

Water Matters

Ranger Drainage District Newsletter, Florida Statutes Chapter 298 – Orlando, Fla.

Spring 2010



Welcome
from Dave Mauck, President

Dear fellow home and landowners within the Ranger Drainage District,

This has been a very busy year in the Ranger Drainage District as we move forward to address major infrastructure replacement projects. We have also been faced with new challenges that the District has not seen before with new proposed Federal regulations and local regulatory groups who are challenging our maintenance permits from

the early 1970's. Financially, we are facing an unprecedented total in uncollected taxes (approx \$521k at Feb. 2010 month end) and an additional \$180k deficit resulting from a rate adjustment error at the county. We, the Board, elected not to seek the additional funds from the landowners considering the tough economic times. From a RDD tax rate perspective, you should have seen a net reduction in tax collected from the previous year.

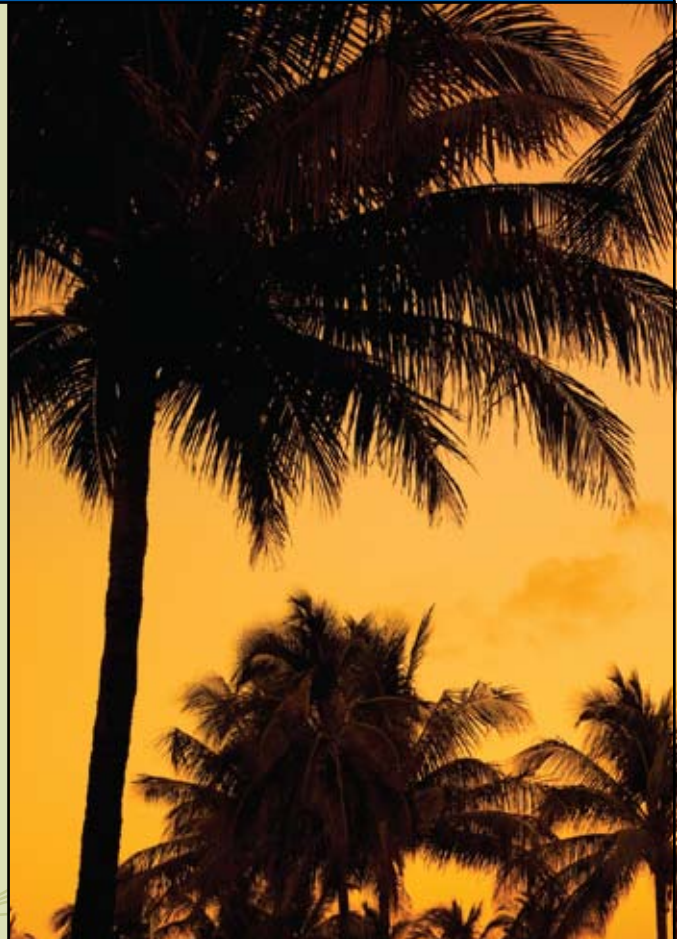
Many of you have been involved through work groups or monthly meetings or have stayed up to date via the RDD website (rangerdrainagedistrict.com). Again I would like to thank the community for their involvement and support. Additionally, I would like to thank the District Staff, our engineering group IBI, district attorneys at Lewis, Longman and Walker, P.A. and district accountants at Moore and Company for their hard work and commitment. They have faced these challenges head-on, had positive results to date, have maintained a good working relationship and received support from St. Johns River Water Management District and Orange County/Commissioner Segal.

The Ranger Drainage District exists to serve and protect us, the landowners and our investment in this great area. The Board, District Staff and our consulting partners will continue to serve the best interests of the District.

Very truly yours,

Dave Mauck

Dave Mauck, President
Ranger Drainage District
Board of Supervisors
davemauck@rangerdrainagedistrict.com



In This Issue:

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- Accomplishments
- New Challenges
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The mission of the Ranger Drainage District is to implement the provisions of Chapter 298 Florida Statutes, in a manner that ensures proper storm water management within the boundaries of the District and to operate with a continued commitment to education and outreach to its residents and landowners.



Vote Today!
Election Ballot Inside



Before

After

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Canal 6 (Begins behind the Citgo station and runs to the Econ River):** 6 miles of canal bank trees mulched; canal bottoms and bank re-sloping underway; riser barrel replacement underway. (Pictured Above)

- **City Area:** Project began to redirect storm water from Canal 5 (as originally designed in 1960's) to Canal 6. Project originally estimated at nearly \$2.5M. After competitive FFP (Firm Fixed Price) bid, project awarded to F.E. Development Recycling, Inc. for \$576k. The RDD District Manager applied for FEMA funding more than 3 years ago for this project and they did pick up 75% of the total cost. Contract nearly complete and contractor has done an excellent job.

- **New Auditing Firm:** Requests for proposals went out to hire new auditing firm for District activities. Contract awarded to Berman, Hopkins, Wright and Laham after careful review.



- **Street Crossings:** You may remember the repair and replacement of under street drainage pipes in the past where the street was closed, cut and the old pipes removed/replaced. This effort was not only expensive but it also represented a travel inconvenience in the District. This year we used a new method of 'lining'

the old and rusted pipes in place thanks to our engineers at IBI Group, District Staff and an existing contractor for Orange County. By utilizing a 'piggyback' contract provision with Orange County's contractor, we received a qualified contractor, who has pricing based on greater volume, without the additional cost of the bid and notice process. The end result: life of finished product is better than concrete (100 yr vs. 50), the plastic lining flows better than concrete (equivalent flow of a much larger concrete pipe), no disruption to traffic with closed streets and we addressed 225% more pipes in 2009/2010 than in years past for the same money.

- **Canal/Lake Spraying:** Now performed by RDD staff with our boom truck and spray boat.

- **Orange County Schools:** With the land now in the possession of the Orange County School Board for two new schools within the District, Ranger Drainage District and the School Board worked out a special voluntary agreement whereby the School Board will continue to pay their RDD assessments on their property. It is entirely optional for School Boards to pay special district assessments and we appreciate the partnership that the School Board has shown as we continue to plan for District development.

- **"Other People's Money":** The District responded quickly following the notice that Federal money may be available through FEMA. With less than 48 hours total time from original notice to close of applications, the District has applied for additional money to address additional infrastructure replacement for 5 projects.

NEW CHALLENGES

Numeric Nutrient Water Quality Criteria Standards: You may have heard about this in the news as the Florida citrus, agricultural, special districts and county agencies are joining forces to fight this. In short, the US Environmental Protection Agency has proposed new water quality standards for Florida's waterways that would require drainage canals, swales, retention ponds, etc. to have the same water quality standards as a naturally-occurring stream. This new requirement comes as a result of a lawsuit settlement between EPA, Earth Justice and the State of Florida is the only state in the US to see such requirements. We have hired a Florida water quality expert to help us monitor current water quality within the District as our lawyers participate in many levels of the ongoing issue.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

What can you as a landowner do to help the District cut costs?

I often get this question so I thought that I would include the items that represent the greatest cost avoidance opportunities for the District. Yes the costs could be avoided! Here are the major contributors:

- Four wheelers and 4x4 vehicles driving on the banks, easements and even in the bottom of the canals leads to repair and reseeding costs as well as potential fines.

- Vehicles in the canals can pollute the water. When dealing with this, RDD may have to treat the canal with expensive chemicals and perform additional water quality testing.

- Vandalism of posted signs and gates. No explanation necessary.

- Trash dumping including yard waste. The District spends a great deal of time and money cleaning up after those who dump on the canals and easements.

IF YOU OBSERVE ANY OF THE ABOVE, PLEASE CONTACT ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AT 407-836-HELP (4357).

- Fences being installed on canals and easements. As a reminder, fences need to be approved by RDD prior to installation. These items disrupt the daily operation if improperly installed.

- Unauthorized use of the canal easements has resulted in both repair and legal costs to the District.

- Interruption of daily work. If you have any issue with work being performed, contact District office at 407-568-5502.

- Unnecessary lawsuits to the District.

- Planting trees and shrubs either in the swale area (estates) or between road and sidewalk (city).

- Excessive use of pesticides, fertilizers and herbicides (weed killer). Remember, what and how much you place on your lawn eventually lands in our District canals. Excessive nutrients in the canals leads to additional growth, water quality issues and accelerated deterioration of galvanized structures and pipes. In light of the new proposed Federal regulations, we need your help more than ever to maintain our water quality.



BALLOT: RANGER DRAINAGE DISTRICT



1. To vote for a candidate for Supervisor for a three-year term (term expires in June 2013)

- Rick McCormick
- Abstain Write-in Candidate: _____

2. To vote on the issue of compensation to be paid to the Supervisors for District work as permitted pursuant to Florida Statutes and the previously adopted District Compensation Policy (a maximum of \$50.00 a day):

- For Supervisors' compensation Against Supervisors' compensation
- Abstain

Enter date of signing: _____ Sign name as it appears on Deed: _____ Print name as it appears on Deed: _____

Print name of any co-owners on Deed: _____

Please return the enclosed ballot one of two ways: (1) Mail completed ballot to the District office at 19950 Nugent Street, Orlando, FL 32833 by June 1, 2010 or (2) in person at the annual meeting at The Wedgefield Clubhouse on June 2, 2010.

Notice of Election: June 2, 2010

Annual Meeting & Election
Date: Wednesday, June 2, 2010
Time: 6 p.m.

Location: The Wedgefield Golf and Country Club Clubhouse at 20550 Maxim Parkway, Orlando, FL 32833

At this meeting, an election will be held to fill one supervisor position on the Board, for a three-year term. All District landowners are entitled and encouraged to vote in the election.

Please return the enclosed ballot one of two ways: (1) Mail completed ballot to the District office at 19950 Nugent Street, Orlando, FL 32833 by June 1, 2010 or (2) in person at the annual meeting at The Wedgefield Clubhouse on June 2, 2010.

For **absentee ballots**, please return the completed ballot to the District office no later than June 1, 2010.

This ballot is only effective for the June 2010 election.

Candidates

The following candidate is running for the open position on the Board of Supervisors:

Rick McCormick

"It's been a pleasure serving on the Ranger Board for the last two years. Although the job has been challenging, it's also been rewarding to see the progress that's been made. My goal is still the same- to keep costs low while continuing to maintain the infrastructure of the District."





Ranger Drainage District
19950 Nugent Street
Orlando, FL 32833

Upcoming Events:

The monthly meetings to review District business are held at the Ranger Drainage District office at 19950 Nugent Street. We encourage all land/homeowners to attend as we continue to discuss different issues relating to the District. Mark your calendar for the following dates*:

- May 5, 2010 – 6 p.m. Regular Board meeting
- June 2, 2010 – 6 p.m. Annual Landowners Election followed by the regular Board meeting at 7 p.m. (Location of this meeting is The Wedgefield Golf and Country Club at 20550 Maxim Parkway.)
- July 7, 2010 – 6 p.m. Regular Board meeting

*Please note that the Board meeting dates, times and locations are subject to change.

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding the Board and its role, please contact any of our current Board or staff members:

Dave Mauck, President – davidmauck@rangerdrainagedistrict.com
Rick McCormick, Supervisor – rickmccormick@rangerdrainagedistrict.com
Gus Desautels, Supervisor – board@rangerdrainagedistrict.com
Cecil Davis, General Manager – cecildd_rdd298@bellsouth.net
Dawn Mullins, Office Manager – dawnm_rdd298@bellsouth.net
Wanda Tucker, Receptionist – wandat_rdd298@bellsouth.net

The District office is located at 19950 Nugent Street, just south of Nettleton Street, off Bancroft Boulevard. Our office hours are Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. The District office phone number is 407-568-5502.

