



**HIGGINS ENGINEERING, INC.**

**DISTRICT ENGINEER'S ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE LANDOWNERS**

**PAL MAR WATER CONTROL DISTRICT**

June 1, 2023

**PAL-MAR WATER CONTROL DISTRICT POLICY:**

The purpose of the District is to manage the surface water within the District so as to render the land suitable for some useful purpose in accordance with Chapter 298, F.S. and the Special Act for the Pal Mar Water Control District.

**FDEP ST. LUCIE RIVER BMAP PROGRAM:**

The Pal Mar Water Control District (Pal Mar WCD) continues to participate in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection St. Lucie River Best Management Action Plan (BMAP) process. The District Staff has informed the FDEP that illegal activities appear to be occurring internally to the District by private landowners, although there does not appear to be any damage to works of the District. This BMAP recently underwent its annual update.

**ARMY CORPS LOXAHATCHEE RIVER WATERSHED RESTORATION PLAN:**

The Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Plan is underway. It was presented to Congress in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020 which authorizes implementation of the Plan. The agencies have now initiated the survey, research, and testing phase which will lead up to the design phase.

**BEE LINE HIGHWAY DRIVEWAY APRON:**

This FDOT has previously re-installed a driveway apron off the Bee Line Highway leading up to right-of-way lands owned by the District. A pole gate will be installed to secure access in the near future replacing the current locked chain.

**ACCESS GATES WITHIN THE DISTRICT:**

Illegal gates continue to be an issue within the District. The one illegal entry from Trailside to Pal Mar has been removed. District staff, as well as a private landowner, have been mapping all of the gates, both private and public within the District resulting in detailed aerials showing many aspects of interest within Pal Mar.

**SFWMD/MARTIN COUNTY LITIGATION:**

A major milestone occurred this past year which was a favorable ruling for the District on payment of taxes by the SFWMD and Martin County. The ruling included back payment of all back taxes by both SFWMD and Martin County.



**BEELINE HIGHWAY FLOODING:**

The investigation continues into the die off of mature pine trees along the Beeline Highway after the four-laning of the Beeline Highway. This issue has been evaluated by SFWMD and the FDOT. District staff will continue this investigation with the SFWMD and FDOT which will likely include field review meetings.

**COORDINATION WITH FWC:**

Meetings continue with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to discuss our mutual interest in access to lands within Pal Mar WCD. Lines of communication with the FWC and Pal Mar WCD Staff continue to be satisfactory.

RWH: jp  
08-20  
cc: Board of Supervisors  
Mike McElligott  
Mary Viator

  
  
Robert W. Higgins, P.E.  
Pal Mar WCD District Engineer