



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 Andrew J. Schroder and Robert J. Wigley. Andy, the Board President, is completing his third and final term of service. Bob, the Board Vice President/Secretary, is eligible for re-election to his second two-year term of service. He has served on the Board since 2003.

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 Secretary, Patty Herrick, at (239) 472-2113 (extension 132) or by e-mail at patty@islandwater.com by **no later than December 31, 2005.**

RATE INCREASE

No ... not a water rate increase, but rather an electricity rate increase ... at least for now!

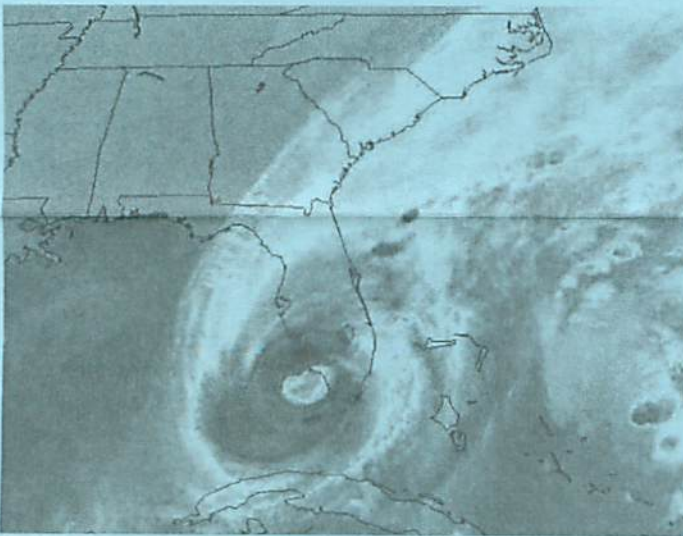
IWA has recently been notified by LCEC that it will be raising its Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) factor for electricity sales beginning in January 2006, by 20% to 30%. LCEC does not actually generate the power that it distributes, but rather it purchases power from Seminole Electric. Adjustments in the PCA factor reflect changes in the cost of power paid by LCEC, resulting from factors such as volatile fuel prices. This increase follows two similar increases implemented earlier this year. In addition, for the first time in more than 20 years, LCEC is conducting a cost of service study and will explore the possibility of a base rate increase early in 2006, due to "rapid growth within LCEC's service territory and the increased infrastructure requirements to serve this new load." Like IWA, LCEC is a not-for-profit business, and a rate increase would be considered to ensure reliable service delivery.

IWA is a very large consumer of electricity, as a result of the nature of our reverse osmosis process. Through October of this year, our electricity bill has run around \$360,000, and we estimate that we will have spent around \$430,000 by the end of the year. We are spending 12% more for electricity this year, despite producing 9% less water. We have calculated the effects of the new PCA increase (at 30%) on our annual electricity cost, and estimate that it will increase by around another 15%, or \$65,000 next year, versus this year. If a base rate increase is also implemented early next year, that figure will be even higher. The \$65,000 number represents an increase of over 1% of our entire budget, and as mentioned earlier, that is just the result of the latest of three similar increases.

When the above increase in the cost of electricity is added to the ever-increasing cost of all other forms of energy used by IWA, and the in-

creased cost for many of the other commodities we consume, like chemicals and plastic pipe, the end result is a considerable additional cost of producing water on the islands. Eventually, cost increases like these will lead to an increase in our water rates. The last time we increased our rates was in 1992, over 13 years ago. The next time will very likely be before the next 13 years pass.

NOT AGAIN!!!!



After our visit from hurricane Charley last year, everyone at IWA, along with everyone else in Southwest Florida, was hoping for a quieter hurricane season this year. That was obviously not to be, and the seemingly endless 2005 hurricane season included a record 23 named storms (as of mid-November when this newsletter was being written).

During hurricane Charley last year, IWA employees did not remain on the island, for obvious safety reasons. As it turned out, whether we stayed or left would have made no real difference, since the damage to our piping system was so severe that we could not have maintained service even if we had stayed. This year, it was a little different story. *Although* hurricanes Dennis, Katrina and Wilma all threatened our islands, the threat was less severe than with Charley. In the case of Dennis, the projected landfall was always well north of the islands, and it in fact passed about 150 miles to the west of us. Key IWA employees stayed overnight in our facilities until the storm was safely to our north. In the case of Katrina, the projected storm path was right over us for a good while before it turned slightly south, as a category one storm. For Katrina, we closed our business office for a day due to the expected very heavy rains, but key employees remained on duty until the storm passed safely to the south of us.

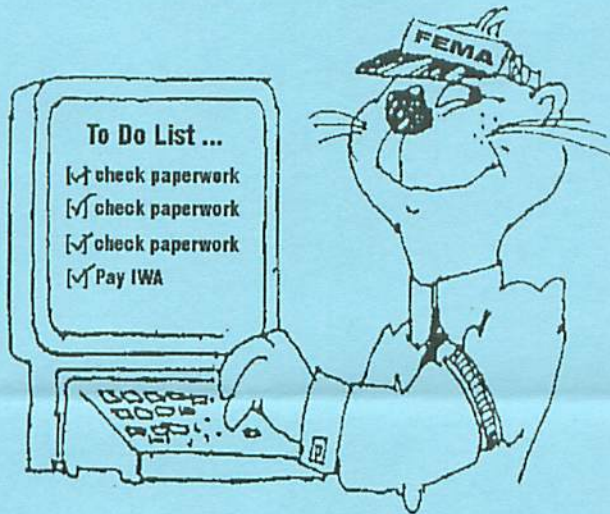
Hurricane Wilma was a different story. We monitored the seemingly endless approach of Wilma for a couple of weeks. At one point, it was the strongest storm in recorded history, so it obviously got our attention. About a week before eventual landfall in Florida, the forecasts showed it reversing its direction of travel and coming our way. The projected landfall point was uncomfortably close, varying with every forecast update from somewhere just south to just north of Naples. Of more comfort was the forecast that Wilma would arrive in Southwest Florida as only a category one storm. Again, for the third time this year, eleven key IWA employees (plus two wives, one fiancée, two cats and a dog) gathered in our facilities the day before landfall to protect our equipment and hopefully keep everything operating. About 12 hours before landfall, based on the advice of our weather consultant, we made the decision to stay on the island, even though the storm was showing some signs of strengthening. The islands were under a mandatory evacuation order at the time, and only the Sanibel Police Department, Sanibel Fire Department and Captiva Fire Department were staying, although a number of citizens also made the same decision for themselves.

The rest is history. The storm made landfall south of Naples early in the morning of October 24th, with a very large eye, and as a strong category three storm. The northern part of the eye wall passed very close to our islands (as we were having a nice pancake breakfast, accompanied by howling winds and driving rain). Since the winds were offshore, storm surge (our biggest concern) was not a problem, but the winds were quite strong for a few hours and the rains were torrential. Although we had to switch to our generators for electric power during the worst of the storm, we lucked-out and never totally lost power at our critical Sanibel facilities, unlike many of our Members who were less fortunate and were without power for several days. Our water system never lost pressure, and we had only a limited number of leaks after the storm subsided. No boil water notices were required, thereby eliminating that additional aggravation for our Members. IWA employees returned home after around 30 hours on duty. Many of them sustained damage to their personal property and homes, and those who stayed on the island at our facilities left their families to ride out the storm without them. Thanks everyone!! We are, unfortunately, getting really good at this. Here's hoping that we don't get any additional opportunities to hone our skills for many years!

Before leaving the subject of hurricane Wilma, there is one other important point to be made. As

the storm approached on Sunday night, our water demand was running at below-normal levels of around 500 gallons per minute, due no doubt to the fact that nearly everyone had evacuated from the islands. As the storm was making landfall early Monday morning with torrential rains, we experienced a significant spike in water demand to over 2,700 gallons per minute, and we had to start-up additional pumping capacity, which was not an easy task at the time. We know from experience that the additional water was going to automatic irrigation systems. **Landscapes were being watered in the middle of a hurricane.** We would really appreciate it if all our Members would remember to shut off their irrigation systems when they evacuate the islands, or tell their landscapers to do so if they can't do it themselves for some reason. Not only is irrigation during a hurricane an obvious waste of water, but it puts an unnecessary additional load on our water system at a very difficult time. That water may be needed for more important purposes ... like firefighting. Thanks!

WAY TO GO FEMA!



On the 365th day after we submitted our request for FEMA reimbursement for a portion of our hurricane Frances expenses last year, they finally cut us a check for a little over \$12,000. In total, we received reimbursement for just over \$280,000 for both hurricanes Charley and Frances. While we are very thankful for FEMA's help, as anyone who reads the newspapers or listens to the news reports might well suspect, it took a lot of difficult and exasperating work to obtain those reimbursements. It is a task that no one at IWA ever wants to repeat, for a variety of obvious reasons. One could debate which was worse ... the storms themselves, or ob-

taining reimbursement for a portion of our expenses. Fortunately, our damages from hurricane Wilma this year were so minor that we would spend far more on dealing with FEMA than we could ever hope to get in the form of any additional reimbursement. Whew, and double whew!!!!

WE'RE PROUD!



We are very proud to report that we recently won two safety awards from the FWPCOA (Florida Water & Pollution Control Operators' Association), one for our Production Department and one for our Distribution Department. We take safety very seriously at IWA, and winning safety awards is therefore very important to us. Our last lost time accident was in November 2000, and that was a poison ivy incident. The last real accident, by most normal definitions, was in December of 1998. We hope that is our last one forever!

In October, two of our RO Plant Operators, Brandon Henke and Steve Dover gave a presentation at the International Water Conference in Orlando. The subject of the presentation was the history and evolution of our treatment process at IWA. We were one of the first municipal water treatment plants to use reverse osmosis, which is now a very common process. We also employ a few novel twists on the process in our plant. Both Brandon and Steve hold "A" licenses from the State of Florida, which is the highest license available. It was good professional experience for Steve and Brandon, and their presentation was well received. Congratulations Steve and Brandon!

Also in October, four RO Plant Operators passed tests for various State licenses. Neil Erickson passed the test for his "A" License, the highest license available, and Neil also had the honor of having gotten the highest test score in the State as well. Both Jim Klein and Justin Richmond passed the test for their "B" Licenses. Taylor Musburger

passed the test for his "C" License. We actively encourage all our employees to become licensed at the highest possible level, and these four Operators have certainly responded to our encouragement!

WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE

IWA's water conservation program has been in high gear for two years now, so we thought it would be interesting to go back and see how effective our efforts have been. In late 2003, we put together a list of the 334 highest water users on the islands, all of whom used an average of over 30,000 gallons per month. The average IWA Member uses only 12,000 gallons per month. We offered to perform free water audits for everyone on the list to help them understand why their usage was so high and to help them find ways to use less water. We also offered to install a free rain sensor on their irrigation system, if the Member either didn't have one or if their existing one was inoperable. One hundred Members took us up on our offer for a free audit.

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of our conservation program, we have recently developed a new list of high users, based on the same 30,000 gallons per month criteria. We were encouraged to find that there are now only 290 Members on the list, 13% fewer than in 2003. Even more encouraging was the fact that over 70% of the 100 people who contacted us for a water audit based on the first list were not on the new list. They were no longer consuming over 30,000 gallons per month. That is very good news, and it confirms the wisdom of our decision to continue this program.

If you are concerned with your water usage (and high bills!), feel free to give our Engineering

Manager, Rich Calabrese, a call at (239)-472-2113 (extension 129). Rich will determine if you are eligible for a free water audit, but even if not, he can frequently help you cut your usage through a few simple suggestions.

It is very important that all our Members take the subject of water conservation seriously. Water is a finite and valuable resource on barrier islands like ours. There is only so much of it to go around without resorting to much more expensive treatment processes, which would result in much higher water rates. In addition, on our islands the primary cause of high usage is excessive landscape irrigation, most of which occurs between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m., with an absolute peak at around 5:00 a.m. The peak usage rate can be as much as 3 to 4 times the average rate, which leads to extreme demands on our pumping and piping systems. We would really appreciate it if our Members would minimize irrigation between the hours of 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. Please reset your irrigation timers to avoid these hours. If you need help resetting your timer, just give us a call, and we will assist you. Thanks!

Finally, just as a reminder, our islands continue to be under permanent watering restrictions imposed by the South Florida Water Management District. Basically, even-numbered addresses can water on Tuesday, and/or Thursday, and/or Sunday, while odd addresses are limited to watering on Monday, and/or Wednesday, and/or Saturday. Watering is prohibited between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on all days, and all day Friday. See http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/wsd/wateruse/wurule_pdfs/Landscape/rule_6-03/40e-24officialrule6-03.pdf for more details on the restrictions. Again, we will be happy to help you reset your timer for compliance. Just give us a call.

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