



IWA PIPELINE



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Following up on high water use

In our last newsletter we reported that a little over 100 single family residences have water bills of \$100 or more. These high users comprise 3.4% of the single family homes and are using nearly 19% of the water provided to single family homes.

Since then IWA has written to each of these high users to inform them, if they didn't already know, that their water use was exceptionally high, to seek their advice in determining what the cause of this high usage was and to ask their help in reducing excess water use that could threaten our aquifers in the near future.

We are pleased to report that we have received over 30 responses to our letters. The information gained thus far is very interesting. First, we are correct in suspecting that some of these high users did not know that their bills were exceptionally high. When they learned that they were they took steps to find out why. One found a leak that was causing the problem, others realized that their landscapers were using far more water than necessary.

We were partly correct in our assumption that the major cause for high water use was sodded lawns and exotic vegetation. We say "partly" because we have found that part of the problem with exotic vegetation is the fact that some owners and landscapers have tended to use too much water, even to the extent of harming the plants. In some cases this over-watering harms the plants.

Authorities have told us that the most water that any vegetation could need would be one inch of water per week. On the typical Sanibel ¼-acre lot with 60% lawn and foliage coverage this would amount to about 16,000 gallons of water or \$40 of the monthly water bill. Rainfall, of course, would reduce the need for sprinkling and cut this further.

It would seem that homeowners, builders and landscapers could benefit from an education program concerning landscaping and its relationship to water use. For this reason the Board of Directors has opened discussions with the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation concerning the possibility of setting up a cooperative educational program to help interested island residents and businesses with landscaping techniques.

Meet the new Board members

At the IWA Annual Meeting on April 10, Dr. Ernst W. B. Hoen of Captiva and Mr. Warren E. Deuber of Sanibel were elected as new Board members. Both will serve as Vice Presidents.

Dr. Hoen works as an international geological consultant, and recently completed a study of the Indus Basin in Pakistan. Until 1986 he was President and Owner of Hoen Exploration Company in Oklahoma. Dr. Hoen and his wife have been property owners on Captiva since 1981 and are now full-time residents. He is a member of the SOCF Environmental Affairs Committee and a volunteer with the Captiva Fire Department and CROW. The Hoens are also members of the Captiva Civic Association, the Captiva Island Yacht Club and the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association.

Mr. Deuber is a former President of Miami Industrial Trucks, Inc. in Ohio and also was President of Bobcat of Dayton, Ohio. He and his wife have been property owners on Sanibel since 1972 and became full-time residents in 1983. The Deubers are active in CROW, SOCF and the Sanibel Community Church. In 1985-86, Mr. Deuber served as President of the Gulf Pines Property Owners Association.

Both Men are welcome additions to the IWA Board.

Sad good-byes were said to Bob Coyne, a Board member for the last nine months and to Bill Angst who has served on the Board of Directors for six years, the last four years as our President. We'll miss you, good friends!

Stick it to us

Occasionally we're asked why we don't include return envelopes in our bills the way that some big utilities do. The answer, of course, is money. The larger utilities have cut their cost for using and sending envelopes by buying their own folding and stuffing machines. IWA has checked into the price of such gadgets. WOW!

There is not much evidence that IWA's members really want us to spend their money for this purpose now. But we do want to help as much as possible, so we've included a year's supply of address stickers so that people who want to save their writing hand can use their tongue.

I guess we've licked that problem.

Putting an end to copper corrosion

As reported last fall IWA has increased the amount of corrosion inhibitor added to our water to help prevent damage to copper plumbing that might result from the aggressive nature of R.O. treated water.

In recent tests the levels of copper corrosion had been reduced significantly by the addition of the corrosion inhibitor. Corrosion rates are about 6% of levels five years ago.

Last month the Board decided to take further action to treat the cause of the corrosion problem rather than the symptom. A pilot plant study was authorized that will determine whether a process change to eliminate oxygen pick-up in our treated water will further decrease the levels of copper corrosion. The results of the study will determine whether it will be practical to install the process for all water produced by the R.O. Plant.

New employees — new position

IWA upgraded one of its job descriptions from "Engineering Draftsperson" to "Engineering Assistant". Roger Blind, a graduate civil engineer who lives on Captiva, has joined the Association staff in that job slot.

Also new are Claude (T.C.) Tyus and Ed Engle, Plant Operator Trainees and Barry Rose, IWA's Automotive Mechanic.

Welcome to our new employees!

Captiva project

IWA is attempting to obtain title to the site of the new Captiva Water Tank. If successful, construction of the tank should begin this spring and the tank and pumping station should be operational late next year.

Total cost of the project is estimated at \$1,110,000.

THE ISLAND WATER ASSOCIATION, INC. COMPARISON OF 1989 BUDGET TO ACTUAL RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

RECEIPTS	THREE MONTHS OF	
	1989 Budget	Actual Receipts
Water Sales	\$961,700	\$949,589
Interest	20,000	25,876
Other Receipts	2,800	4,503
Connection Fees	50,000	41,875
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$1,034,500	\$1,021,843
1/4 1989 Carryover	415,535	415,535
TOTAL FUNDS	\$1,450,035	\$1,437,378
DISBURSEMENTS	THREE MONTHS OF	
	1989 Budget	Actual Disbursements
Wages and Benefits	\$296,537	\$274,570
Professional Fees	17,500	20,141
Electricity	168,080	171,682
Telephone	3,375	2,449
O & M Service & Supply	147,700	120,370
Motor Fuels	3,480	1,531
Insurance	25,100	25,008
Postal Charges	3,000	2,088
Travel, Training, Conferences	5,750	3,166
Debt Repayments (Farmers Home Admin.)	75,117	75,117
Capital Expenditures	465,900	152,401
Contingency Fund	25,000	0
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$1,255,459	\$818,459
EXCESS OF FUNDS OVER DISBURSEMENTS FOR 1989		\$618,919
FOR CASH POSITION ADD REMAINING CARRYOVER (\$1,246,544)		\$1,865,463
LESS RESERVE REQUIREMENTS & CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS		\$1,231,422
NET AVAILABLE FUNDS		\$634,041

These figures represent the unaudited accounts as of March 31, 1989.

Thomas A. Sharp

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President