



South Martin Regional Utility Hobe Sound, FL

Open Until Filled, Next
Screening September 13th

South Martin Regional Utility (SMRU) is proud to serve the South Martin County area, communities of Hobe Sound and the Town of Jupiter Island, FL as the sole source supplier of municipal drinking water, municipal wastewater treatment and reclaimed water. SMRU is a customer-oriented business that puts its customers' needs first. SMRU is an enterprise fund of the Town of Jupiter Island, Florida.

The Hobe Sound / Jupiter Island area is located in Martin County, FL, about 30 miles north of Palm Beach and 100 miles north of Miami. With the Gulf Stream just offshore, the area is known as the Sailfish Capital of the World. Its beaches are uncrowded and the rivers pristine. Wonderful

weather and water sports (swimming, boating, sport and charter fishing, diving, sailing, etc.) characterize the recreational opportunities of which there are many. The ocean views are spectacular and the St. Lucie River, Intracoastal Waterway and Lake Okeechobee provide endless other outdoor activities. Cultural activities are more limited but still relatively plentiful—particularly so if you journey to Orlando (two and a half hours northwest) or Palm Beach County (45 minutes south).

The area is also a great place to live. A wide variety of housing is available ranging from the relatively inexpensive (off the water) to multi-million dollar mansions. County schools are excellent and the people

are friendly. The County has prided itself on careful planning and slow growth. To its south lies Palm Beach County with a population of 1.4 million and to its north, St. Lucie County with a population of 280,200. Logically, Martin County's population would lie somewhere in between. Instead, it has a population of 147,500. Some have said, only half in jest, that Martin County has two factions: the no-growth group and the absolutely no-growth group. The result is a very pleasant, uncongested area to live, work and raise a family.

History

SMRU began with the Hobe Sound Water Company and Hydratech Utilities. The Hobe Sound wellfield it drew from was then, as is now, a very high quality source of drinking water. The company's water tower was once painted with the words "Picture City," reflecting the town's concept of becoming the new Hollywood of the East. The Hydratech Utilities system served water and wastewater service to northern Hobe Sound. The Hobe Sound Water Company and Hydratech were purchased by the Town of Jupiter Island in 1998, merged and renamed South Martin Regional Utility.

During 2001-2003, the South Water Plant was expanded to utilize the Floridan aquifer, through a reverse osmosis facility. This expansion guaranteed a reliable water source to all customers and provided greater operational flexibility to optimize use of the wellfields.

Climate

According to the Koppen Climate classification, Hobe Sound, Florida has a tropical wet climate. As can be seen from Table I, the area has two seasons - a hot and wet season (late May through October) and the warm and

dry season (November through April). During the wet season showers can be heavy (August averages over 8 inches), but are generally brief. On the other hand, the dry season can be so severe that forest and brush fires are a concern, and water restrictions are imposed. Like most locations in Florida, Hobe Sound enjoys a high number of sunny days, averaging 2900 hours annually.

Tropical cyclones pass near the Hobe Sound area sporadically. Over the last century they have occurred in 1928, 1933, 1947, 1949, 1977 (Hurricane David) and 2004 (when Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne caused moderate damage in the area). The last significant storm to strike the area occurred in 2005 with Hurricane Wilma.

Demographics

The population served by SMRU varies considerably. The median age of the area is 53 which is considerably older than the median age for Florida (40.5) and the United States as a whole (37.2). Income levels also vary considerably but the per capita level for the area is \$31,702, about 20% higher than the state median of \$26,733.

The Utility

SMRU serves a population of approximately 22,000. That includes 9,000 water customers and 7,000 wastewater customers. It continues to have two water treatment plants (the north and south plants) which are permitted at a total capacity of 8.3 mgd and typically operate at 45% of capacity. The wastewater treatment plant is permitted at 1.4 mgd and operates at approximately 65% of capacity.

It currently has a staff of 31 and a budget of \$10.3

Table I: Climate Data for Hobe Sound, Florida

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Average High °F	74	75	79	82	86	89	92	91	90	86	81	76	83
Average Low °F	51	52	56	61	67	71	72	72	72	67	60	54	63
Precipitation in Inches	2.7	2.9	3.3	2.8	4.4	5.8	5.8	6.4	7.8	5.8	3.5	2.3	53.5

Source: The Weather Channel



million. Water revenues are \$7.0 million and wastewater revenues are \$2.9 million. Miscellaneous other revenues make up the balance.

Governance

SMRU is governed by the Town of Jupiter Island Town Commission sitting as the SMRU Board of Directors. One of the Commissioners is chosen from the body to serve as Chair and another as Vice Chair.

The Issues

SMRU is a well managed utility. Its infrastructure is generally fairly new and its plants are in good condition. That said, the Utility is always looking for ways to save money and, as such, it expects the new Director to review the operations. The goal is to determine if more efficient and effective ways exist to conduct operations and to ensure the appropriate controls are in place.

The Ideal Candidate

Although overseeing a relatively small utility, the selected candidate should plan to be very busy. He/she will need to be accessible, not only to the Governing Board but also to the Jupiter Island Town Manager. The Utility Director position reports to the Town Manager.

The next Director will be someone with a “can do” attitude, high integrity, excellent people skills and outstanding communications skills. Customer service will not be just a catchy phrase but a core value to this individual. Area residents are accustomed to a high level of service – some might characterize it as a concierge level of service – and SMRU is expected to provide it. The ideal applicant will also be



someone who understands the importance of civility and gentility to this community, who responds quickly and appropriately to resident concerns and who will be comfortable as a key member of not only the government, but the community.

Technically the individual must be very strong in plant operations, someone who speaks water and wastewater plant chemistry. An engineering license would be a nice plus but a Class A operator's license is more important. In other words, we are not just looking for someone who builds things – we want someone who can also operate a water plant and a wastewater treatment plant, someone who knows how to get down and get dirty with the operators and solve problems.

The individual should have seven years of progressively more responsible experience in operating and managing utilities, preferably in the governmental environment.

Compensation

Salary will depend on qualifications but will fall between \$75,000 and \$117,000 with a generous benefits package (including, for example, a car allowance and the eligibility to participate in a generous bonus program). The Utility is not opposed to paying at the top of the range for the right person.

How to Apply

This position is open until filled. The next screening date is September 13, 2013. Forward your resume to RecruitFour@cb-asso.com. Questions should be addressed to Colin Baenziger at (561) 707-3537 or Tom Andrews at (404) 735-2808.

Other Important Information

South Martin Regional Utility is an Equal Opportunity Employer and minorities are encouraged to apply. Under Florida law, all applications are a public record upon receipt and subject to disclosure upon request. Veteran's preference will be awarded if applicable and according to Florida Law.

COLIN BAENZIGER & ASSOCIATES
EXECUTIVE RECRUITING

Director

