



IWA PIPELINE



©THE ISLAND WATER ASSOCIATION, INC. • Winter 2012 • VOLUME 35 ISSUE 4

3651 Sanibel-Captiva Road, Sanibel, FL 33957 • <http://www.islandwater.com>

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. • Phone: (239) 472-1502 — Fax: (239) 472-1505

IWA NEEDS YOU!!



Its election time at IWA again, and next year four seats on our Board of Directors will be up for election. Three seats are currently held by Board President William Carr, VP Gary Dutton, and Board Secretary James Griffith. The fourth seat was held by Tim Gardner, whose untimely passing leaves an open seat. Mr. Carr is completing his third and final term, Mr. Dutton and Mr. Griffith are running for re-election to their 2nd terms.

IWA is governed by a five member Board of Directors who serve without pay. Directors must be 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 must have no conflict of interest, including but not limited to, active involvement in an enterprise which could potentially do business with IWA or which could benefit from involvement with the Association.

Meetings are normally held on the fourth Tues-

day 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 by e-mail at beau@islandwater.com by **no later than January 4, 2013**. A background check will be run on all Board candidates in our post-911 world.

IN MEMORIAM - TIM GARDNER

The Island communities and IWA have lost an inexhaustible volunteer and an all around great guy. Island Water's longest-serving Director, Tim Gardner, passed away unexpectedly on November 25th.



Tim enjoying the moment in the IWA lunchroom

Tim was an active Director and part of IWA for over thirteen years. Tim knew every employee by name as well as their spouse's and probably the kid's names, too. Tim was a "walk around" hands on type of guy. Tim always knew the "pulse" of the organization and always had a firm grasp of what was going on. He was everyone's friend at IWA. He loved the water company and always

held the best interests of the company and the employees in all of his dealings and focus. A service was held for Tim on December 12th at the Village Church at Shell Point. Tim lived in the Sanibel Bayous with Carol, his wife of forty seven years. Our hearts go out to Carol and we will miss Tim's visits around the office, plant, and job sites.

THE DUNES PIPING REPLACEMENT

The project to replace aging thin wall pipe in the Dunes subdivision is now complete. The pipe, along with rusting steel saddles (which connect individual services to the main pipe) were replaced with heavy wall PVC (C900) and stainless steel saddles. All member water meters were replaced with radio read meters, all fire hydrants were replaced with new ones, and some were relocated to better serve the neighborhood. Good weather, very little groundwater, two crews, and very understanding homeowners allowed our contractor to move swiftly through both phases of the project. When Phase 1 (the northern 2/3 of the neighborhood) finished a few months ahead of schedule, we asked the Dunes HOA if they would approve of us moving forward with Phase 2, which was not scheduled until 2013. They gave us the go ahead, and we should be able to finish Phase 2 ahead of schedule, before the Christmas holidays.

IT'S BUDGET TIME AT IWA

The Island Water Association was incorporated 47 years ago, in 1965, and franchised by Lee County as a member-owned, not-for-profit 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 needs for the up-coming year. The Revenues, 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 \$7.0M, with O&M and Capital expenses estimated close to \$7.1M, as one would expect from a not-for-profit organization.

Included in the budgeting process is an estimate of 2013 Capital projects costs. Capital spending involves projects that maintain or upgrade IWA's infrastructure. Past examples of Capital spending include the recently completed upgrade of The



Newly cleaned and painted 5MG Storage Tanks

Dunes piping. Also during 2012 we completed the cleaning and painting of both 5MG storage tanks at our plant, started the upgrade of our 17 year old web site (which was built and hosted in-house), which you will read more about below, and installed about 1,300 more radio-read water meters. The new laptop system for reading the new meters has proven to be another tool that enhances the assistance we can provide to our members with water consumption issues. In some cases we can detect leaks before a member even realizes they have a leak.

Other Capital expenditures for 2012 included replacing two aging vehicles, and maintaining some of our aging ductile iron pipe in our distribution system.

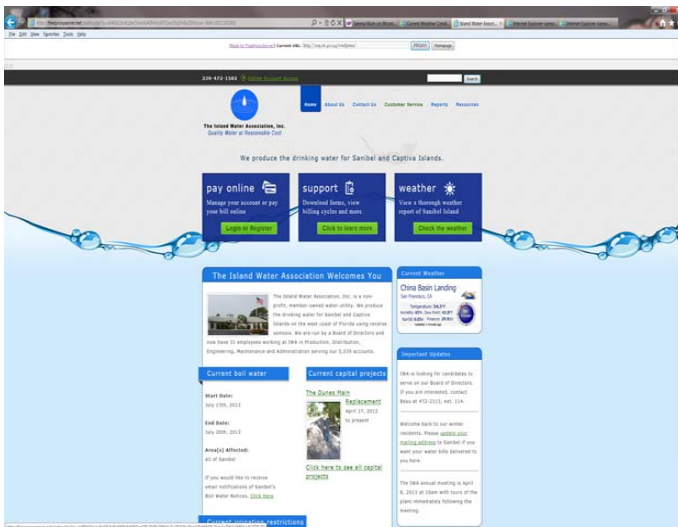
Capital projects for 2013 include replacement of our mid-frame IBM computer, our 17 year old phone system that we can no longer obtain parts for, and cleaning and painting of one of our booster station's 2MG storage tank. We also have our annual recurring Capital Accounts for the maintenance of our RO Plant and Distribution System.

In this day and age, budgeting has become even more challenging due to the increased volatility of

the cost of energy, chemicals, employee 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 cool glasses of vintage 2011 IWA tap water on the beach!

IWA WEBSITE

As IWA started putting more and more information on our website, especially our credit card payment section, we realized the need to bring the site into the 21st century with the goal of making it more attractive, user friendly, and informative. Initially, our thoughts were that we could rebuild the site ourselves with a couple of website building courses. While the courses were informative and will definitely help us maintain the site ourselves, we discovered that we should stick to what we do best, making potable water, and leave the website to the experts.



Screen shot of our new islandwater.com home page

The new site should be up and running by the end of the year, with much easier to navigate menus, very nice graphics, and the same useful information and forms we have always had.

GET WITH THE PROGRAM!!!

Tired of mailing us your payment every month? Join many of your fellow IWA Members and enroll in our direct debit program. We will automatically debit your bank account each month, after you have had a chance to review your bill. You will save a stamp, envelope and aggravation. IWA will save the cost of opening your payment and inputting it into our computer, thereby keeping our costs and your water rates as low as possible. Contact our Membership Coordinator, Kathy, at (239) 472-



1502 or kathy@islandwater.com to enroll or fill out an online application. She will be happy to discuss the program with you and to answer whatever questions you may have. To us, it seems like a real win-win proposition!

MEET DAVE MILLER

Dave Miller Is an Industrial Electrician who started working for IWA in March of 2012. He commutes from Bonita Springs, where he lives with his wife Susan. Dave wasted no time getting his feet wet at IWA, since there are numerous preventative maintenance tasks always waiting to be completed. He has 23 years of experience in the electrical field, much of it on large industrial projects in the area, such as the North Cape Coral Water Plant and Lee County Utilities. Dave will be responsible for the upkeep of many pump motors, well motors, instrumentation, Programmable Logic Controllers, as well as office lighting and circuits.

When Dave isn't working, he enjoys kayaking, photography, biking, and home brewing (hopefully beer and wine?).

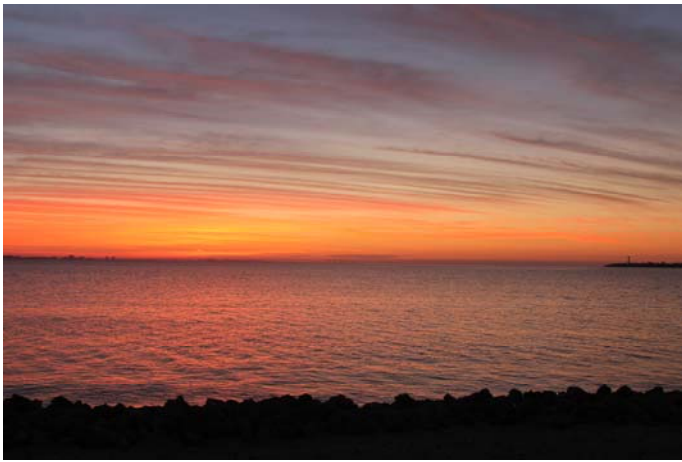
Asked what he enjoys most about working at IWA so far, he replied, "I'm always working on something different, and I get to work with a great group of co-workers."

Living by his Dad's words, "can't never could," Dave strives to keep a positive attitude and never stop learning.



Dave Miller

SUNRISE ON THE CAUSEWAY



Sanibel Causeway Sunrise, December 18th, 2012

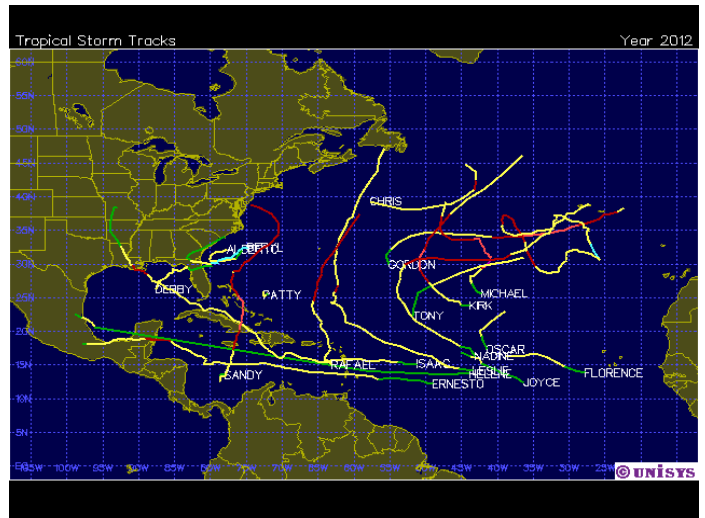
For General Manager Don DuBrasky, one of the biggest joys of working for IWA is driving across the causeway to and from work. After 40 years of working on the islands, he still enjoys the sights, sounds, and smells of the causeway every working day. This time of year the sun is beginning to rise just as Don arrives at the bridge during his morning commute to work. Don snapped the picture above on the morning of December 18th, from the beach at Causeway Islands Park, using a Canon Rebel T3 (18-55mm lens) on automatic. The stratus clouds reflecting the sun's light from below the horizon set the sky and water ablaze with orange and red.

By the way, kudos to Lee County for the wonderful job they did beautifying the causeway islands. Fantastic!

HURRICANE SEASON ENDS

The 2012 hurricane season was an extremely

busy one for the Atlantic and Caribbean, with nineteen named storms, including **ten** hurricanes. North Florida had to deal with Tropical Storms Beryl and Debby early in the season, with Debby's threat prompting us to put up our storm shutters for the first time in three years. Unfortunately, the Atlantic Seaboard north of Washington, D.C. was dealt a tremendous blow by Hurricane Sandy on October 29th. Damages are estimated to top \$50B. To add insult to injury, a nor'easter carrying rain and snow pounded the same area a week later. Thankfully, Southwest Florida was spared again.



This years hurricane season was another non-event for Southwest Florida.



PRRST STD
US POSTAGE PD
FORT MYERS FL
PERMIT NO. 5728

The Island Water Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 509
Sanibel, FL 33957