

## 8/26/22 – VOG Pond Water Level

As all VOG owners are aware, we have had a dearth of rainfall in the month of August combined with high temperatures which place stress of all of our infrastructure systems, our eco systems and plantings in our community.

That is not news to anyone. However, what is noteworthy top know for our HOA is HOW our irrigation source from the Hillsboro Canal for all of Deer Creek (including the golf course) is adjusting to that shortfall of rainwater in order to adequately support the communities that are adjacent to the Hillsboro Canal. Also important is WHY what is being done does not seem to be working to replenish the Deer Creek water levels.

Rather than just leave it to Mother Nature and drought like conditions, your BOD took some action to inquire about the above points – HOW and WHY.

As of this morning, both questions have been answered although neither response is acceptable. The entire Deer Creek community irrigation is sourced from 3 massive pumps linked to the Hillsboro Canal controlled by the Broward County Water District – a subset of the S FL Water Management District jurisdiction. Those pumping stations were installed not long ago at a cost of ~\$300 - \$500,000 / pump to support our community needs. There is another station just like ours with even larger / more costly pumps located in Starlight Cove to our west, across Powerline Road.

First the HOW...this district #2 of SFWM is responsible for the constant maintenance (replenishment / discharge) of water levels in Deer Creek. Unfortunately, until the BOD contacted them they were unaware that the maintenance levels has fallen well below the standards and are now at 18” – 24” below the standardized levels of water needs in Deer Creek. Upon contact with them over the past two days, they had no idea it had fallen to what was received as critical levels of maintenance.

Second is the WHY...under normal patterns, the pumping stations are regularly monitored for maintenance such as pump efficiency, water levels, etc. There has been no failure of that prescribed monitoring. However, somehow no one noticed the ~2 month falling level of the water during the process and question why, if pumps were working normally to replenish / discharge water to our community why were the maintenance levels so low ? Turns out that the system used to relay turning things on and off is performed by telemetry – comparably calibrated as a modem in layman’s language. Only after being called out by VOG did the SFWMD realize that the telemetry systems had been broken – the question to be answered is for how long!

In conclusion, the pumps are now turned on and will be for some time in order to catch up to the deficit 18” – 24” shortfall in maintenance standard levels. However, at this point the SFLWM Broward district has stated that are unsure of being able to catch up in order to close the water level maintenance level shortfalls.

All the connected bodies of water in all of Deer Creek are at the same deficit including ours in VOG connected bodies of water are comparably lower and are in the process of being replenished to SFWMD standards due to a broken telemetry system. What Deer Creek (and likely all of S FL) needs is an consistent and sustained period of rain to partially mitigate / offset the current lack of attention by the SFWMD in returning water maintenance levels within standardized levels.

Additionally, the fountain equipment failed to function when installed 2 days ago and will be inspected by an electrician later today in a “thorough attempt” to resolve the situation.

Sincerely,

VOG President on Behalf of the VOG BOD's