



August 21, 2023

Chairman's Report:

What a long year! In September of 2022, we passed our Budget for 2022-2023. We elected a new Supervisor, John Cellucci, for the Water Board. We hired a new Engineer: Ron Edenfield, and have since hired a new Manager, Audrey Medeiros. Things were looking pretty good for the upcoming year. General maintenance to the culvert cleaning and some road repair work needs to be accomplished.

Then on September 28, 2022 Hurricane Ian hit Southwest Florida. Our world changed forever.

Most of Lee County was devastated by Hurricane Ian. Many people could relate to the damage along the coastline and Barrier Island. Looking at our neighborhood, you could see downed trees everywhere.

The SCEWCD Supervisors saw hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage to our Drainage District, including our drainage system, trees, canals and ditches, culverts, rear gates, signs, and miles of underground drainage pipes that would need to be cleared. There also was substantial erosion throughout the Water District.

We called special meetings to authorize spending Emergency Funds for emergency cleaning up of our water control district as requested by the Board Chairperson.

A major priority was to meet with FEMA to find out how to get Emergency Funds from the Federal and State Government as well as any other resources or assistance they could offer. Thankfully, we were one of the first applicants to apply for assistance with FEMA for Hurricane Ian.

As Chairman, I held weekly meetings for this past year regarding the FEMA application. A committee was formed from the Landowners of San Carlos Estates, including Peter DeBaz who has served as the head, along with Chairperson Jim Bradford, Engineer Ron Edenfield, and seven members from FEMA. The projects approved by FEMA which are anticipated to be paid by FEMA are as follows:

- 1- Repairs to Canal System surrounding the Subdivision.
- 2- Replacing the back gates on Stillwell.
- 3- All damaged road signs were replaced.
- 4- Some erosion of ditches and canals to be repaired.
- 5- Replace both weirs with gates for lowering water levels before a storm.
- 6- New culverts under Strike Lane at railroad tracks.
- 7- Portions of the Engineer and Attorney fees paid.
- 8- Cleaning the filter ponds and rebuilding them.

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The FEMA meetings will still continue until projects are completed, which will continue through 2024.


The Supervisors have been working on and submitting Grant Applications to the State of Florida, Lee County, and the City of Bonita Springs. We are looking for help with this process from Landowners. If you have time and are interested, please contact The District Manager @ 239-495-4699 or via email; [Manager-AMedeiros@scewcd.org](mailto:AMedeiros@scewcd.org).

As you may know, the 22 Acres of property at the northwest corner of the subdivision are not in our Subdivision. The property owners of the 22 acres do not pay or contribute to the Tax Assessments for our Subdivision as all the property owners do. However, these property owners benefit from the protection provided by our ditches and swales that provide protection from flooding. The current board is working with the City of Bonita Springs to reimburse our water district for the maintenance of the canal on the northwest corner of the subdivision.

We are also currently asking the City of Bonita Springs to help mitigate your tax cost for the upkeep expenses from our contiguous neighbors who also use our canal system. To date, we (the taxpayers of San Carlos Estates) solely cover this cost.

We know that many of you may have contacts in the City of Bonita Springs, we are asking for your help to help mediate your Tax costs within the San Carlos Estates Water Control District. Every year the cost goes up and this burden should not be ours alone to cover.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James M Bradford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

James M Bradford

President/Chair

San Carlos Estates Water Control District Board