



IWA PIPELINE



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IWA NEEDS YOU!!



It's election time at IWA again, and next year two seats on our Board of Directors will be up for election. The seats are currently held by Robert Wigley and Robert Lindman. Mr. Wigley is completing his sixth and final year of the six year term limit and Mr. Lindman is eligible for re-election.

IWA is governed by a five member Board of Directors who serve without pay. Directors must be year-round residents of Sanibel or Captiva so that they can attend all Board meetings and must be IWA Members or an official representative of a condominium or other IWA Corporate Member. Directors serve for a two-year term and may be re-elected for a total of no more than three consecutive terms. Meetings are normally held on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Directors are elected by the Membership at IWA's Annual Meeting to be held in April. Anyone who would like to run for one of the open seats should contact our Board Recording Secretary, Beau Stanley, at (239) 472-2113 (extension 114) or via e-mail at beau@islandwater.com by **no later than December 31, 2009.** A background check will be run on all Board candidates due to security concerns in our post-911 world.

CLEARWELL TRANSFER PUMPS...

The clearwell transfer pump project has been completed and our three new stainless steel pumps are now on-line. The project had several components consisting of new pumps, motors, a new section of 16" pipe, and a new stainless steel header. After our well water is pumped through the R.O. Membranes and the post treatment process, it is discharged into the clearwell. From the clearwell the water is pumped into our main storage tanks located at the R.O. Plant site. From the storage tanks the potable water is pumped into the distribution system and out to our members.

Our three old 40hp clearwell motors/pumps had to be run simultaneously when the plant was running. The original clearwell pumps were designed thirty years ago to run in pairs with an alternating "in-place" spare. As our reverse osmosis plant capacity was increased over the years it became necessary to operate with all three pumps running.

We no longer had the comfort of an "in-place" spare. The new pumps will allow for an increase in capacity and give us an online spare, as well as a significant energy savings. With the combination of newly designed pumps, variable frequency drives, and larger piping, we are already seeing close to a 25% reduction in energy consumption.





Installation of New Transfer Line

Although we used contractors for some of the "heavy work" such as installing large diameter plastic underground pipe and welding large diameter stainless steel pipe, we did do much of the work in-house, saving our Members a load of money. We performed all engineering and permitting activities, installed the new pumps/motors (weighing over a ton each), wired up the new motors, and did all the control work ourselves.

INJECTION WELL CHECKUP...

On October 6 and 7th, we conducted the Mechanical Integrity Test (MIT) of our deep injection well. The well is used for disposal of our RO Plant brine waste and is also shared by the City of Sanibel, for disposal of their excess treated effluent. Every five years, we are required by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to run an extensive (and expensive ... \$20,000!) series of tests on the well to make absolutely certain that the injected fluids are staying where we put



Mechanical Integrity Test of our injection well.

them and that the well casing is intact, with no holes. The tests included a video survey of the well to its total depth of over 3,200 feet, a pressure test of the 12 inch diameter, 2,500 foot deep fiberglass casing, and radioactive tracer tests to ensure that the concrete grout surrounding the casing is still intact.

We handled this second MIT a little differently this time, using in-house engineering expertise, which we have been told is very unusual and has only been done a few other times by utilities much larger than little old IWA. By doing it in house, we gained a better understanding of the well and how it operates. We also saved about \$10,000 in engineering fees, compared to using an outside consultant for the work. The tests all confirmed that our well remains in great shape.

The report on the test results was prepared and submitted to FDEP, who approved it without comment. This is another great example of saving our Members' money by doing work in-house, with IWA personnel, as opposed to taking the easy way out, and paying expensive consultant fees.

IT IS BUDGET TIME AT IWA...

The Island Water Association was incorporated 45 years ago and franchised by Lee County as a member-owned nonprofit association. Our fiscal year is synonymous with the calendar year, which means it is now budget time at IWA. Our Department Managers are currently analyzing their production estimates and needs for the coming year.

The Operations/Maintenance and Capital Budgets are being compiled in order to present them to the IWA Board of Directors for their approval. Budgeting has always been a bit of an art in the water utility business, due to variables beyond our control, such as rainfall and seasonal visitors. Revenues should remain fairly steady at



about six million dollars, with O&M and Capital expenses at about the same level, as one would expect from a not-for-profit organization.

In this day and age, budgeting has become even more challenging due to the increased volatility of the cost of energy, chemicals, medical insurance, and the overall state of the economy. It would be nice if we could predict the future; however, if that was the case we would probably all be retired drinking Piña Coladas on the beach!

STORAGE TANK INSPECTIONS...

We recently completed another five year FDEP required test on two of our above ground water storage tanks. The two five million gallon storage tanks located at the R.O. Plant have been cleaned, inspected, and certified. Our plant personnel are knowledgeable and experienced at cleaning and doing minor repairs on the storage tanks. As with many of our projects, we have done as much of the work in-house as possible. As usual, the "off" season has been a very busy time for IWA and has given IWA an opportunity to address various maintenance tasks and projects.



Cleaning & Inspecting a Five Million Gallon Storage Tank

MANAGEMENT CHANGES AT IWA...

In August, Distribution Manager Joe Scofield took a family leave of absence to help care for an ailing parent in Cleveland, Tennessee. Joe has since purchased a home in Cleveland. IWA is losing a very valuable and experienced employee. Joe has agreed to help with the transition of his replacement until the end of the year. Joe was hired at IWA in 1989, starting as a plant operator trainee.

Over the years he climbed the proverbial company ladder, eventually being promoted to Distribu-



Robbie Smith and Joe Scofield

tion Manager in 2003. Joe was very well liked by everyone he came in contact with. Mention the Miami Dolphins or the Florida State Seminoles in a positive light and you had an instant friend in Joe. He promises to stay in touch, and with a son still living in the area, that's a safe bet.

Robbie Smith, R. O. Chief Plant Operator, has been promoted to fill Joe's position as Distribution Manager. Robbie followed a similar path at IWA, having been hired in 1990 as a Plant Operator Trainee and working his way up to Chief Plant Operator. Robbie's new position as Distribution Manager will further advance his knowledge of the inner workings at IWA. IWA has a long tradition of training and growing our people from within. Robbie lives in Cape Coral with his wife Deborah. Their son, Joshua, is on active duty with the US Navy. Congratulations Robbie.

Phil Noe, Production Manager, will pull double duty for a while, handling the duties of Chief Plant operator as well as Production Manager until a permanent replacement is named. IWA is now five employees below our 2007 personnel count of 34. We have been operating with a reduced staff for the last year or so, and due to the current economic climate have not filled these positions for the time being. Our employees have stepped up to the plate and picked up the slack, helping to keep expenses down. IWA is always striving to improve our efficiency while maintaining adequate operators, technicians, and other personnel so that the safety of our employees and service to our members is not compromised.

SAFETY RECORD ...

The Island Water Association recently passed a milestone of working over **546,000** hours without a lost-time injury. To recognize and celebrate this significant achievement we did what most workers would do. We celebrated with a company Barbecue. Jim Lowman, an IWA member, was nice enough to lend us his smoker and culinary expertise.



IWA Board of Directors — Left to right:
Tim Gardner, Bill Fenniman, Bob Lindman
Not shown: *Bill Carr and Bob Wigley*

A mean set of pulled pork, beans, and slaw was prepared. Our Board of Directors were kind enough to don chef aprons and serve up the feast and to recognize the outstanding work and safety record that has been accomplished.

HURRICANE SEASON ENDS ...

Another mild storm season for Florida has come to an end. Only three out of eleven systems made it to hurricane status, and only one, *Ida*, made landfall on the US coast, although as a tropical storm. For only the second time since 1995, IWA personnel did not have to pull out our office hurricane shutters. Life is good.

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