

District Notes & News



Established 1923

December 2008

SUPERVISORS

Thomas H. Powell

President

Tom Rice

Vice-President

David Beane

Robert Berman

Michael Danchuk

STAFF

Gale English

General Manager

Michael Dillon

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Greta Rayman

Office Administrator

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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.*

General Manager's Annual Report (October 2007-September 2008)

This past year has been a time of continuing restoration and repair of various stormwater outfall works of the District that were damaged during Hurricane Wilma. Other projects included the potable water system installed in Palm Beach Country Estates and the completion of open-graded emulsified mix (OGEM) installation on 13 miles of Jupiter Farms roadways.

Co-funding grants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a division of the federal Department of Agriculture, Palm Beach County, FEMA, and the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative (LRPI) enabled the District to complete repairs on several projects that had sustained Wilma damage, including culvert installations, rip-rap bank hardening, and stormwater outfall brush removal.

The NRCS provided financial assistance to the District in replacing damaged and failing canal culverts at two major locations – Trailwood and Jupiter Farms Road at Canal 2. These two projects totaled approximately \$660,000, with co-funding grants provided by NRCS and Palm Beach County. Brush clearing and removal projects received \$8,350 from FEMA, as well as \$25,000 from LRPI. The District also continues to receive \$30,000 annually from Palm Beach County for performing routine maintenance on their roadways.



New culverts at Canal 2 and Jupiter Farms Road funded by NRCS

The Palm Beach Country Estates potable water line installation that brings water from the Jupiter Water Plant has been virtually completed. This \$13 million project will do much to ensure an uninterrupted water supply for residents, as well as provide a ready source of water for fire protection. Belatedly, the DEP has mandated a backflow prevention valve that has double backflow plates to ensure against contaminated water entering the system in the event of a sudden line pressure drop. This costly requirement is continuing to receive objections from the South Indian River Water Control District's Board and staff. *(For an update on this issue please see page 7.)*



Gale English

In response to favorable landowner-initiated petitions and referendums, the District successfully completed thirteen miles of OGEM paving installation on the requested road surfaces in Jupiter Farms. The maintenance on these improved road surfaces will continue into perpetuity with no contemplated assessment increase other than normal road maintenance assessments. A redistribution of continuing maintenance assessment funds will fund regular "pothole" repairs, and at some future date, a complete overlay of the roadway surface.

Routine maintenance continues to include placement of more permanent headwall structures around District road crossings and outfall swale culvert installations. The same higher standards continue to be included for landowner driveway culvert installation. District approval will not be given, nor will Palm Beach County inspectors grant a Certificate of Occupancy, until the driveway is properly head-walled.

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General Manager's Report

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The District continues to be involved on a broader scale with the extended community of municipal and county governments as well as support groups that serve all county units of government.

The District participates as committee member, board director, or chair on several agencies, including the Florida Association of Special Districts, Loxahatchee Council of Governments, Palm Beach County League of Cities, Safety Council of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County Intergovernmental Coordinating Element, Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council, and ad-hoc committees from time to time. These interactions ensure good relations with governmental department heads and community leaders and prove invaluable to the District's quality of service delivery, as well as interacting and overlapping areas of responsibility within the scope of its legislative authority. These agencies have the potential for major impact on District landowners and participation remains vital to ensure that our best interests are considered.

Office personnel continue to be very busy with Palm Beach Country Estates water project issues, Annual Landowners Meeting and Board of Supervisors election, record keeping, and processing requests for reimbursement pertaining to the governmental grants the District has received. In addition, they perform their daily routines involving inventory, audit, invoice processing, personnel records, insurance and equipment inventory records.



Canal 2 in Jupiter Farms

Our equipment inventory continues to be renewed and replaced in an annual program designed to maximize a favorable

benefit/cost ratio in cooperation with the Board of Supervisors' emphasis on low annual maintenance assessments.

This year we purchased:

- A Ford 150 pick-up truck to replace the District's Dodge 1500 pick-up truck
- A New Holland T6030 Tractor to replace the old Ford 7840.

For the benefit of new landowners in the District, the following is a brief overview of our function as a Special Taxing District. The District provides water control and road maintenance functions for the landowners and operates under limitations imposed by Chapter 298 of the Florida Statutes. Assessments are levied in the amount necessary to provide those services and are closely monitored with monthly reports and annual audits to ensure accountability of available funds.

Within the 12,000-acre service area of the District, which includes Palm Beach Country Estates, Jupiter Farms, Egret Landing, and Jupiter Commerce Park, there are 60 miles of primary drainage canals and 185 miles of roadways that are maintained on a regular basis. Of the 185 miles of roads, 29 miles are paved to Department of Transportation standards and approximately 40 miles are surfaced with OGEM, putting most residents within one-half mile of a paved road.

The illegal and reckless use of ATVs and dirt bikes on roadways and public right-of-ways such as canals and other restricted areas continues to be a concern. Several injuries, property damage, 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 put on road sides must be correctly cut before the Solid Waste Authority will remove it. If not removed in a timely manner, Code Enforcement will tag the debris as illegal dumping and the homeowner may be cited. They also will not transport tree stumps. Please be advised that debris deposited within the traveled portion of the road right-of-ways are subject to a citation as well.

Ten of the District's thirteen full and part-time employees are responsible for operating the motor graders, backhoes and mowers necessary to the maintenance program. Our employees bring a total of 159 years of experience to the District.

Two of our employees, Greta Rayman and Earl Smith celebrated thirty years of continuous service to the District this year. These two employees represent the values of commitment, faithful service and work ethic that are encouraged in our staff. Employees with these qualities form the essential "backbone" of the program and provide excellent role models that contribute to the availability of a future high quality work force.



Greta Rayman, General Manager Gale English and Earl Smith

On-going training is regularly provided for all personnel and several take advantage of the opportunity to improve their performance levels. Regularly scheduled safety meetings are conducted jointly by the District's Safety Committee and management to ensure an accident and injury-free work place for employees, residents, and equipment.

In previous years, I've commented on the beautiful area we live in and its on-going improvement. However, there are still wild and potentially dangerous creatures living here as well. Respect them and keep your distance to avoid unpleasant reactions from them when they feel threatened. As more and more of their natural habitat is impacted by encroaching development, it is to be expected that their survival instincts will to some degree overlap yours. Alligators are particularly bothersome during drought conditions and migrate from pond to pond and from canal to canal searching for deeper water. Caution is urged around any water body such as backyard ponds or drainage ditches. *Whatever you do, do not feed the gators!*

The District's office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Landowners are welcome to stop by with any questions or concerns and we will do our best to assist you in any way we can.



District Engineer's Annual Report (October 2007-September 2008)

Lennart J. Lindahl, P.E.

South Indian River Water Control District continues to undergo changes that create new challenges and result in new policies and new procedures to meet the needs of the landowners and the external influences that affect the District.

Through its policies and procedures, the SIRWCD Board of Supervisors is responsible for establishing direction regarding budgets, landowner issues, priorities, and relationships with other public entities. District staff is responsible for implementing Board policy and 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 District's General Manager in resolving various landowner issues. The relationship between the Board of Supervisors and District staff has been extremely effective in management of the District.

The District staff continues to work with the landowners at improving conditions affecting the water management system and local 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 restoration to facilities that affect the works of the District. In addition, the District implements landowner-initiated projects such as the Palm Beach Country Estates Potable Water Project, which also is known as the *Thirteenth Plan of Improvements*.

Since the District is positioned as a strategic entity in the planning and management of water resources to the surrounding area, it is involved in activities external

to the District boundary. As plans are developed and implemented, the geographic location of the District is a strategic element in any water management plan for the Loxahatchee River Basin. External activities have included participation in the Northern Palm Beach County Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), the Town of Jupiter Wellfield Recharge Program, Palm Beach County Pine Glades Natural Area, and South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) planning process for meeting water supply needs for the Lower East Coast of Florida.

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.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS Thirteenth Plan of Improvements

Based on a landowner initiative in 2003, the District prepared and mailed a ballot to the landowners in Palm Beach Country Estates regarding the construction of a potable water distribution system to serve the area. The results of the ballot were 754 "for" and 442 "against". The ballot was conditioned with the understanding that the potable water system would only be constructed if annexation was not required by the Town of Jupiter. District staff negotiated terms that would not require annexation. During the Town of Jupiter Council Meeting on October 7, 2003, the Town Council voted unanimously to authorize staff to prepare an interlocal agreement with SIRWCD for the extension of the Town's water service to Palm Beach Country Estates.

Staff completed construction plans and contract documents for the entire project, which includes approximately forty-five miles of pipe, a crossing under both Florida's Turnpike and I-95, sixteen subaqueous and elevated canal crossings, and 445 fire hydrants. Staff worked with the various jurisdictional agencies to obtain all required permits for the project and coordinated with the property owner to the north for activities related to design and construction of water facilities to both projects, and with

the various utilities, such as FPL, AT&T, and Comcast to avoid potential conflicts.

The *Thirteenth Plan of Improvements*, for the construction of a potable water distribution system to serve Palm Beach Country Estates, was prepared and submitted to South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) in September 2004. In December 2004, a Notice of Consistency was issued by SFWMD for the *Thirteenth Plan of Improvements*. Advertisements for pre-qualification packages were noticed in May 2005 and the first bid opening was in September 2005. Two bids were received, however based on recommendations from staff and review of the bids, it was decided at the September 1, 2005 Board of Supervisors meeting to reject both bids and re-bid the project. In October 2005, the second bid opening took place and three contractors submitted bids. District staff successfully negotiated with the lowest bidder, Felix Associates, LLC.

District staff negotiated with the low bidder, Felix Associates, LLC, for a final bid amount of \$13,570,000, which was accepted by the Board of Supervisors at the February 14, 2006 monthly meeting. Felix Associates, LLC, was given a Notice to Proceed on June 14, 2006. The entire project was divided into three phases in order to sequence the work and process permit certifications.

A package was developed by District staff that allows Palm Beach Country Estates residents to finance the Town of Jupiter hook-up charges. The District has arranged a Line of Credit (LOC) that will be available for a two-year period. Assessments made during the sign-up period will be for interest only. In July 2009, the District will convert the LOC into a permanent 15-year term loan. The annual assessment will then include principal and interest. As of mid-August 2008, over 260 landowners had taken advantage of the financing program offered by the District.

Mailers were sent out to all residents within Palm Beach Country Estates that provided information regarding the finance package, as well as the steps to take to hookup to the Town of Jupiter's system. Information also has been placed on both the District's and the Town of Jupiter's websites that provides details on the project and hookup information.



Pipe installation for potable water in Palm Beach Country Estates

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All construction activities have been completed for the entire project. Palm Beach County has released all Phases in the project to be placed into service and all residents who wish to hook up to the water system may do so at this time. Certification packages for all the other jurisdictional agencies covered as part of this project have been submitted and have been accepted or are awaiting final clearance.

The final contract price for the construction with Felix Associates is \$13,030,243, which is over half-a-million dollars under budget. Staff is currently working with the contractor to compile all required final documentation in order to close out the project. (Please see page 7 for an update on this project.)

Fourteenth Plan of Improvements

2005 Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvement Program - OGEM

Based on a landowner initiative, landowners throughout SIRWCD petitioned for the application of OGEM on their roadway surfaces as a roadway improvement project for Jupiter Farms. These roads totaled approximately 13 miles of new OGEM surface within the District. (A list of these roadways was previously published in an edition of the newsletter and on the SIRWCD website.) The resulting Plan of Improvements was submitted and accepted by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The Engineer's Report was filed at the District Office for public review and comment. The Notice of Filing the Engineer's Report was published and the Final Hearing to approve the proposed Plan of Improvements was held February 15, 2007. The contract was awarded to North Florida Emulsions and construction began in August 2007. Construction was completed on November 9, 2007 and the total cost of construction was \$2,617,013.

Pending Capital Improvement Projects

Palm Beach Country Estates Landowner-Initiated Roadway Improvement Project

The Board of Supervisors and District staff continue to work at defining a plan that will meet the desired roadway improvement expectations for landowners in Palm Beach Country Estates. (Please see page 7 for an updated status on this project.)

2008 Landowner-Initiated Roadway OGEM Program

Based on a landowner initiative, SIRWCD has been petitioned by landowners for the application of Open-Graded Emulsified Mix (OGEM) on their roadway surfaces as a roadway improvement project. Currently, this project consists of approximately 8.6 miles. If this capital improvement is implemented, the existing dirt roadways will be surfaced with OGEM. (A list of these roadways was published on the SIRWCD website and in the newsletter. For an update on the status of this project, please see page 7.)

Resource Regulations

■ The current Palm Beach County Municipal NPDES Permit was issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on November 18, 2002. 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 committee meets on a regular basis to evaluate the program, provide training and resources to the co-permittees, and assist with the preparation of the annual reports. Staff continues to attend the committee meetings. This past year, discussions included the Year 4 Permit Assessment Report from FDEP, completion of the 5th Year Annual Report, the Third Term Permit, new Interlocal Agreements, viewing of two training videos for NPDES "credit", and public education. The co-permittees are currently waiting on the draft Third-Term Permit to be issued by FDEP. At that time, new Interlocal Agreements will be executed.

■ Chapter 189 of the Florida Statutes, the Uniform Special District Accountability Act, requires preparation and submission of a Public Facilities Report to governmental jurisdictions in which the special district resides. Special Districts are required to submit this report by March 1 of each year and, at a minimum, 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 on-going process to provide for better and more accurate mapping of the works of the District. The Public Facilities Report will be modified during the next year as required by Chapter 189.415, Florida Statutes. The



OGEM applied to 93rd Lane North in Jupiter Farms

modification will include completion of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Plans of Improvement, and include 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.

■ In late 1989, SIRWCD entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the Town of Jupiter regarding a cooperative arrangement that provides for implementation of a system to convey surplus surface waters to the town's surface water recharge program. The purpose of this interlocal program is to recharge areas impacted by the town's surficial wellfield withdrawals to aid in stabilizing the surficial aquifer and support water management systems serving the surrounding residential communities. Over the past few years, SIRWCD has been working closely with Jupiter to expand this program and increase the transfer of recharge water to the surficial wellfield system. The Town of Jupiter presented a plan to construct a pump station with a capacity of 4,514 GPM to transfer excess surface water from the Outfall Canal to SIRWCD's Canal H during extreme draw-down periods. From Canal H, flow will be directed into Egret Landing's surface water management system to help replenish the local groundwater table and the underlying surficial aquifer. Construction of the recharge pump station at Egret's Landing was completed June 3, 2008. The Town is in the process of obtaining permits from FPL to install conduit in order to provide power to the pump station.

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Intergovernmental Coordination

■ 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 SFWMD C-18. SIRWCD and the Coordinating Council have several mutual issues and interests, including the North Palm Beach County Part 1 CERP Project; Cypress Creek Wetland Restoration, where Palm Beach County is proposing hydrological restoration on a county-owned tract located north of Indiantown Road and west of the Loxahatchee River; and water quality monitoring.

■ A Project Management Plan (PMP) was completed and approved in June 2005. The PMP focuses on the development of the Project Implementation Report (PIR) for the North Palm Beach County Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Project - Part 1 components. The PIR will determine the appropriate quantity, timing, and distribution of water dedicated and managed for the natural system, as well as comply with water quality permitting requirements. SFWMD continues to work on the Watershed Modeling.

■ Components of the Northern Palm Beach County Comprehensive Water Management Plan (NPBCCWMP) have moved forward this year. The intent is to bring about improvements to storage and water conveyance infrastructure that will capture water currently lost to tide in the wet season, provide supplemental supplies in the dry season to meet environmental needs and the projected 2020 urban and agricultural demands.

■ The G-161 Structure is complete and will convey water under Northlake Boulevard (west of the Beeline Highway) to provide a connection for water deliveries from the Grassy Waters Preserve north to the Loxahatchee Slough, the C-18 Canal, and the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. It is anticipated the structure would mainly be utilized for dry season water deliveries. A study by SFWMD is near completion for development of an operation plan. There is currently an interim operation plan and the structure has been operated for testing purposes. SFWMD is working on a report of the test results.

■ Activities on other components located outside the Loxahatchee Basin that are integral to the NPBCCWMP include:

- The L-8 Reservoir currently has approximately 11,650 acre-feet of useable storage available with interim flow (about 600 cfs) and discharge (150 cfs) capability. The design of a permanent inflow facility and discharge pump station is currently on hold. The remaining storage cells are awaiting approval from FDEP.
- SFWMD is continuing to work with the City of West Palm Beach regarding the future design and construction of a new Control No. 2 pump station. Currently they are awaiting the results of the modeling efforts with regard to the design criteria for the pump station capacity.
- Phase 2 of the widening of the M-Canal by the City of West Palm Beach is on hold pending resolution of property rights issues. The City bid and awarded the project this past year, however, never issued a Notice to Proceed.
- The construction of a new G-92 structure is scheduled in FY 2008-09. The construction contract award is scheduled for the November Governing Board meeting. The new structure will have the same design capacity (400 cfs) as the

existing structure, which will remain operational while the new structure is being constructed.

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

■ SIRWCD's Board of Supervisors and staff continue to participate in the Florida Association of Special Districts. The association acts as a watchdog for codes, ordinances, rules and legislation that might affect the activities of Special Districts. Regular meetings are held throughout the year, where information is shared with regard to policies, procedures, and operation and maintenance issues.

■ In January 2004, SFWMD completed construction of the G-160 in the east leg of the C-18 Canal, immediately south of the C-18's confluence with the west leg. The structure provides for restoration of a more natural hydro-period for wetland areas located upstream, while maintaining flood protection for adjacent developed areas. It also provides base flow augmentation to help restore freshwater flows in the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River. An interlocal agreement executed in August 2005 between SIRWCD, the City of Palm Beach Gardens, and the Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District (NPBCID), 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. In accordance with the agreement, a study has been initiated by the SFWMD and NPBCID to determine any potential mitigation measure requirements. Phase 1 of the study has been completed. SFWMD is currently reviewing a final draft of the scope of work

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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 Community Affairs
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
- Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District
- Northern Palm Beach County Improvement District
- Seacoast Utility Authority
- Seminole Improvement District
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Department of Transportation
- South Florida Water Management District
- City of West Palm Beach
- City of Palm Beach Gardens
- Indian Trail Improvement District
- Loxahatchee River Ecosystem Management Area Committee
- Numerous Citizen Interest Groups and Committees
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Palm Beach County
- Town of Jupiter
- Jupiter Inlet District
- Martin County

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for Phase 2 of the study. SFWMD staff wants to modify the interim operation of the G-160 Structure in the near future. This modification is still under review by the interested parties, including SIRWCD.

■ SIRWCD continues to work with Palm Beach County to implement a mitigation plan to restore the Pines Glades Natural Area, located immediately west of SIRWCD's western boundary and south of Indiantown Road. In order to restore the property to more natural conditions, an appropriate level of water management is needed to maintain environmental goals. Palm Beach County has requested to discharge water into SIRWCD to manage the water levels within the restoration area. District staff is working with the County to determine if a design can be developed that would allow for the release of water into the District during off-peak times without negatively impacting flood protection.

■ On September 24, 2007, SIRWCD received a copy of Palm Beach County's agenda back-up concerning the purchase of the Hatcher/Halpryn property by Palm Beach County. SIRWCD staff has had various meetings with Palm Beach County concerning the District's facilities and the county's plans for the property. In February 2008, Palm Beach County purchased the property. On May 15, 2008, the County presented their plan for the property to the SIRWCD Board of Supervisors. The County would like to expand the existing lake and rehydrate the existing slough. In addition, the county proposes a park use on the property.

Operation and Maintenance

■ Fortunately, the 2007 hurricane season did not produce any severe storms across SIRWCD's boundaries. Over the past year, District staff has continued to coordinate with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to obtain funding for repairs of damages due to previous hurricanes. Subsequent to Hurricane Wilma in 2005, the NRCS signed agreements with SIRWCD to provide approximately \$1,102,000 for repairs throughout the District caused by the storm. In addition, FEMA provided funding totaling \$137,979 for Wilma related repairs. Three change orders also were processed by NRCS to obtain \$1,162,395 in additional grants. The grants covered the costs necessary for the following items:

- Removal of debris from SIRWCD's primary drainage canals and tertiary swale system

- Installation of rock rubble rip-rap around major canal crossing culverts, as well as canal areas approaching the telemetry-operated water control structures

The grants and first three change orders included a total of 54 sites throughout the District. The final sites were certified January 3, 2008. A change order in the amount of \$196,232 was approved by the NRCS to cover costs for replacing culverts at the entrance to Trailwood on Canal 1. The project was contracted on November 16, 2007 and received its final certification on April 1, 2008.

An additional change order to the NRCS contract increased funding by \$426,485. The change order was approved in order to replace four existing 72" culverts under Jupiter Farms Road at Canal 2 with two eleven by seven foot culverts with headwalls and riprap. The project was contracted on July 23, 2008 and completed on August 16, 2008. This program has been very successful due to the efforts of all District staff, especially the General Manager, Gale English.

■ The District's 60+ miles of canals are continuously being cleared, graded, and shaped, and if needed, restored, replaced, or enhanced with structural improvements. The overall objective of this program is to restore and maintain a canal section that is easily accessible, and to the extent possible, free from trees and other vegetation that could fall into the canal during major storm events, causing blockages that could aggravate flooding. For the forthcoming year, the Board has authorized the District Engineer and District Manager to identify areas within the District that could be improved as a conveyance and storage aspect in the swale maintenance program.

■ In accordance with the provisions of the Florida Statutes, the District maintains a Policies and Procedures Manual that is available to any landowner.

■ The *Fourteenth Plan of Improvements* for applying OGEM to approximately 13 miles of roadway in Jupiter Farms was completed in November 2007. During the past year, there were no roads constructed using Palm Beach County roadway standards. This year, landowners in the Jupiter Farms and Palm Beach County Estates have petitioned to surface existing dirt roadways with OGEM. This improvement is a pending capital improvement project for next year. In addition to the above referenced projects, the District continues to maintain the existing dirt roads within its boundaries.

■ The District continues its efforts to control aquatic weeds within the primary

canal system. In the future, more emphasis may be needed for this program to comply with NPDES water quality programs, the Ecosystem Management Area Plan, and other intergovernmental activities.

Rainfall Totals

Total rainfall, as measured at the District's office for the 12-month period from September 2007 through August 2008 amounted to 65.16 inches. This is slightly lower than the historical average of 66.70 for the same time period.

General Comments

The District's surface water management system is designed, operated, and maintained for a rural, residential community. Accordingly, certain low lying areas within the District will experience ponding and storage of water during the wet season and following significant storms. Swales will have standing water and many areas will be saturated for extended periods of time during the wet season. The continued development of low-lying areas in the District will result in a commensurate consumption of storage within the District's watershed. When lots are excavated to supply fill for housepads and related improvements, the consumption of available storage is not as severe because the ponds serve as a compensating factor. The level of service and expected performance of the system is discussed by the Board of Supervisors and District staff at regular monthly Board meetings. The District's Board and staff work to assure that the surface water management system functions to the extent of its design capabilities. Also, the District must work within regulatory requirements imposed by other agencies. All this must be implemented within the adopted budget and utilization of existing manpower, equipment, and any other resources available to accomplish the tasks.

The District has an obligation to its landowners and the surrounding area due to its strategic location within naturally sensitive conservation areas. A major portion of SIRWCD's activities 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. BOYLE|AECOM has appreciated the opportunity to continue serving as the SIRWCD Engineer, and we look forward to working with the Board of Supervisors, landowners, and staff in the coming year.

Thomas Powell Relected to SIRWCD Board of Supervisors

Thomas Powell has been reelected to a three-year term on the South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD) Board of Supervisors. At their monthly meeting in October, the board accepted the certified results from the Supervisor of Elections of 841 votes for Powell. Powell has served on the board since 1981 and ran unopposed.

The board also moved to keep the current slate of officers – Tom Powell as president, Tom Rice as vice-president, and Jane Woodward as Secretary. In addition, committee heads are also to keep their positions – Tom Powell, budgeting; Tom Rice, communications; Bob Berman, parks, recreation and water; and Dave Beane, policies and procedures.



PALM BEACH COUNTRY ESTATES POTABLE WATER UPDATE



District Engineer Len J. Lindahl reported at the September monthly board meeting that all phases of the Palm Beach Country Estates Potable Water Project have been released by Palm Beach County Health Department for placement into service. A final project certification package was submitted to the Town of Jupiter and has received final approval and acceptance. All residents are now eligible to hook up to the Town of Jupiter's water supply at this time. As each phase of the project was completed, residents and landowners in those phases were mailed a packet regarding hook-up instructions and information on the SIRWCD voluntary financing plan. If you have not received your packet or misplaced it, you may download the information on the SIRWCD website at www.sirwcd.org or call the District office.

SIRWCD has arranged that the negotiated hook-up fees for Palm Beach

Country Estates be available for a period of seven years. The meter fee portion of the hook-up fees are subject to change at the discretion of the Town of Jupiter. After seven years, fees will be assessed at going rates. Please keep this in mind if you plan to hook up to the system at a later date. **Also, please note that the SIRWCD voluntary finance plan is only available through June 30, 2009.** District Treasurer Charles Haas has noted that if landowners hook up to the system quickly, assessment costs could be reduced for everyone.

Prior to the final phases of the project being certified this summer, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Palm Beach County Health Department (PBCHD) announced a statewide requirement for the installation of a backflow prevention device when hooking up to a public potable water system. The Town of Jupiter had previously decided to implement the requirement and

residents were advised at that time to hold off on the installation of potable water until the issue was resolved. In October, the District mailed a notice regarding the status of the backflow prevention device requirement. The PBCHD had notified the District that the requirement for the installation of backflow prevention devices had been stayed until at least January 1, 2009, and as a result, the Town of Jupiter had dropped the requirement for the backflow prevention device.

Those who wish to hook up to the potable water system SHOULD do so NOW while the requirement for the installation of the backflow prevention device has been temporarily stayed. However, Jupiter will require that you sign a Property Owner Meter Set Agreement that states you may have to install the device at a later date should it be mandated by the FDEP and PBCHD. Check the website for further updates on this issue.

2008 Landowner-Initiated OGEM Roadway Improvement Project

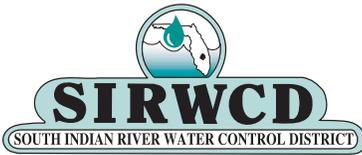
A referendum was held in October for the application of open-graded emulsified mix (OGEM) on 20 roadways (totaling approximately 8.6 miles) in Jupiter Farms and Palm Beach Country Estates. Certified results were received from the Supervisors of Elections Office on November 20 and the following roads passed with a majority of votes cast in favor of the project:

- 129th Ter. N between 186th Ct. N and 187th Pl. N (3 yes/0 no)
- 158th St. N between 133rd Ter. N and East Perimeter Canal (Canal 13) (8 yes/6 no)
- 152nd St. N between 111th Ter. N and 115th Ave. N (5 yes/3 no)

For a complete list of the voting results, please visit www.sirwcd.org. Please watch for updates in upcoming issues of the newsletter or check the website for the latest information on the status of this project.

Palm Beach Country Estates Roadway Improvement Project

At their October monthly meeting, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to proceed with a referendum for paving all unpaved roads in Palm Beach Country Estates to Palm Beach County asphalt road standards. The board had previously held off on the referendum due to extremely high costs associated with asphalt paving at the time. Since then, costs for materials have come down, mostly due to the large decrease in construction in Palm Beach County and Florida. Watch for more information on this project soon.



15600 Jupiter Farms Road
Jupiter, FL 33478

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PERMIT # 611

Happy Holidays!
Mark your Calendars...

Bring the family to
SIRWCD's
18th Annual Landowners
Family Day
Saturday
March 14, 2009!

Visit www.sirwcd.org
for news updates!

BOARD APPROVES 2008/2009 BUDGET

The Board of Directors of South Indian River Water Control District approved the 2008/2009 budget at a rescheduled monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 3. The required public hearing on the budget was previously held on August 21. The board approved a resolution adopting the budget and the levying of special assessments for 2008 on all lands within the District, pursuant to Section 197.3632, Florida Statutes.

District Treasurer Charles Haas stated that the District's annual budget will increase from \$5,069,000 in 2007/08 to \$5,349,500 for the 2008/09 budget year. Haas noted that most of the increase was a result of the 2008 Palm Beach Country Estates Potable Water Hookup Financing Program.

For additional information on the SIRWCD annual budget, please contact the District office at 747-0550.

Florida Stormwater Education Corner Protecting Florida's Water

While the District's rainfall totals this year were near typical historical values, we are now into our "dry season" and you may have noticed that grass and plants are already beginning to dry out. Fortunately, our backup water supply, Lake Okeechobee, did receive increased amounts of rainfall this past year and has improved from last year's dire situation of record low water levels. At this time, the South Florida Water Management District is discussing implementing permanent year-round watering restrictions in order to conserve water.

The EPA continues to implement its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater regulations that require compliance with the Clean Water Act. SIRWCD is a co-permittee with 39 other agencies in northern Palm Beach County that must meet these requirements. The EPA encourages the use of best management practices, such as infiltration, that not only manage stormwater runoff, but also help to recharge precious groundwater resources.

The District's network of swales are actually an infiltration best management practice. They are designed to hold water that runs off of impervious surfaces, such as roofs, driveways and patios, and then infiltrate it into the ground, where pollutants can be filtered and removed through bio-remediation.

With new standards such as total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for setting pollutant maximums for receiving waters and increased focus on stormwater volume reductions by the EPA on the horizon, the District must work with other local agencies to ensure requirements of the permit are met.

Please do your part by minimizing impervious surfaces on your property.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE

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