



Water Matters

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

Spring 2008

In This Issue:

- Letter from the President
- Update on Public Hearing
- What Does it Take to Become a Supervisor?
- RDD Profile
- Notice of Election
- Upcoming Events



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.

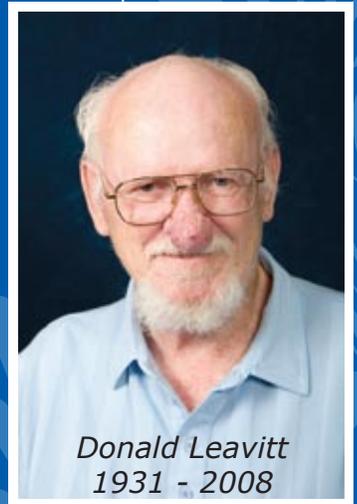


Welcome
from Ruth Moore, President

Hello home and landowners in the Ranger Drainage District,

In the coming months the Board will be very active with budget meetings, bond hearings, landowners meetings and the annual election. In this issue of Water Matters you will find the official election notice and ballot for our June 4 landowners meeting and election. I encourage all home and landowners to take an active part in the election process - learn about the candidates, cast your ballot and attend the annual meeting.

As I reflect on the last three years I am mindful of the great privilege it has been to serve on this Board. With great privilege comes great responsibility. As noted, on our web site and in past newsletters, the Board has spent a tremendous amount of time gathering information on the condition of our drainage system. There is a considerable amount of work ahead on the infrastructure, as a properly functioning system is central to our community. Be sure to join us for our first public hearing on the proposed bond on May 14 at 9 a.m.



Donald Leavitt
1931 - 2008

In closing, we are extremely saddened by the loss of our long-time friend and Board member, Donald Leavitt. Donald was elected to the board in 1994, and has been a proud member of the Wedgefield community for 43 years. He passed away on February 25, 2008. Donald's wisdom and dedication to the District will be greatly missed.

Ruth Moore

Ruth Moore, President
Ranger Drainage District
Board of Supervisors
board@rangerdrainagedistrict.com



Vote Today!
Election Ballot Inside

UPDATE: May 14 Public Hearing for Proposed Bond

The District's Board of Supervisors has spent much of the past year searching for the best solution to fund our capital improvement projects. These projects include those required by state law and those necessary to relieve and prevent flooding within the District.

The preliminary cost estimate for the most critical projects is approximately \$9.5 million, which would be paid for by the property owners in the District. By taking the life expectancy of the improvements and the associated costs into account, we have determined that issuing bonds for funding is the most cost-effective solution.

The first public hearing to review the proposed bond is scheduled for May 14, 2008 at 9 a.m., to be held at the District office.

For more information on the proposed bond, visit www.rangerdrainagedistrict.com/bondwithindistrict.

What Does it Take to Become a Supervisor?

As the annual District election nears, here is a brief look at the specific requirements a candidate must possess to become a Supervisor:

- Must own land within the District and be a resident of Orange County
- Must attend monthly meetings, occurring the second Wednesday of each month
- Must attend several workshops throughout year, approximately five total
- Must be available to work several hours with the District Manager to tour the District and learn the operations of the District
- Strongly encouraged to attend a week-long conference, held in Sarasota in June, with sessions on the Sunshine Law, Chapter 298 and more
- Should have an understanding of the laws and statutes governing the District, such as Chapters 298 and 189, the St. Johns River Water Management Permit Conditions and the Sunshine Law

RDD Profile: Meet the Experts



The law firm of Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A. specializes in environmental and land use law, employment law, government relations, public finance and real estate law.

The firm and two of its shareholders, Terry Lewis and William Capko, currently represent and advise the Ranger Drainage District Board and staff.

We asked Terry Lewis a few questions to better understand his responsibilities to the Ranger Drainage District. Here are his answers:

RDD: Why does the Ranger Drainage District need attorneys?

TL: There are approximately 40 different state laws with which the Ranger Board and District staff must comply. Among the most important are statutes such as the Government in the Sunshine Act, which mandates that all meetings of the Board be conducted in the public with notice to District landowners and the general public; and the Special District Accountability Act, which specifies compliance with other district requirements such as elections, ethics for public officials, financial reporting and audits. The District attorney advises the Board and staff to ensure compliance with these laws.

RDD: What else do you do for the District?

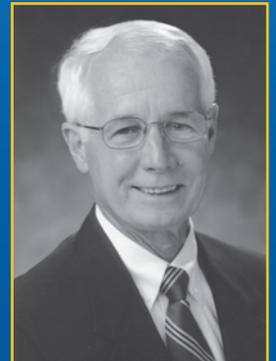
TL: We also assist the District when it becomes involved in litigation with individuals involving matters such as contract compliance, violation of District policies, or negotiations over permits and licenses with other federal, state and local government agencies.

RDD: Do all special districts have an attorney?

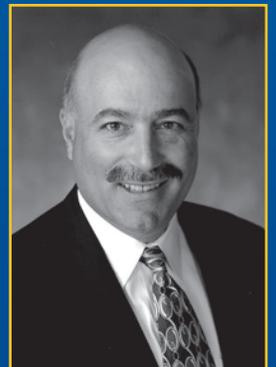
TL: To my knowledge, most, if not all, larger special districts (with more than \$250,000 budgets), who are members of the Florida Association of Special Districts have attorneys to advise them. These districts usually meet quarterly and are involved in matters such as contracting for goods and services with outside vendors.

RDD: How many special districts does Lewis, Longman & Walker represent?

TL: Our firm currently represents about 75 special districts as either general counsel or special counsel. Bill and I do not, of course, directly advise all those districts – we delegate to other attorneys in the firm. We have litigators that normally handle lawsuits and other lawyers that are expert in pensions and retirement issues. We also have a section that has a statewide reputation in environmental and land use law.



Terry E. Lewis, Esq.



William G. Capko, Esq.

The bottom line – we try to fit the problem to the attorney with the most expertise in a particular area of law and give our clients the best and most efficient solution to any legal issue that arises.

For more information on Lewis, Longman & Walker, visit their Web site at www.llw-law.com.

Notice of Election: June 4, 2008

Annual Meeting & Election

Date: June 4, 2008

Time: 7 p.m.

Location: District office, 19950 Nugent St., Orlando, FL 32833

At this meeting an election will be held to fill two Supervisor positions on the Board, one for a three-year term and one for a two-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 the above address by June 1, 2008 or (2) In person at the annual meeting on June 4, 2008.

For absentee ballots, please return the completed ballot to the District office by mail or in person by June 1, 2008.

If you choose to submit a copy of the form, please also submit a copy of the reverse side with the mailing label.

This ballot is only effective for the June 2008 election.



Candidates

The following candidates are running for the two open positions on the Board of Supervisors:

Ruth Moore

"As a current Board Member I recognize that whether you own a quarter acre or twenty acres, keeping costs down are important to us all. It is a priority of mine to keep assessments low while still maintaining the structural integrity of the drainage system. I would appreciate your vote."

Mike Nolan

A Wedgefield Estates resident for two years. "I bring a background in management, financial services and systems development that will allow me to help RDD meet the major challenges ahead. I believe my focus on fiscal responsibility, a sense of community, communications and infrastructure improvements can guide RDD."



BALLOT: RANGER DRAINAGE DISTRICT

1. To vote for a candidate for Supervisor for a three-year term (term expires in June 2011)

Ruth Moore Abstain Write In Candidate: _____

2. To vote for a candidate for Supervisor for a two-year term (term expires in June 2010)

Mike Nolan Abstain Write In Candidate: _____

3. 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 Supervisor's 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 to the District office at the above address by June 1, 2008.



Upcoming Events:

The monthly meetings to review District business are held at the Ranger Drainage District office. The updated calendar, meeting agendas and minutes may be found online at www.rangerdrainagedistrict.com. 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 14, 2008, 9:00 a.m. Public Hearing on Proposed Bond
- June 4, 2008, 6:00 p.m. Followed by the annual meeting
- June 9, 2008, 9:00 a.m.

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

Questions?

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

Ruth Moore, President - board@rangerdrainagedistrict.com

Gus Desaultels, Supervisor - board@rangerdrainagedistrict.com

Cecil Davis, General Manager - cecild_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 and off of Bancroft Boulevard. Our office hours are Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. The District office phone number is 407-568-5502.

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19950 Nugent Street
Orlando, FL 32833

