

## 25 Years of Service

Bob Brown

Assistant Executive Director

Bob Brown joined the District in 1987 after serving three years with the former Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (now part of FDEP). His first assignment was to gain support and approval for District water resource projects from external state and federal agencies, including regulatory approvals.

In 1998, Bob became Environmental Resource Compliance Division Director. In this role, he implemented numerous measures to streamline the post-construction certification process and initiated a 10-year plan to deal with the backlog of more than 13,000 uncertified surface water management systems. To date, 84% of the backlog has been completed, with more than 10,000 projects certified since 2005.

A cornerstone of any regulatory program is a robust, but fair, enforcement and compliance program. Bob ensured consistent application of the District's enforcement authority and negotiated settlement agreements totaling more than \$10 million during his tenure.

From July 2003 to November 2004, Bob served as the Director of the Okeechobee Service Center to gain experience in the field. He returned to headquarters to serve as Director of the Regulation Department, providing

oversight of the Environmental Resource, Consumptive Use and Everglades Works of the District permitting programs.

Bob championed measures to make the regulatory program as efficient, effective and transparent as possible. With his leadership, full scale e-permitting was implemented for the Environmental Resource and Consumptive Use permitting programs; more than 9 MILLION pages of permit documents were scanned and made available electronically to the public, 24-7, on the District's website. Today, the District's e-permitting search functions are among the most widely visited information links on the District's website.

When the legislature delegated all permitting approvals to the Executive Director, Bob undertook measures to ensure continued transparency and public input to the regulatory decision-making process. He implemented monthly public meetings, with video-link to all regulatory service centers, to provide an opportunity for members of the public to raise concerns, ask questions and provide input on all permit applications before final agency action is taken.

In June 2011, Bob became the Assistant Executive Director. His depth of experience and knowledge of the agency, the region and the people we serve are invaluable.

Congratulations, Bob, for 25 years of remarkable service!

## 25 Years of Service

Clyde Dabbs

Project Manager - Office of Intergovernmental Programs

Clyde began his career at the District in 1987 in the Water Use Department processing Kissimmee Basin permit renewals. In 1982, he transferred to the Fort Myers office and continues to work there today.

In 1995, Clyde began work on the Caloosahatchee Water Management Plan and managed an interagency team that collected hydrogeologic data needed to develop an integrated surface-ground water model of the Caloosahatchee watershed. The work resulted in a number of publications for which he was the principal author. Clyde also played an integral role in the Southwest Florida Feasibility Study.

Clyde was part of the team that authored the 2009 Caloosahatchee River Watershed Protection Plan and assisted with the 2012 Plan update. He continues to assist local governments with the development and implementation of stormwater master plans and local restoration projects.

Outside the office, Clyde volunteers for Lee County Parks to lead interpretive nature walks and tends to his patch of eggplant and collard greens at the Community Gardens. In his quest to travel to all 50 states, he has visited all but Alaska. Congratulations, Clyde, on 25 years of service at the District!

25 Years of Service  
Lynn Cox  
Water Resource Regulation Bureau

Lynn joined the District in 1987 as a Clerk Typist in the Regulation Division. In 1995, she was promoted to a Sr. Administrative Resource Associate responsible for handling ad-hoc permit information requests and producing reports from the regulation database.

After expressing interest in GIS functions, Lynn began training on the GIS tools used to input and update geospatial databases and in 1998, she was promoted to the position of Staff Geographer Associate. Lynn quickly became a proficient data steward and prolific cartographer.

In her current position as a Senior Geographer Associate, Lynn's assistance is frequently sought out to produce maps for permits, legal proceedings and presentations. Lynn is also known for her dynamic personality, hard work and exceptional customer service.

Thank you, Lynn, for your contributions and congratulations on your 25 years of service at the District!

April Employee of the Month  
Ellen Negley, Multimedia Specialist  
Office of Communications

Ellen's graphic design talents and can-do-attitude were critical to bringing in-house the design and production of the 2012 South Florida Environmental Summary.

Ellen accommodated numerous content revisions and a tight schedule with creativity and professionalism. At the same time, she steadily kept up with her regular design responsibilities, including the monthly Ripple Effect and Freddy's Flash newsletters, website updates and presentation support with maps and other essential graphics.

This year, the SFER summary was published online in a new way: with reader-friendly "page-turning" software, on the District's website. This in-house effort, achieved over a short four-week timeframe, allowed the District to save approximately \$35,000 in outside contracts for design, printing and mailing thousands of hard-copy documents.

Thank you, Ellen, for a job very well done. Congratulations!

## April 2012 Team of the Month

### The Stream-Gauging No Name Storm Team

#### Team Members:

- Daniel Bachand
- Thomas Brown
- Alan Buzard
- Cheryl Danz
- Surajeet Ghosh
- Juan Gonzalez-Castro
- John Goodson
- Forrest Jay
- Orlin Kellman
- Mario Mayes-Fernandez
- Asif Mohamed
- Rodrigo Musalem
- Anier Sosa
- Jesus Zamora

The unprecedented rainfall event experienced over the Kissimmee Basin between October 7 and 9, 2011 resulted in extreme runoff throughout the basin.

As a result, the structures controlling outflows from the Upper Chain of Lakes to Lake Kissimmee and the water control structures along the Kissimmee River were strained to near or above their design conveyance capacity.

The operation of the system under these extreme conditions lead water managers to rely on support from the Rapid Response Stream-gauging Team (RRST) field measurements to aid in making operational decisions.

RRST crews were deployed to measure the flow through a number of structures in the Kissimmee Basin and to quantify flows through the auxiliary structures. A total of sixty stream-gauging measurements were made between Oct 10 and 24 to support real-time operation decisions.

The safe operation of the system was due to the successful coordination, planning and execution of exemplary efforts by this outstanding team.

Congratulations to our April Team of the Month!

Leadership Award  
David Struve, Water Quality Bureau,  
Analytical Services - Section Administrator

This prestigious award recognizes District managers who demonstrate superior leadership skills and Dave is a most worthy recipient. Over the past five years, he guided the agency's efforts to provide the most appropriate facilities to meet our long-term water quality and environmental laboratory needs. Thanks to his stalwart attention to details from start to finish, the Environmental Services Laboratory is complete, occupied and in full operation.

Critical laboratory operations at the former facility were impacted by age, increased workload demands for chemical analyses exceeding lab capacity and hurricane damage in 2004 and 2005. Dave conducted a business case analysis to compare alternatives for retrofitting, leasing or building.

Once the decision was made by the Governing Board to construct a new laboratory, Dave worked with Building Facilities, Real Estate, the West Palm Beach Field Station, Procurement and Engineering and Construction and was involved every step of the way. He provided detailed budget planning and consistent oversight as the engineering and construction responsibilities rotated through several project managers over the years.

Recently, Dave also handled the logistics of moving existing lab equipment and operations into the new building without disrupting the ongoing workflow. Congratulations, Dave, for multiple years of superb leadership to make our Environmental Services Lab a reality!

