



# IWA PIPELINE



SUMMER 1991

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VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2



## We're looking for "utilitarians"

Do you know anything about utilities...especially water companies? Do you have experience with local governments and their dealings with utilities? Do you consider yourself knowledgeable about costs of public services or water conservation?

If you had a "yes" or "maybe" for any of the above, IWA needs you...to serve on our Water Rates Review Committee.

The committee's task will be to review current rates, set guidelines for future rates and develop a plan for water conservation as required by the South Florida Water Management District.

The committee will not require a lot of your time — perhaps three or four meetings prior to the May 1992 deadline.

If you are interested in helping please send a brief resume to:

Island Water Association  
Rates Review Committee  
P.O. Box 509  
Sanibel, FL 33957

Also include those times when you plan to be away from the island.

## SCADA-logical news

In case you don't know, SCADA stands for System Control and Data Acquisition... and in case you still don't know what we're talking about, try to think of IWA as your car and SCADA as the speedometer.

We've been putting SCADA together for a couple of years and it's starting to pay dividends.

The system now gives us instant information on the levels of our five tanks, system pressures at five locations including the extreme ends of the islands and flow out of the four pumping stations. The latest component to be added will be a solar-powered flow meter for Captiva.

This kind of information is helpful in many ways. In the short range it means that we know immediately about trouble in our system. A burst main for example can be detected and localized in moments.

In the long-range SCADA is an invaluable planning tool. As the system continues to expand it will assure the overall efficiency of our entire system and a reliable supply of water at reasonable costs.



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## A look at IWA... the last 10 years

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In his presentation to this year's annual meeting General Manager, Bob Hollander, talked about the many changes IWA has undergone during the 10 years of his tenure.

While the staff has not changed appreciably (80% of the supervisors are still here) their confidence and competence have grown dramatically.

In the early years the staff was content to operate a facility that had been designed by outsiders. The job was to keep the machine oiled and running. Gradually that changed. The staff began to take over the machine and make it their own.

Seeking help from suppliers, trade associations, conferences and the like they found ways to cut costs and improve efficiency.

As the confidence of the staff grew, so did the confidence of management in their abilities. More and more responsibilities were delegated to department heads. New ideas were given a full hearing...new solutions were tested. When things worked, proper credit was given; when they didn't no time was wasted on blame.

In short, IWA has grown from its grass roots beginnings into a dynamic, imaginative company that has attracted notice throughout the United States.

The most dramatic result of all this, Hollander pointed out, is the electric dollars that IWA spends in water production. Ten years ago IWA spent 88¢ on every thousand gallons. Today it spends only 53¢. That's a 40% reduction in energy costs and most of it is due to new and better ideas from the IWA staff.

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## And a second look... the next ten years

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Everybody at IWA agrees...the company is at the crossroads. The electrolysis plant has reached a point where major expenditures will be required to keep it running efficiently. At the same time it is becoming more obvious that the R.O. plant is producing water more efficiently. The question arises about abandoning the E.D. facility and putting everything in R.O. production.

It's not an easy question to answer. Almost every aspect of IWA would be affected by such a change. Storage tanks might have to be abandoned. Both plants, both systems and the distribution system would have to be revamped. It goes on and gets more complicated as one gets into more detail.

For this reason we have decided to turn again to the consulting firm headed by Dr. Edward Clark. (Clark had previously helped us analyze IWA's position relative to the islands' waste water.) This time we asked him to prepare the second fully comprehensive plan for IWA's future. The first was in the beginning over 25 years ago.

The plan will involve six different aspects:

- population and water usage
- distribution system
- raw water supplies
- water treatment
- administrative
- regulatory

Dr. Clark's plan is due on or about August 1. Until that time IWA has put all of its major plans on hold.

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## For the record

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IWA has set three new records. In March we recorded our highest month of water usage, the highest 10 day period and the highest single day — over 4,000,000

gallons. That's right, 4 million gallons in one day. Pumping that much precious water is sort of like being publicly tarred and feathered — except for the honor of it we'd just as soon not be involved.



## Joe Vaughn

Of course you may have met him already on your front yard reading your meter.

Joe is a distribution technician and in addition to reading meters he helps service water lines and repair breaks when they happen.

Joe is originally from Walnut, California and has always enjoyed working outside so he picked Florida. He lives in San Carlos Park with his wife, Glenda and 2 year old daughter, Gennie.

In his spare time he likes to fish and read (not more meters but books and, of course, the Pipeline).

Joe likes working at IWA, he says, because he likes the people.

Now that you've met him, pop out and say "hello" next time you see him reading your meter.

## More not always better

When the fancy, downtown engineers told us that our new Captiva pumping station was going to cost upwards of \$400,000 we said "wait just a minute."

Actually it took a little more than a minute for our people to figure out how to do it for less than \$70,000, and get a better job in the bargain.

The secret?...skip the electrically driven pumps and depend on diesel only. Besides the original cost there's also a monthly demand charge for an electric system, even if it is not used. Since the pumps are only used during emergencies, diesel was a cheaper and more reliable source of power.

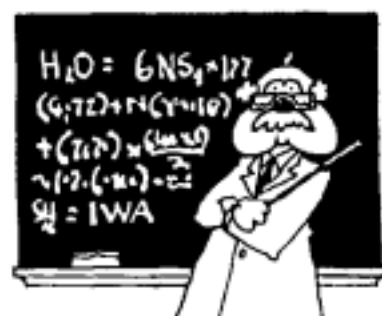
It was just another example of the benefits of home-grown engineering.

## How green is your thumb?

This issue's puzzlers come to us from the folks at SOCF who want to test your landscaping I.Q. After you take this quiz you'll know how to "plant smart".

Check your answers on back page.

1. What is Xeriscaping?
  - A. A rock yard.
  - B. Water conservation through creative landscaping.
  - C. A cactus garden.
2. What is your home's biggest water consumer?
  - A. Washing your car.
  - B. Your child playing in the sprinkler.
  - C. Your green lawn.
3. Your grass only needs \_\_\_\_\_ inch(es) of water per week?
  - A. 2"
  - B. 3"
  - C. 1"
4. How can you reduce the water consumption in your home landscape?
  - A. Replace your grass with green indoor-outdoor carpet.
  - B. Reduce your sod areas and replace with mulched beds.
  - C. Use native plants.
5. How thick must your mulch be to retain moisture?
  - A. 1"-2"
  - B. 2"-3"
  - C. 3"-4"
6. Where can you learn to "Plant smart — be water wise"?
  - A. Native Plant Nursery
  - B. Native Plant Nursery
  - C. Native Plant Nursery



## Answers to planting smart quiz.

1. What is Xeriscaping?  
B. Water conservation through creative landscaping.
2. What is your home's biggest water consumer?  
C. Your green lawn.
3. Your grass only needs \_\_\_\_\_ inch(es) of water per week?  
C. 1"
4. How can you reduce the water consumption in your home landscape?  
A., B., and/or C.
5. How thick must your mulch be to retain moisture?  
C. 3" 4"
6. Where can you learn to "Plant smart — be water wise"?  
A., B., and C.

### THE ISLAND WATER ASSOCIATION, INC. COMPARISON OF 1991 BUDGET TO ACTUAL RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

RECEIPTS	1991 Budget	THREE MONTHS OF
		Actual Receipts
Water Sales	\$968,047	\$962,193
Interest	20,000	16,067
Other Receipts	8,600	9,408
Connection Fees	30,000	18,550
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$1,022,647</b>	<b>\$1,006,178</b>
¼ 1991 Carryover	296,911	296,911
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$1,319,458</b>	<b>\$1,302,089</b>
DISBURSEMENTS	1991 Budget	THREE MONTHS OF
		Actual Disbursements
Wages and Benefits	\$337,911	\$340,942
Professional Fees	38,877	28,116
Electricity	148,977	149,784
Telephone	4,800	3,334
O & M Service & Supply	160,800	96,616
Motor Fuels	3,702	3,064
Insurance	26,700	25,928
Postal Charges	3,180	3,323
Travel, Training, Conferences	6,444	4,787
Debt Repayments	62,928	62,117
Capital Expenditures	366,600	397,031
Contingency Fund	0	0
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$1,160,486</b>	<b>\$1,114,012</b>
<b>EXCESS OF FUNDS OVER DISBURSEMENTS FOR 1991</b>		<b>\$188,077</b>
<b>FOR CASH POSITION ADD REMAINING CARRYOVER (\$890,734)</b>		<b>\$1,078,811</b>
<b>LESS RESERVE REQUIREMENTS</b>		<b>\$ 684,992</b>
<b>NET AVAILABLE FUNDS</b>		<b>\$393,819</b>

These figures represent the unaudited accounts as of March 31, 1991.

*Thomas A. Sharp*  
Thomas A. Sharp  
President