

District Notes & News



Established 1923

March 2013

SUPERVISORS

Michael Danchuk
President

Tom Rice
Vice-President

Stephen Hinkle

Tom Powell

Michael Ryan

STAFF

Michael A. Dillon
Manager of Operations

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Office Administrator

DISTRICT OFFICE

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Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday

*The Board of Supervisors meets
the third Thursday of each
month at Jupiter High School
at 7:30 p.m.
Contact the District Office
for an agenda.*

Board of Supervisors Hold Two Roadway Improvement Workshops

The South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD) Board of Supervisors conducted two workshops on January 10 and February 7 to discuss District policies and procedures regarding roadway improvements initiated by landowners. The workshops were held to address landowner concerns and comments at recent board meetings. A board meeting was also held on February 7 to conduct District business.

Prior to discussions, District Engineer Lennart J. Lindahl presented an overview of the District's existing protocols for roadway plans of improvements:

- Petitions are used by landowners requesting roads to be improved. Landowners interested in road improvements must make a request in writing to the District, with a minimum 35% of affected landowners signing the petition.
- The District Engineer verifies the petitions, defines the benefitted area and prepares cost estimates for the Board of Supervisors consideration. All property owners adjacent to a roadway are considered to be in the benefitted area.
- Corner lots are assessed for one roadway project, unless a roadway was part of a past area-wide project. Corner lots are assessed for the first project to be constructed.
- If the Board of Supervisors approves the petitions, they may direct that a referendum, which includes the cost estimate, be sent to all the landowners who would benefit from the improvement. Petitions are to be acted on within a year.
- If a majority (51%) of affected landowners who cast a ballot are in favor of the road improvements, then all of the landowners benefitting from the road improvement will be assessed on a per parcel basis, unless a per acre basis is requested and approved by the Board. A parcel is defined as land that is not subdivided and is under one ownership.
- If the Board of Supervisors accepts the results of the referendum, the Board may direct the District Engineer to prepare an Engineer's Report and a Plan of Improvement for the project, which includes a public hearing process.
- Once the Board approves the report, the project can move forward and be constructed.

Mr. Lindahl, who had been previously tasked by the board to make recommendations, presented a proposal that every parcel adjacent to an improvement be included in the parcel count of the benefitted area and included in the referendum. Corner lots and lots with multiple road frontages are considered to be in the benefitted area and will have the opportunity to participate on any road adjacent to their lot, but will be assessed only once depending on the roadway improvement program being petitioned. Supervisor Tom Powell noted that if a corner parcel made a future improvement and began to access the other roadway, the Board should reserve the right to reevaluate and assess at a later date if they hadn't already been assessed for the other roadway. The Board voted to unanimously accept the proposal.

The Board also reviewed whether roadways should be combined for continuity of paved surfaces, as has sometimes been the case in the past. Staff noted that historically, they have kept petitions as they have been presented to the District. The Board debated whether they should combine or split roadway segments to provide an overall cohesive engineering plan and not just respond strictly to petitions as submitted. It was mentioned that the voters on one road with more parcels could overwhelm those on another road that had fewer parcels. The Supervisors liked the idea of the District Engineer reviewing an initial petition, refining it if needed, and then the petitioner can go out and secure the required minimum number of signatures.

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Board of Supervisors Hold Two Roadway Improvement Workshops

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Supervisor Michael Ryan suggested better control of the petition process by utilizing a formal petition prepared by the District. Supervisor Stephen Hinkle presented a possible draft of a new petition that included detailed information for landowners. Mr. Ryan also suggested that once a petition is approved by the Board, all landowners in the affected area should get a notice.

After further discussion, the Board unanimously approved a motion to change the petition process with petitions limited to single roadways, initial petition review by the District Engineer prior to getting signatures, and after petition approval by the Board, provide notification to landowners in the affected area.

The Board also discussed the current policies of a one-year waiting period after a referendum fails and waiting one-year to collect petitions before acting on them. It was determined that the District could continue to pool the petitions and after a year, the Board could determine whether to move ahead with referenda or hold them for an extended period of time. They also elected to leave the current one-year waiting period for landowners to re-



OGEM application on 80th Drive N

petition for roadway improvements after a referendum fails to give time for some of the other changes being enacted to take effect.

In addition, a motion was approved that public records notices be

recorded for properties where improvements are being considered so that potential future buyers may be made aware that assessments might be added to the property.



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

Mr. Lindahl also asked the Board for direction on the current plan of improvements. He commented that while the Palm Beach Country Estates asphalt roadways that had been approved were within the estimated cost range, the Jupiter Farms open-graded emulsified mix (OGEM) roadways were substantially higher due to the limited number of lots on the two approved roadways: 90th Trail N between 165th Place N and 166th Way N and 127th Drive N between 187th Place N and Old Indiantown. The original estimate was for approximately \$780.00 annually if all the referenda had passed, but is now estimated at approximately \$1100.00 per parcel annually for 12 years. Due to the large discrepancy, the Board agreed that it was too much of an increase. The landowners adjacent to those roadways will be sent an explanation on the financing and will be given a second opportunity to vote on the revised estimated amount.

The Board voted to move forward with the asphalt roadways project in Palm Beach Country Estates.

Mr. Lindahl was asked if roadside improvements such as culverts, sidewalks or pathways could be constructed when roadways are improved. He explained that the District is bound by the *6th Plan of Improvements*. The swales are designed for water storage and conveyance in rural areas and on the District's typical 60-foot right-of-ways, it is challenging to adapt them. The drainage could be adversely affected should they be changed. He added that each roadway is unique and there may be possibilities for improvements.

Florida Stormwater Education Corner Protecting Florida's Water

During our "dry season," it's easy to forget we can be subject to large amounts of rainfall, and when it runs off of impervious surfaces, it becomes stormwater. We received over nine inches of rain in our area from Hurricane Isaac, despite its making landfall hundreds of miles away.

Without regular rainfall, we start to experience drought conditions fairly quickly. The Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule limits landscape watering in our area to three days a week

ILLICIT DISCHARGE

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

throughout the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).

SIRWCD encourages you to conserve water in

your landscape, which is also beneficial for reducing stormwater runoff and its impact on the environment.

SFWMD's website offers useful tips for both residents and businesses. They recommend that you check for broken or misaligned sprinkler heads and offer step-by-step instructions for repairing leaks that can waste huge amounts of water.

In addition they provide Florida-friendly landscaping tips for the home gardener and did you know that many households use as much as half of their total water consumption on irrigation?

They list some ways you can become YardSmart by saving water outdoors and provides a link to a how-to guide by the Southwest Florida Water Management District that illustrates how to make and install a rain barrel. To learn more, visit:

<http://www.sfwmd.gov/portall/page/portall/xueeb%20-%20release%203%20water%20conservation/water%20conservation%20residents>

22nd Annual Landowners Family Day



Saturday, March 16

11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the District Work Center

Jupiter Farms, Palm Beach Country Estates, Egret Landing and Jupiter Commerce Park

Meet the Supervisors & Staff • Get to know your neighbors

Fun for the Whole Family!

✧ Delicious Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q Lunch ✧

✧ Tom Jackson Band - National Recording Artist ✧

✧ Cock-A-Doodle-Do Petting Zoo, Pony Rides, Bounce House & Face Painting ✧

Community Exhibits - Free Information & Give-a-ways!

Boy Scout Troop 109/Venture Crew 2109

Citizens On Patrol • Florida Forest Service • Florida's Blood Centers

Drowning Prevention Coalition • The River Center

Gated Trail Riders • Jupiter Farmer • Jupiter Farms Residents

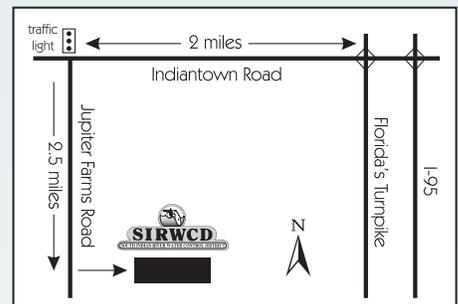
Jupiter Farms Pet Connection

Northeast Everglades Trail Association

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue

Rising Star Rottweiler Rescue

Safety Council of Palm Beach County, Inc. • Solid Waste Authority



**RSVP to Holly or Carol
at 747-0550 by March 14**



15600 Jupiter Farms Road
Jupiter, FL 33478

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WEST PALM BCH FL
PERMIT # 611

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**22nd Annual Landowners
Family Day
Important - Please
RSVP by March 14!**

**Results of Roadway
Improvement Workshops
and Update on
Landowner-Initiated
Roadway
Improvement Projects**

Visit www.sirwcd.org
for news updates!

22nd Annual Landowners Family Day



Come celebrate the District's 90th Anniversary!

Join us on Saturday, March 16 for our
22nd Annual Landowners Family Day.
Enjoy Sonny's Bar-B-Q, activities for the kids,
listen to live music by the Tom Jackson Band,
and see exhibits by community organizations!