

District Notes & News



South Indian River
Water Control District™

Established 1923

August 2017

SUPERVISORS

Stephen Hinkle
President

Tom Powell
Vice-President

Michael Howard

John Jones

John Meyer

STAFF

Michael A. Dillon
Manager of Operations

Holly Rigsby
Office Administrator

DISTRICT OFFICE

15600 Jupiter Farms Road
Jupiter, FL 33478
(561) 747-0550

www.sirwcd.org
sirwcd@sirwcd.org

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 7:00 p.m.
Contact the District Office
for an agenda.*

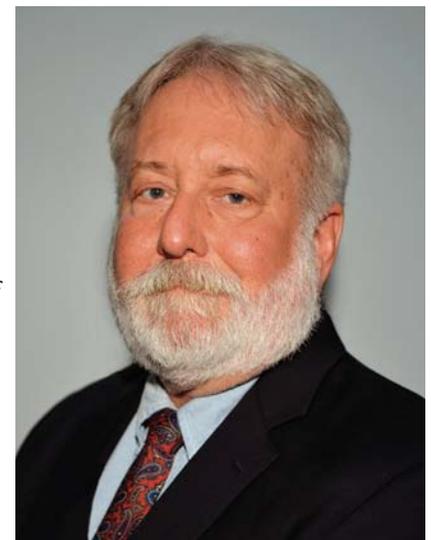
Two Seats Up for 2017 Board of Supervisors Election

On June 29, 2017, Michael Ryan resigned from the South Indian River Water Control District (SIRWCD) Board of Supervisors.

At an abbreviated Board meeting on July 20, 2017, the Board appointed John Jones, a resident of Palm Beach Country Estates, to fill Mr. Ryan's seat until the 2017 Board of Supervisors' election is conducted.

SIRWCD is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors who serve three-year terms. Supervisors are elected by landowner vote based on parcel acreage.

One Supervisor will be elected for a term of three years. That candidate may not reside in the District, but must own land in the District and must be a resident of Palm Beach County. Tom Powell, who has served on the Board since 1981, is running for re-election for this seat.



Supervisor John Jones

Due to the resignation of Supervisor Ryan, a second seat will also be on the ballot. Candidates for that seat must reside in the area of the District East of the South Florida Water Management District Canal 18 (C-18) and own land in the District. That term is for a period of two years, the remainder of Mr. Ryan's term. John Jones and Robert Berman have filed to run for this seat. Both are residents of Palm Beach Country Estates. As noted above, Mr. Jones has been appointed Supervisor by the Board and Mr. Berman has previously served on the Board from 1999-2010.

Official ballots will be sent out in mid-August. If you own more than one parcel and receive more than one official ballot, you need only sign and return one ballot indicating the total acreage owned by you for which District assessments are not delinquent. Candidate biographies are posted on the District's website at www.sirwcd.org/elections.html.

The District requests that you return your ballot promptly to prevent last minute processing delays. If a landowner name has changed or a change of ownership has occurred, or a ballot has been lost or damaged, please notify the District office for a replacement.

Election ballots must be received at the District office no later than 4:30 pm on September 21, 2017 or you may cast your ballot in person at the start of the Annual Landowners Meeting that evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Jupiter High School Auditorium.

All candidates have signed the Oath of Candidate, which states they will resign from office within 30 days if their residency changes and causes the District's Board of Supervisors to no longer be in compliance with Chapter 2001-313, Laws of Florida.

Landowners should contact the District office at 561-747-0550 if they have questions regarding the election or if a ballot has not been received or has been lost or damaged.

Proposed 19th Plan of Improvements

Pursuant to Board direction after petitioners met the minimum requirements, staff prepared a referendum for the landowner proposed project that was mailed October 17, 2016 with the request that the landowners submit their response to the District by December 9, 2016. On December 14, 2016 and on April 14, 2017 (revote for 76th Trail N between 160th Lane N and 162nd Court N), staff received the certification from the Supervisor of Elections on the results of the referenda. The majority (more than 50%) of the landowners on the following roadways were "in favor" of the proposed project for the application of asphalt (approx. 2.4 miles):

- 76th Trail N between 160th Lane N and 162nd Court N
- 76th Trail N between 163rd Court N and 165th Street N
- 78th Drive N between 165th Street N and 167th Court N
- 154th Court N. between 75th Avenue N and 81st Terrace N
- 159th Court N between 78th Drive N and 84th Avenue N*
- 160th Street N between 72nd Drive N and 75th Avenue N and 72nd Drive N from 160th Street N to 160th Lane N
- 175th Road N between Jupiter Farms Road and West End

At the February 2017 Board Meeting, staff received approval to prepare the 19th Plan of Improvements. A public hearing for the filing of the resolution to consider approval of an amendment to its current water control plan to include this project was held on May 18, 2017. At this meeting, the board directed staff to prepare the Engineer's Report and draft Plan of Improvement. The Engineer's Report was filed on May 26, 2017.

A final hearing to consider approval of the report and proposed water control plan amendment was held June 29, 2017, where the District Engineer reported that the estimated costs will range from \$787 to \$1755 per parcel depending on location and on financing, which will be based on current interest rates over a term of up to 10 years. The up-front payment was estimated at \$13,350 for parcels that front only one roadway and \$6,675 for corner lots that are currently being assessed for another landowner-initiated project.

During the public hearing, the Board heard landowner comments and discussed the project in detail. *After further discussion during the regularly-scheduled Board meeting, the Supervisors voted three to one to approve the District Engineer's Report with an amendment to the plan to remove the section from 83rd Way N to 84th Avenue N and authorized the District Engineer to submit the proposed water control plan amendment to South Florida Water Management District.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE

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

UNAUTHORIZED VEHICLES

Unauthorized motor vehicles are prohibited on District canal right-of-ways per Florida Statutes. Please contact the Sheriff's Office if you see any vehicles trespassing on canal right-of-ways.

Water Quality Workshop Held on July 20

District Engineer Amy Eason presented a workshop on water quality following the Board meeting on July 20, 2017. The following topics were discussed:

- Water Quality Standards
 - Trends
 - Numeric Nutrient Criteria
 - Waterbody Classifications
- FDEP Impaired Waters Program
 - Loxahatchee River Watershed
 - SIRWCD WBIDs
- Reasonable Assurance Plan
- Watershed Assessment Program
- SIRWCD Water Quality Monitoring
- Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project

Mrs. Eason noted that more stringent requirements were being developed across the country for water quality standards and agencies discharging to sensitive water bodies were leading the way. Also, more advanced stormwater treatment technology is being developed. She reported that generally high Total Nitrogen (TN) and Total Phosphorus (TP) loadings result in harmful algal blooms, fish kills, reduced spawning grounds and degraded nursery habitats and "dead" zones. Public health concerns as a result of these pollutants include consumption of fish, suitability for recreation, impaired drinking water sources and increased exposure to toxic microbes.

A review of Numeric Nutrient Criteria from the initial EPA Proposed Draft Rules in January 2010 to current status was discussed in relation to the Loxahatchee Estuary and the District.

Waterbody Classifications were explained and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Impaired Waters Program was outlined. FDEP develops waterbody identification numbers (WBIDs) based on the contributing area on a tributary. Mrs. Eason identified the WBIDs the District boundaries contribute to.

Mrs. Eason explained Reasonable Assurance Plans (RAPs) and that SIRWCD is an active member of the Loxahatchee River Management Coordinating Council, which is proceeding with a RAP for the impaired waters in the Loxahatchee River.

The Watershed Assessment Program was discussed, as a component to the Palm Beach County National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

SIRWCD and Loxahatchee River District's water quality monitoring sites were presented.

SIRWCD will continue to monitor water quality data and regulations, as well as participate in the RAP process. As a result, the District may need to develop projects that help with both flood control and water quality. Possible projects may include increasing roadside ditch widths to gain more storage, installing sumps at the outfall pipes so water can be detained longer, removing vegetation within the canals and outfall ditches, investigating projects that may help outside the District limits, investigating where longer detention times can be achieved without impacting flood control within the current system, investigating new technologies, and buying vacant lots close to canals.

For the District Engineer's complete presentation, please visit our Public Hearings and Workshops page of our website at www.sirwcd.org/publichearings.html.

Driveway Culvert Installations to Resume September 1

In March 2016, the Board of Supervisors implemented a Driveway Culvert Replacement Program for South Indian River Water Control District. This program allows the District to install culverts on District roads for landowners at a cost of \$300.00 per culvert and on Palm Beach County roads at a cost of \$750.00 per culvert. The program provides a low-cost solution for landowners to replace their failing and inoperable culverts that cause poor drainage of stormwater. With the District performing the installations, it is ensured that the culvert is set at the correct elevation for drainage and that it is installed to proper specifications.

Due to a large number of installations over the first few months of the year, the District had instituted a *temporary* suspension of the program from June 1 - August 31 in order to complete other District infrastructure maintenance. The District has still been scheduling and replacing driveway culverts where there were urgent or emergency issues with drainage.

The District will resume the Driveway Culvert Replacement Program on September 11. The District currently has culvert replacements scheduled through November. If you are not sure about the condition of your culvert, here is a list of things you should look for:

- 1) A depression along the length of the culvert.
- 2) Sink holes in the driveway over the top of the culvert.
- 3) Separation between your concrete or asphalt driveway and the culvert.
- 4) Sediment buildup in the culvert.

If you have any questions regarding the Driveway Culvert Replacement Program, please call our office, send us an e-mail, or visit our website at www.sirwcd.org/culverts.html.



Driveway culvert installation on District roadway

Palm Beach Country Estates Potable Water Update

An amendment to the South Indian River Water Control District's agreement with the Town of Jupiter to provide potable water to Palm Beach Country Estates (PBCE) was approved by the Board of Supervisors in October 2015 to revise the number of remaining water hook-up reservations. **From June 21, 2017 to June 20, 2018, the final year of the agreement, the remaining number of reservations has been reduced to 80.**

Landowners who are planning to hook up to the potable water system should do so in a timely manner to ensure receiving the District's discounted connection rates. After June 20, 2018, the rates for hooking up to the system will be the Town of Jupiter's prevailing rates, which are substantially higher than the District's negotiated rates.

As of June 11, 2017, there have been 1,169 connections to the potable water system. For more information, contact the District office or visit our website at www.sirwcd.org for the latest update on the number of remaining discounted available connections.

Florida Stormwater Education Corner Protecting Florida's Water

Swales are an integral and important component in the District's stormwater management plan. With the District rapidly approaching full build-out, undeveloped lots that were once available to hold and retain stormwater have been replaced with homes, patios and driveways, which for the most part, are impervious surfaces. This increases runoff of stormwater and reinforces the need for properly maintained swales and driveway culverts (see story above).

The District's swales are designed to capture and hold stormwater, where it can then naturally infiltrate into the ground. This allows for the filtration of pollutants, including nitrogen, phosphorous, oils, metals, fertilizer and pesticides, through the soil and reduces the volume of pollutants entering nearby surface waters, such as the Loxahatchee River. In addition, the water storage in swales provides for the recharge of groundwater, which is especially important in areas that rely on wells for their water.

Landowners can utilize other stormwater management practices to reduce the amount of stormwater running off their property. These include rain barrels, rain gardens, stormwater retention ponds, and the use of permeable pavements for patios or driveways. The use of native and drought-resistant plants can reduce the amount of irrigation needed, thus reducing runoff, and it is important to use fertilizers sparingly and according to directions.

Hurricane Season Underway

We are now entering peak hurricane season. Last year, we were lucky when Hurricane Matthew, a Category 5 storm at its height, tracked slightly east of its projected path and we only received Category 1 winds in our area. The storm ran parallel to the coast and damage in Florida reached over \$2.75 billion, 1.2 million people lost power and there were 12 deaths.

Please make sure you stock up on your hurricane supplies before storms approach. If you haven't already done so, take the time now to trim your landscaping, clean up yard debris and secure any loose items on your property so they will not become airborne during a storm and damage your or your neighbors' property, or end up in the District swales or canals where it could impede drainage of stormwater.



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Jupiter, FL 33478

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Visit www.sirwcd.org
for news updates!

SIRWCD Annual Budget Hearing & Annual Landowners Meeting

The South Indian River Water Control District's (SIRWCD) Annual Budget Public Hearing will be held prior to the monthly board meeting on **August 17, 2017** at the Jupiter High School Media Center at 7:00 pm.

Total assessments from ongoing programs are proposed to decrease from last year's level by 13.1% to \$4,850,950 for the 2017-2018 budget year. All of this decrease is attributable to final debt payments being made this year for Egret Landing Refunding Note and the 2004 Road Improvement Note Series A and Series B. With these notes being paid off, 1542 parcels in Egret Landing and 472 parcels in Jupiter Farms and Palm Beach Country Estates will have reduced assessments.

Continuing with the Board's increased emphasis on drainage improvements and culvert rehabilitation, the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) budget is proposed to increase by \$167,190. This increase will allow for the addition of one staff member. Employee health insurance continues to be a cost leader, with an increased need of \$27,000. The Equipment Repair and Replacement fund is to be increased by \$36,000, to \$115,000. Other items in the budget remain substantially unchanged.

The District uses seven special revenue funds to account for the cost of the maintenance programs. These funds pay for the services received from O&M, as well as service or items directly received. There are two water control budgets (East and West basins), two road maintenance funds (PBCE and

Jupiter Farms), one park maintenance fund and two other maintenance funds (Egret Landing and Jupiter Commerce Park).

The Water Control Budgets are proposed to increase \$30,000 for the East Basin and \$25,000 for the West Basin.

The Road Maintenance budget for Palm Beach Country Estates (PBCE) is proposed to increase by \$37,500 and by \$25,000 for Jupiter Farms.

For a typical parcel receiving both Water Control and Road Maintenance service, these increases would amount to an additional \$40 (3.23%) in PBCE and an additional \$9 (2.9%) in Jupiter Farms.

Information on the proposed budget is available on the District's website at www.sirwcd.org/budget.html. Previous fiscal years' approved budgets and financial audits are also available on this page.

The Annual Landowners Meeting will be held September 21, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Jupiter High School Auditorium. Annual reports by the Manager of Operations and District Engineer will be presented.

Landowners are reminded that ballots for the SIRWCD Board of Supervisors election are also due by this date.

If you have any questions about either of these meetings, please contact the District office at 561-747-0550.