



IWA PIPELINE



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3651 Sanibel-Captiva Road, Sanibel, FL 33957 • <http://www.islandwater.com>

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. • Phone: (239) 472-1502

2005 ANNUAL MEETING

On April 11, 2005, the Annual Meeting of The Island Water Association, Inc. (IWA) was held in the Association's offices, located at 3651 Sanibel-Captiva Road. Fourteen Members participated in person, with another 888 participating by proxy, around 12 of whom also attended the meeting. That represents a participation rate of around 18% of IWA's total Membership, about an average participation level for the Annual Meeting, but one we would really like to exceed next year!

President Robert Davison reported on the state of the Company. He first reviewed the changes he had seen at IWA during his 7-year tenure on the Board of Directors. He noted that IWA had been remarkably stable during those 7 years from both operational and financial standpoints, despite sustaining a major hurricane, causeway restrictions, security enhancements and normal inflationary pressures. He stated that progress had been made on both of the major challenges he defined for IWA in 2004. RO Plant pumps and membranes were replaced with new higher efficiency equipment to save on electricity costs. Also, a decrease in water sales on Sanibel resulting from start-up of the City's reuse water system was absorbed without increasing water rates. Mr. Davison defined one challenge for the future regarding IWA's stable workforce, and the need to hire and train replacements for employees as they retire over the next few years. He thanked IWA's employees for their efforts after hurricane Charley, calling it their "finest hour." In conclusion, he said he had enjoyed his time on the Board of Directors and wished his successors all the best.

Next, Vice President/Treasurer Andrew Schroder presented the Treasurer's report. He indicated that IWA remains a very financially sound company. He pointed-out that IWA's water sales revenue in 2004 was essentially equal to that in

2003, while operating costs increased by around \$300,000, primarily as a result of hurricane Charley expenses, most of which should be reimbursed by FEMA at some point (see next page for update). Cash reserves exceed total debt by around \$2.2 million. Finally, Mr. Schroder discussed the factors which will eventually lead IWA to request a rate increase at some undetermined point in the future.

General Manager Roger Blind then presented his annual report on operations and accomplishments in 2004, and plans for 2005. He said that annual water production has remained essentially constant for the last 5 years, at around 1.2 billion gallons per year, and that IWA remains a very financially sound company, despite having only one rate increase in the last 26 years. Mr. Blind then discussed accomplishments in 2004, highlighting capital improvements and water conservation. He also discussed IWA's operations and lessons learned from hurricane Charley. He noted that water service was quickly restored due to the hard work of IWA's employees and the assistance of many different organizations, including: The City of Sanibel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife (Ding Darling), both Sanibel and Captiva Fire Departments, Bonita Springs Utilities and Cabana Construction Company. For 2005, Mr. Blind said that IWA would undertake 29 new capital projects, costing \$1.5 million. Water conservation will continue to be a priority as will preparing for the 2005 hurricane season. He invited Members to join IWA's employees for a tour of the facilities after the meeting was concluded.

Finally, Director David Demaree was re-elected to his third and final two-year term on the Board and William Fenniman and Timothy Gardner were elected to their first terms.

After the Annual Meeting, Directors met to select officers for the 2005-2006 year. Andrew Schroder was elected President. David Demaree was elected Vice President/Treasurer. Robert Wigley was elected Vice President/Secretary. Wil-

liam Fenniman and Timothy Gardner were elected Vice Presidents.

Gardner Wigley Fenniman
Demaree Schroder



CULVERTS VERSUS PIPES

The difference between culverts and pipes may be a subtle, unimportant one to those not directly involved in the water industry. However, at IWA, sometimes the difference is very important. Culverts, which are used for drainage, must be installed in locations which will let the water freely drain through them. IWA's pressurized water pipes, on the other hand, can theoretically be run above ground or below ground at any depth, although maintenance becomes a real problem below about 3 feet on our islands, due to groundwater intrusion into repair trenches. As a result of these differences, when a conflict arises between culverts and our pipes, in the majority of the cases, it is IWA's pipes which must be relocated. This is the case for the upcoming City of Sanibel project to install large new box culverts under Sanibel-Captiva Road.

This City project, which will be located around mile marker 5.6 on San-Cap Road, will connect Clam Bayou with Dinkins Bayou. It will allow for tidal "flushing" of Clam Bayou and hopefully improve water quality in both bayous, thereby improving the overall environment on the northern end of Sanibel. Unfortunately, IWA has a 12 inch diameter water main directly in the path of this new culvert. This water main feeds all our Members on the northern one mile of Sanibel, as well as everyone on Captiva. Although we do have a one million gallon tank and pump station on Captiva, that will only supply the normal demand for around 8 hours, allowing a reserve for public safety/fire fighting purposes. Therefore, a temporary water main will have to be installed prior to culvert installation to maintain this critical water pipe in service for all but relatively short periods of time. Despite our

best efforts, some Members in the immediate vicinity of the construction site are going to experience multiple water outages and boil water notices. We are working with City officials to minimize the outages and to ensure that a reliable water supply is maintained at all times. If you have any questions as to how your water supply may be affected by this project, just give our Engineering Manager, Rich Calabrese, a call on (239) 472-2113 (extension 129).

HERE WE GO AGAIN!!



By the time this newsletter is issued, it will be hurricane season 2005. In some ways, it seems like it can't possibly be here so soon, and in other ways, it seems like forever since hurricane Charley hit last year. Like many of our Members, we are still working on the aftermath of last year's season. Our office roof was finally repaired in early May, and we are still waiting on FEMA to reimburse us for our expenses from hurricane Frances last year. Thankfully, FEMA has come through with around \$265,000 to cover our Charley expenses, thanks to the hard work of former employee (and current consultant), Jacque Owens, Information Services Manager, Rusty Isler, and many other IWA employees. We are hoping for another \$20,000 to \$25,000 from FEMA for our Frances expenses. If and when they make that final payment, they will have reimbursed us for around 90% of our expenses from the storms, which is really helpful for our bank account balances, even if it took them over nine months (and counting).

Our preparations for this year's "season" are in some ways the same as in all past years, but in other ways different. This year, it seems a lot less like an "exercise" and a lot more like getting prepared for something that might actually occur. We have updated our hurricane plan, restocked our food supply and replenished our emergency cash

reserve, as we do every year. However, this year, we have also undertaken the GPS project discussed immediately below in this newsletter, purchased/refurbished a fourth used, large portable generator and purchased three new emergency frequency radios, all based on our experiences last year. We think we are about as ready as we can be, but we certainly hope that all our preparations are unnecessary this year. Last year was enough "fun" to last us for quite a few years!

SUMMER INTERN



At IWA, we almost never employ temporary help. Over the years, we have found that temporary employees take a long time to get up to speed, and they are usually gone before they become very productive. We have found it to be much more efficient to cross-train our employees so that when someone is absent, other employees can pick up the slack. For similar reasons, we have avoided employing Summer interns.

However, this Summer, we have an unusually high workload in our Engineering Department, primarily due to adding a "hurricane-Charley-inspired" program to determine the Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates for all our underground facilities, including over 5,000 meters and 1,000 valves. Just the meters alone will involve walking over 100 miles and standing over every meter for a minute or so, plus a lot of office work to compile the information and make it readily accessible to all employees. Therefore, we decided that we needed a little help. An island resident, Catherine Hurlock, came to our attention. Catherine is a fourth-year engineering student in Agricultural and Biological Engineering at the University of Florida. We hired Catherine as our first-ever Summer Engineering Intern, and she has been working with Engineering Aide, Ron Leavitt, on the GPS project

since May 11th. If (actually, when) we have another major hurricane, the GPS data is going to be really useful in helping us to quickly re-commission our water system after the storm subsides.

Catherine and her parents live on Sanibel, where she enjoys reading, working on computers, and swimming. She says that she tries to live by the motto of, "Work hard, but make time to relax." So far we haven't given her much time to relax between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday! She says she enjoys her new position, finds the work to be interesting and her co-workers to be friendly. She also says she likes our "fuzzy office cat," Lizzie ... which is a good thing, since compatibility with Lizzie is a non-negotiable condition of employment at IWA!

IT'S A CAPTIVA YEAR!



For many years, IWA has been working on a project to upgrade and replace old underground water pipes on both Sanibel and Captiva. This work results in increased system reliability and improved water pressure and quality for our Members. Basically, we are replacing old thin-walled plastic pipes with new heavy-duty plastic ones, and upgrading the size where our calculations indicate that to be necessary for *build-out conditions*.

We have always replaced the pipes which most needed replacement first, regardless of whether they were located on Sanibel or Captiva. Normally, just because about 80% of our Members (and therefore pipes) reside on Sanibel, most of the work took place there. However, this year is different. It's Captiva's turn in 2005.

We have recently completed a major project to replace over 10,000 feet of old main inside South Seas Resort. The old main was located in the middle of a mangrove "forest," which of course did not

exist when the pipe was originally installed many years ago. The new main is located just under the edge of the road, where we can more easily get to it for repairs. We were concerned that repairs to the old main would be very difficult, expensive and time-consuming, due to the need to obtain many permits to avoid damage to the mangroves. Fortunately, even though many of the mangroves were destroyed in hurricane Charley, our old main survived intact until we could replace it. In a way, Charley made the project easier, since the Resort was closed during re-construction and we didn't have to worry about disturbing guests. The project went very smoothly, and we would like to acknowledge the excellent assistance and cooperation of everyone at South Seas Resort.

After we finished the South Seas project, we moved into the Sunset Captiva subdivision, where we will be replacing around 2,500 feet of main, with completion by the end of July.

After we complete the Sunset Captiva project, it's back to Sanibel and the Gulf Pines subdivision, where we will be replacing 9,500 feet of main. If we get that project done by the end of the year, along with several smaller projects, it will have been a very productive year in terms of upgrading our piping system!

WATER CONSERVATION MONTH

At their meeting on April 19th, Sanibel City Council proclaimed April as Water Conservation Month. This proclamation coincides with a similar one declared state-wide by the Florida Water Wise Council, which includes more than 100 volunteer members representing industries, organizations, and government agencies around the State. The proclamation states, in part that, "The City of Sani-

bel and the State of Florida have designated April, typically a dry month when water demands are most acute, Florida's Water Conservation Month, to educate citizens about how they can help save Florida's precious water resources."

At IWA, we have an active, ongoing water conservation program which includes free water-use audits and irrigation system water sensors. We are very serious about this effort, since conservation is the means by which we can keep water demand within our capacity to produce and distribute it to our Members. If demand increases beyond our capacity, expensive capital expansion projects would be required, necessitating a water rate increase, which we would all like to avoid for as long as possible. If you would like to help us conserve water, while at the same time helping to conserve your bank account, just give Engineering Manager, Rich Calabrese, a call on (239) 472-2113 (extension 129).

LAND SWAP APPROVED

In an election on March 1, 2005, Sanibel electors approved a referendum to allow the City and IWA to swap a couple of pieces of property. The IWA parcel was located in the middle of the City's Periwinkle Park on Periwinkle Way. The City's parcel was located adjacent to IWA's main RO Plant and office site on Sanibel-Captiva Road, just west of Rabbit Road. The City parcel was in the environmentally sensitive lands area and IWA agreed that it would remain in its natural and preserved state, "forever wild," where it will serve to increase our "buffer" from our nearby neighbors.

Thanks to our Sanibel Members for overwhelmingly (by a 77%/23% margin) approving this referendum item!

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The Island Water Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 509
Sanibel, FL 33957