



IWA PIPELINE



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Your 2009 Island Water Association Board Members



Tim Gardner
Vice President

Bob Wigley
VP/Secretary

Bill Fenniman
President

Bob Lindman
VP/Treasurer

Bill Carr
Vice President

2009 ANNUAL MEETING

On April 13, 2009, The Annual Meeting of The Island Water Association, Inc. (IWA) was held at the Association's offices, located at 3651 Sanibel Captiva Road.

Board President, Timothy Gardner, presented his President's Report regarding the state of the Company. He noted that energy costs continue to consume an ever-increasing portion of our water production budget. Mr. Gardner then discussed the water rate increase that went into effect in March, which should offset decreases in demand from conservation efforts and reclaimed water for irrigation. He closed his presentation by reviewing what he sees as the future challenges that IWA will face, once again the most significant of which will be the need to train replacements for IWA's maturing workforce.



Annual Meeting Plant Tour

Next, Vice President/Treasurer, William W. Fenniman, presented the Treasurer's Report. He indicated that IWA remains financially sound. Mr. Fenniman stated that IWA's total revenue for 2008 was \$5.7M, down from that in 2007 (\$6.5M). Operating

costs increased to \$5.0M, primarily as a result of increased costs for insurance, electricity, fuel, and chemicals. Mr. Fenniman reminded everyone that the 18% rate increase, enacted in March, was the first in 17 years, but that we would not be able to go another 17 years before the next rate increase.

General Manager, William "Rusty" Isler, then presented his annual report on operations and accomplishments in 2008. He started by thanking the managers of IWA for their many years of service and dedication. Rusty then presented Joe Scofield, Distribution Manager, with a plaque honoring his twenty years of service to IWA. Rusty noted IWA's safety record, 3,060 days without a lost time accident. He then talked about how water production was down for 2008, due to water-use restrictions, expanded sales of reclaimed water, and the economy. Water sales are up in 2009, mostly due to the 18% rate increase.

Rusty talked about Capital Projects planned for 2009, which include replacing our 3 clear well transfer pumps, replacing aging well pumps and motors, and the MIT (Mechanical Integrity Test) for our injection well, which must be done every 5 years.

Rusty then took a few questions from the audience, and invited everyone for a tour of our facilities

STORM SEASON PREPARTION...

By the time this newsletter is issued, it will be hurricane season 2009. We have updated our hurricane plan, restocked our food supply and replenished our emergency reserves, as we do every year. We think we are about as ready as we can be, but we certainly hope that all our preparations are unnecessary this year. We like to encourage our members to turn off their house valves when they leave the Islands for storms or extended periods of time. Water breaks and leaks outside can



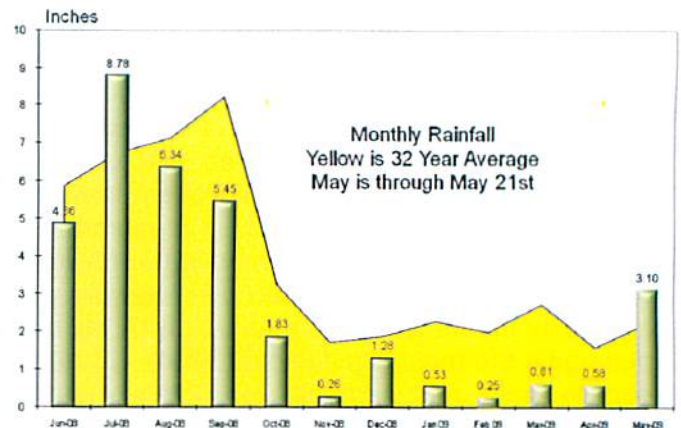
be water wasteful and expensive. Water leaks inside an unoccupied home can be disastrous. Failed dishwasher, washing machine, and ice maker hoses can all lead to a very bad day inside an unoccupied home. There is one good side to storm season—RAIN!

Up until the middle of May we had only received 1.5 inches of rain here on Sanibel for the entire



year. We received a lot of calls from our members with high bills due to extra irrigation and the rate increase that went into effect in March. The rains are coming, which should take the pressure off the dry plants and member check books. Please check your irrigation systems and make sure the rain sensor shutoffs are working and that you reduce the timed setting during the rainy season.

The South Florida Water Management District is currently working on their proposed permanent two-day-a-week water restrictions. At Page Field in Fort Myers, it's the fourth driest start to a dry season since 1932, according to the Fort Myers News-Press (2/19). For updates on current conditions, water conservation and watering restriction schedules, go to the SFWMD website at www.sfwmd.gov.



CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT...

The 2009 edition of IWA's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report also known as a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is included as an insert with this newsletter. Combining the two documents helps minimize our postage costs. This EPA-required annual report covers our water quality for 2008. IWA's water meets and exceeds all water quality standards, as has always been the case in the past. Please read over this information when it arrives, and if you have any further water quality-related questions, just give our Production Manager, Phil Noe, a call on (239) 472-2113 (extension 122).

WHAT IS A VFD? ...

One way that IWA reduces energy costs related to making water is by using Variable Frequency Drives (VFD's) on most of our electric pump motors. Motor speed is dependent on the frequency of the AC (Alternating Current) voltage applied to the motor. In the US, we use 60 Hertz (Hz) AC voltage. A 3,600 RPM (Revolutions per Minute) motor running at 60 Hz will turn at 3,600 RPM. If the frequency is reduced to 30 Hz, it will turn at 1,800 Hz. VFD's allow the operators to adjust the frequency



Variable Frequency Drives

applied to the motors, thereby adjusting motor speed and water flow. VFD's provide other benefits along with energy savings, and can be easily added to existing motors.

VFD's reduce energy usage by allowing plant operators to control pump speeds, and therefore water flow. Before VFD's, flow control was achieved by opening and partially closing valves, while the pump and motor continued to operate at full speed, using maximum power. As the speed of a motor is reduced, so is energy consumption. VFD's also allow us to maintain constant pressure in our distri-

bution system, as the demand (flow) rises and falls throughout the day and night.

Maintenance savings are also realized by using VFD's. Traditional motor starters apply full voltage to a motor instantaneously at start-up. This brings the motor and pump to full speed very quickly, causing pressure spikes that hammer pipes and joints, increasing chances for premature failures. Starting current decreases resulting from VFDs can also lower our LCEC charges. Starting current can be four times greater than normal running current. VFD's allow for an adjustable time period for motor run-up, eliminating stress on the motor, pump, and the piping system. Instantaneous demand is also reduced, lowering our demand charge.

VFD's allow utilities to realize savings immediately upon installation. The increased use of these drives over the last decade or so has drastically lowered the initial installation costs. Using VFD's is one more way IWA has found to keep water production and delivery costs down for our members.

INJECTION WELL CHECKUP...

In September, we will be performing our second Mechanical Integrity Test (MIT) of our deep injection well. The well was drilled back in 1998. We have a core sample in the office that was taken half way down at 1,500 feet. The samples contained a multitude of small sand dollars and sea biscuits! The well is shared by the City of Sanibel and IWA for disposal of excess treated effluent and brine waste respectively. An MIT is required every five years to ensure that the well is not leaking. The required tests include: (1) a video survey of the entire casing and open hole to a depth of over 3,200 feet, (2) a pressure test at 150% of the maximum operating pressure, and (3) a dye test to ensure that the cement grout surrounding the casing is intact. If you would like to know more about our



3,200 Foot Injection Well

deep injection well, you can look up our old Pipeline archives on our web site. See the Pipeline (newsletter) link on our home page (www.islandwater.com.) The construction of the well was covered in the following issues: Winter 1998, Spring 1999, Summer 1999, Spring 2000, and Summer 2000.

CLEARWELL PUMP REPLACEMENTS ...

The IWA 2009 Capital Budget includes a project to replace our three, forty-year-old transfer pumps. These pumps are a vital part of our system and move the water from the clearwell, after the RO Plant, into the two 5 million gallon (MG) tanks on the RO site. The existing three pumps and motors, which will be replaced by this project, have been rebuilt many times over the years, and they are undersized (as a result of a series of plant expansions) to the point where we no longer have an installed spare pump. All three pumps have to run continuously when the R.O. Plant is running at full capacity. This project will replace all three old cast iron/bronze pumps with three new stainless steel ones, sized so that one of them is again an installed spare. In addition, we need to replace a 200 foot section of the existing 12" transfer pipe from the pumps to the tanks. The section of old pipe to be replaced is currently located under the concrete containment structure/chemical storage area and would be extremely difficult/costly to repair, if even possible. In addition, by upgrading the new section of pipe from 12" to 16", we will minimize electric power consumption (and operating costs). The new pumps will also have an upgraded stainless steel pump manifold, with new stainless valves, installed as a part of this project, replacing the old ductile iron pipe manifold. A new



Existing Clearwell Transfer Pumps

flow meter will also be installed on the new manifold, providing us with a more accurate and reliable record of plant production. The pumps are now on order and should arrive at the end of October. We will include a progress report in the Winter issue of the Pipeline - stay tuned!

OTHER IWA GUESTS ...

Our resident family of Ospreys has raised two more youngsters that have recently "left the nest". They surely must find it amusing to watch the silly human water company employees running around their territory and providing water to an Island surrounded by an endless expanse of water. Perhaps they are not concerned with the fine details of salt water versus fresh water.



Juvenile Osprey

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