are under review. Doug Wise, the Building Director for Palm Beach County, requested that South Indian River Water Control District attend a Palm Beach County Workshop on July 9, 2024. The workshop included a discussion on Stormwater and Floodplain Management.

- G. We continue to receive, review, and comment on various permit applications for projects to be constructed within the District. Additionally, we attend site meetings and inspections related to permit applications and landowner requests.
- H. We continue to provide engineering assistance to the Executive Director, as needed, on operation and maintenance items, as well as landowner requests, utility requests, and inquiries from other governmental entities on issues that involve engineering support.

Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me for more detailed information on any of the above subjects.