

Manager's Report for 2014- 2015

South Indian River Water Control District was established in 1923 and encompasses over 12,500 acres including Jupiter Farms, Palm Beach Country Estates, Jupiter Park of Commerce, and Egret Landing. SIRWCD's infrastructure includes 189 miles of roads, 378 miles of roadside swales, and 60 miles of canals.

The District's storm water discharge system essentially functions as a dual basin system; Palm Beach Country Estates which is east of the C-18, and Jupiter Farms which is west of the C-18. With 15 miles of canals, surface waters from Palm Beach Country Estates drain west to east and are controlled by 14 foot elevation weirs prior to entering the Florida Turnpike Borrow Canal system. Waters are then routed northward towards the SW Fork of the Loxahatchee River. Jupiter Park of Commerce and Egret Landing share the same outfall as Palm Beach Country Estates. The Jupiter Farms basin, with 45 miles of primary canals and 5 flood control structures, flows west to east into the C-14 header canal then northward to the NW Fork of the Loxahatchee River.

Currently, there are twelve employees who execute the day to day operations. The District's scope of work for maintenance includes road grading, mowing, and re-contouring of drainage swales, outfalls, and canals for storm water runoff and retention. Areas of maintenance that are subcontracted include aquatic weed control, water quality testing, and services to Margaret Berman Memorial Park.

The District's road maintenance program consists of two John Deere Motor Graders, two ten foot box blades and two International dump trucks. There are over 100 miles of dirt roads that are graded on a weekly basis. Periodically, material is brought in to improve surface conditions due to weather or man-made issues. This year, approximately 6 miles of existing OGEM roads were overlaid and 6 miles fog-sealed. OGEM roads are reviewed each year to determine the maintenance needed and normally scheduled in the late fall or early winter to minimize weather related issues.

The District's mowing operation consists of three ten foot batwing mowers, two 23' sidearm boom mowers, and one 20' foot sidearm boom mower. Completion of the mowing schedule takes an average of six to eight weeks, with the busiest months being July through October. The District does have a "Do Not Mow" list for residents who prefer to mow their own easements.

The District's drainage and water control program consists of two John Deere combination backhoes, one Kobelco trackhoe with an optional mowing attachment, and one John Deere 544 loader. Daily maintenance includes inspections of drainage swales, outfalls, canals, and the need for aquatic weed spraying. District personnel also inspect driveway culverts but maintenance of the culverts is the responsibility of the landowner. Like the District, landowners should periodically inspect their culvert for sediment buildup and erosion. When a driveway culvert needs to be replaced, the District will assist the landowner by removing the old culvert, and establishing the proper swale elevation. The landowner is responsible for the purchase and installation of the new culvert.

In conjunction with the inspection of the swales and canals, operators are also trained to identify any illicit discharge within the drainage system. All violations are reported to the proper authorities and if known, those responsible are cited. These inspections are part of our annual reporting for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System of Palm Beach County.

Landscape and construction debris that is dumped on District easements is considered illegal dumping and violators will pay twice the amount it would cost the District to have it removed. Debris also has the potential to create drainage issues and possible flooding during heavy rain events. If you suspect that anyone is committing acts of illicit discharge or illegal dumping, contact our office immediately.

This year, the District completed numerous projects that will enhance the efficiency of our maintenance program. Culvert crossings were installed along Canal 7 at Alexander Run, Canal 12 at Randolph Siding, and at the intersection of Canal 8 and Canal 11. These crossings will help minimize travel time, fuel usage, and wear and tear on the equipment. They are also an asset to Palm Beach

County Wild Land Taskforce who patrols our canal right of ways for unauthorized and illegal motorized vehicles. Currently, we are doing restoration work along these canals and the new access points have been a benefit to this project. Another canal project that was completed this year was the restoration of Canal 18 along Jupiter Farms Road between 175th and 176th. At one time, a portion of this canal easement was inaccessible creating maintenance issues. The vegetation was removed and the bank restored to achieve total access. The same work was also performed along Canal 6 between 133rd and 136th.

Maintenance is an essential part of any scope of work. It minimizes problems and enhances productivity. However, before that can be achieved, operators must first be trained to work responsibly and safely. This year we accomplished this by conducting quarterly meetings with the employees to discuss safety issues and how to collectively implement best management practices while performing our jobs. Also, throughout the year, several District employees attended various workshops related to safety as well as others received certificates for training as qualified stormwater inspectors. As a result of our efforts, SIRWCD received two awards for employee and driver safety through the Safety Council of Palm Beach County. This was the 19th consecutive year that the District has received awards in these categories. Also, the District was awarded with a reimbursement check for \$1422.41 from its insurer, Preferred Governmental Insurance Trust for training and safety initiatives.

The District also interacts with agencies and municipalities who provide service and information to those who live and work within our boundaries. They include Palm Beach County, South Florida Water Management District, Solid Waste Authority, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, and Palm Beach County Fire Rescue. The District also participates as committee members with The Florida Association of Special Districts, The Loxahatchee River Coordinating Council, The Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative, The Safety Council of Palm Beach County, and North County Land Managers Association.

The District is also involved with community events. This year, our annual Landowners Day BBQ was a tremendous success with many people attending for

the first time. This event gives you, the landowner, a chance to meet the Board of Supervisors, Staff, and Operators of the District. It's also an opportunity to interact with other local agencies and organizations who serve within the community. At the Jupiter Farms Christmas Parade, Supervisors and Staff participated together for a day of fun as we ushered in the Holiday season with our version of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. We even won a couple of awards!

The maintenance and improvement of the works of South Indian River Water Control District and our interrelations with landowners, outside agencies, and governments is the structure of our District and this structure is always a work in progress. Looking ahead to next year, we will continue to evaluate our maintenance program and make adjustments to improve the quality of service for the residents of the District. Future projects include outfall drainage systems, canal culvert crossings and road re-surfacing.

If you would like to learn more about South Indian River Water Control District, feel free to visit our web site at www.sirwcd.org or stop by our office at 15600 Jupiter Farms Road. We are open Monday through Friday 8:00am-4:30pm. You can also call us at 561-747-0550 or send an email to sirwcd@sirwcd.org with any questions or concerns you may have.