



Water Matters

VOTE
Election Ballot Inside

www.RangerDrainageDistrict.com

Ranger Drainage District Newsletter, Florida Statutes Chapter 298, Orlando FL Spring 2014

Welcome from: Dave Mauck, President



Dear fellow land owners within the Ranger Drainage District,

As I sit down to write this sixth letter to you, I can't help but think about how far we have come in the last six years. In spite of real challenges coming from widespread economic hardship and significant new environmental regulation, the Ranger Drainage District is in better shape than ever – and the taxes have remained 'flat'! We have completed millions of dollars of remediation work and new construction. The new construction has an average life expectancy of more than 50 years.

Our hard work as a community has led to two very important results. First, we have restored the RDD's infrastructure which protects our community and its property values. Secondly, we meet or exceed the environmental requirements in our permits and in fact, the storm water leaving the District is helping to improve the water quality of the Econlockhatchee River - because our discharge is cleaner than the river itself!

2013 was again a busy year. We have completed engineering and are ready to begin construction on a new retention lake (known as Unit 11-A) which will improve the system in the southern basins of the District. We have also completed engineering and have received funding from FEMA that will address improvements in the northern area of the District ranging from Abalone Blvd to the golf course.

Going forward, our biggest challenges continue to fall into two basic categories. They are: 1) continued increasing requirements from new Federal regulations and 2) remediation work, which you pay for, that is caused by illegal or unauthorized activity in the District. Your help in reporting illegal activities will assist us in our efforts to lower taxes in the District.

We continue to evaluate our performance of work performed by RDD staff and RDD subcontractors. In 2013, we did meet or beat all project schedule milestones and all projects were finished under budget. Our in-house capabilities and cost of work continue to beat industry standards by as much as 50%.

Safety, Teamwork, Imagination, Excellence and Hard Work continue to be the core values at RDD and it is these values that set RDD apart. We continue to strive to improve and to serve the best interests of you, the land owners.

I hope that you enjoy reading the updates in this annual newsletter.

Regards,
Dave Mauck

Update on Unit 11 A Lake Development



Orange County's Environmental Protection Division (EPD) originally required that RDD use 2.48 Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) credits or pay \$330,000 for wetland mitigation as a condition of the EPD permit to construct the lake.

You will recall that RDD gained over 4 UMAM credits for the 80 acres that it deeded to Orange County in 2012. The

RDD Board (under protest) agreed to use the 2.48 of the 4.82 credits from the 80 acre transaction to move this project forward.

As a result of negotiations with EPD, the RDD permit has now been modified to accept the Army Corps permit mitigation requirements. This allows RDD to re-bank the 2.48 mitigation credits and save several \$100,000.

- Bid awarded in November 2013 to SPC Homes Inc. in the amount of \$ 1,499,525.00
- Waiting on Orange County Public Works to issue its permit

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Remember to vote!
Ballot Inside.
Deadline is June 3, 2014!

RDD Puts \$6.3 Million To Best Use

RDD has received over \$6.3 Million in funding from the office of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the last few years. This money was used specifically to make improvements to the RDD drainage infrastructure to mitigate flooding risks in the future. We have completed 2 projects, which we simply named FEMA 1 and 2. As we have reported in the past, these projects did provide significant improvements throughout the District. In 2013 we received an additional \$ 2.2 Million from FEMA for additional work in the District. “FEMA 3”, as we call it, will help fund a few projects.

FEMA 3 includes:

- new drainage pipe installed along Abalone Blvd, which will redirect storm water to Canal 6 (North)
- new and replacement drain pipes to be installed along golf course
- new lake to be dug, known as “Unit 11A” along Canal 1, which will serve as a buffer - Replacement/Lake 11A and Major Structures for Canals 1 and 2.

Medians and Entrances Maintenance

The Wedgefield Homeowners Association petitioned RDD to assume the maintenance of the swales and medians that are located at the entrances of Wedgefield. At the March Board meeting, the RDD Board approved the petition to begin April 1. RDD considers the swales and medians to be an integral part of the drainage system overall as pollutants and trash in these areas does pose a threat to you the landowners. RDD will use existing resources to maintain these. As a result, there will be strict enforcement of the guidelines related to medians (parking on or driving across) as well as what can and cannot be planted in the medians. If you do have any questions, please call the RDD office.

Army Corps of Engineers Investigation

As a result of an unsolicited and unflattering report provided by Orange County EPD, the ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS contacted RDD staff to investigate the claims made. The Army Corps determined that Orange County EPD’s claims were completely unfounded and in fact, not true at all.

However, after becoming more familiar with RDD and what we do, the Army Corps of Engineers did determine that RDD would require an additional District Maintenance Permit which would be issued by them and for a fee. In March of this year, we did receive (2) Army Corps of Engineers permits for maintenance. (Nationwide 3 and Nationwide 12)

Wedgefield To Get New K-8 School

Orange County School Board’s plans to build a K-8 school in Wedgefield are moving forward quickly. The School Board has two tracts in Wedgefield and are planning a K-8 school to be built on their property located between Ortega and Paddock Streets to the East of Bancroft Blvd. Site work will begin soon and the school property will soon be fenced. RDD’s Engineering firm (IBI Group) will review and approve the drainage plans before construction begins.





Eco Harvester Helps Control Aquatic Growth



In an effort to reduce pollutants and unintended consequences such as “fish kills”, RDD was looking for environmentally-friendly means to control aquatic growth in its lakes and canals. In November, RDD purchased an Eco Harvester which “pulls” the aquatic plants up by the root and collects the plants in a manner that can be disposed of more easily. To date, we have used our new Eco Harvester to clean out the weeds in Mallard Lake (near the Club House) and portions of Canal 3 near Quarterly/Quinella.



Commercial Construction Along SR 520

RDD has been contacted by Florida Engineering Group who is working with the potential tenants of a commercial retail project that would be located along SR 520 and Maxim Pkwy. The District has an easement running diagonal through the lot on the south west corner. The board tentatively approved this vacation subject to final review of engineering drawings.



“New” Lot Grading Guidelines

As a result of the increased regulation and with financial consequences even greater for violations of permits, the RDD Board established new lot grading guidelines for the District. These guidelines serve to protect you from costs/fines arising from erosion and runoff into the canals. These guidelines apply to new construction, grading, dirt storage or any other ‘threat’ to erosive pollution to the canals. The new guidelines were enacted in 2013. The major points of the policy are:



- Changed the guidelines to reflect a silt fence around all areas of the property that have been disturbed.
- Consent to Lien effective November 2013. Tied to all driveway permits and a refundable deposit in the amount of \$500 collected at the time the driveway permit is issued.

HOW CAN YOU IMPACT COSTS?

What can you as a landowner do to help the District Cut Costs?

We are often asked this question, so below you’ll find a list of items which represent the greatest cost avoidance opportunities for the District. These costs can be avoided and we thank you for your assistance!

- > **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 ever strengthening Federal regulations, we need your help more than ever to maintain our water quality.
 - > **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.
 - > **Unnecessary lawsuits** to the District.
 - > **Planting trees and shrubs** either in the swale area (estates) or between road and sidewalk (city).
 - > **Interruption of daily work.** If you have any issues with work being performed, contact the District office at **407-568-5502**.
- Please contact Orange County Sheriff’s Office at **407-836-HELP (4357)** if you see any trash dumping including yard waste or vandalism of any kind.



Our Mission

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. To stay informed with what is going on in the District, please visit our website www.RangerDrainageDistrict.com



RANGER DRAINAGE DISTRICT BALLOT FOR ELECTION 2014

1. To vote for a candidate for Supervisor for a three-year term (term expires in June 2017)

David Mauck

Gary Mittan

Abstain

Write-in Candidate: _____

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

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-owner 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 3, 2014 or (2) in person at the annual meeting at The Ranger Drainage District Office on June 4, 2014.

NOTICE OF ELECTION: June 4, 2014

Annual Meeting & Election: Date: Wednesday, June 4, 2014 **Time:** 6 p.m.

Location: Ranger Drainage District Office, 19950 Nugent Street, 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 ballot one of two ways: (1) Mail completed ballot to the District office at 19950 Nugent Street, Orlando, FL 32833 by June 3, 2014 or (2) in person at the annual meeting at The Ranger Drainage District Office on June 4, 2014.

For absentee ballots, please return the completed ballot to the District office no later than June 3, 2014. This ballot is only effective for the June 2014 election.

Candidates: The following candidates are running for the open position on the Board of Supervisors:

Dave Mauck:

I would appreciate your support as I would like to continue working hard as an RDD supervisor to build and protect our great neighbors and businesses in the District.

Gary Mittan:

As your voice on the Board of Supervisors, I'll work hard to control costs and spend your tax dollars responsibly. I'll always remember that the district exists for the benefit of all the landowners.



