



# IWA PIPELINE



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## **Your 2014 Island Water Association Board Members**



**Paul Garvey**  
Vice President

**Gary Dutton, Jr.**  
VP/Secretary

**Jim Griffith**  
VP/Treasurer

**Ralph Sloan**  
Vice President

**Jack Cunningham**  
President

### **2014 ANNUAL MEETING**

On April 14, 2014, the 49th Annual Meeting of The Island Water Association, Inc. (IWA) was held at the Association's offices, located at 3651 Sanibel Captiva Road.

Board President John R. Cunningham presented his President's Report pertaining to the state of the company. Mr. Cunningham started by offering IWA's condolences to the family and friends of Stella Farwell, a former IWA Board member, who passed away recently. He then presented former General Manager Rusty Isler with a formal resolution dedicating the park area behind the RO Plant as "Rusty's Park."

Mr. Cunningham then commented on the major expenses facing IWA in the production of our drinking water; chemicals, fuel, and electricity. He praised Production Manager Pat Henry for negotiating lower prices for needed chemicals for 2014, and

noted that LCEC does not plan any rate increases for this year. Mr. Cunningham finished his report by noting IWA's greatest assets are its employees.

Vice President/Treasurer James M. Griffith then presented the Treasurer's report. He reported IWA remains financially sound, with 2013 revenues of \$7.0M and operating costs of \$5.2M. Capital expenditures for 2013 were \$1.2M, while debt service was \$631K. The 2014 Budget includes revenues of \$7.3M with expenses of \$7.7M.

Next, General Manager Don DuBrasky presented his report on accomplishments made in 2013 and projects planned for 2014. Mr. DuBrasky talked about the completion of the Automated Meter Reading project, declaring the project a success. He discussed how the data logging capability of these new meters has documented many leaks over the last few years, thereby lowering water losses and saving members money. He also dis-

cussed the completed brine outfall retrofit project, and the completed design and engineering phase of the new High Service Pumping Station Building (following article). Also completed in 2013 was the replacement of the reverse osmosis membranes (elements) in four of our six trains, a total of 480 4' long, 8" diameter elements.

Mr. DuBrasky then discussed three major projects for 2014 (which will be described in this newsletter); the New High Service Pumping Station building, the drilling of a new Suwannee Aquifer Well, and the "rehabilitation" of Hawthorn 14 production well.

Mr. DuBrasky then opened the floor to questions and invited everyone present to a tour of IWA's RO Plant facilities.



***IWA Members Touring the RO Plant***

During the meeting, the Board cast the 461 proxy votes, along with the 7 live votes, for Mr. John Cunningham and Mr. Ralph Sloan, who were selected by IWA's Nominating Committee. Mr. Cunningham was elected to his third and final two-year term and Mr. Sloan was elected to his first two-year term on the Board.

After the meeting, the Board met in Executive Session to elect Mr. John Cunningham President, Mr. Gary Dutton Secretary, Mr. Jim Griffith Treasurer, and Mr. Sloan and Mr. Garvey Vice Presidents. No changes were made from 2013.

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## **HIGH SERVICE PUMPING STATION**

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After completing engineering and design work for our upgraded High Service (Distribution) Pumping Station, permits were pulled and preliminary work for the addition to our RO building has begun. As reported in last summer's *IWA Pipeline*, the piping from the plant to the street has already been upgraded from 16-inch ductile iron pipe to 20-inch C900 PVC pipe. The handicap ramp into the building had to be removed and relocated to make way for the new addition. Bids to construct the new ad-



***Replaced RO Plant Handicap Ramp***

dition should be arriving by the time this newsletter goes to print.

When the new pumping station is completed during 2015, IWA will immediately have 50% more pumping capacity from the plant storage tanks, with room for an additional 2,500 GPM pump for future expansion. The new addition should be well under way by the time the Fall Newsletter goes to print.

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## **NEW SUWANNEE WELL**

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***Site Prep Work at New Suwannee Well Site (S9) H13 is Behind the Small Fence in the Background***

Part of IWA's plans to upgrade our facilities and stay ahead of future demands on our system is to drill another production well into the Suwannee Aquifer, which is part of the Floridan Aquifer system. The Suwannee Aquifer begins at about 700 feet below ground and supplies much more water than our Hawthorn wells, which are down in the 600 foot range. The Suwannee wells are under artesian pressure, meaning that when you open the well head, water immediately begins flowing from the well. We can expect flows of about 600 gallons per minute from this new well, whereas Hawthorn wells flow at about half that rate.

Our plan is to drill this new well at the site of a poorly producing Hawthorn well, H13, which sits at the site of our former ED Plant property on Sanibel Captiva Road. We will first have to plug the Hawthorn well with gravel and cement, then drill the new well in the same easement. Cardno Entrix, a water resource engineering firm, will monitor the well water quality as the well is drilled. Bids for the abandonment of H13 and drilling of the new well will be opened by the time this newsletter goes to print.

Drilling should be complete by the end of the summer, with the well in operation by early fall. Site preparation has already begun.

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## WELL H14 REHABILITATION

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Even a hole drilled in the ground to supply well water requires periodic maintenance to keep it producing the maximum amount of water possible. Over time the capacity of a well decreases due to sediment and minerals plugging up the pores that aquifer water flows through. Every few years, rehabilitation of our wells is necessary to keep them operating at maximum capacity, and to delay the expense of having to drill new wells (see above). IWA uses a patented method of mixing carbon dioxide with water, forming carbonic acid, and then injecting it into a well over a period of a few days. This mild acid mixture breaks down the minerals that are inhibiting the flow of water and restores the capacity of the well.

This process, called "acidification," works better on the deeper Suwannee wells than it does on the shallower Hawthorn wells. This past spring the process was used on well Hawthorn 14, with little improvement in flow. After some research, we found a contractor that has had success in the Hawthorn Aquifer using hydrochloric acid (2.7pH solution), rather than carbonic acid (4.2pH solution). In May we started the rehabilitation process using 300 gallons of hydrochloric acid slowly diluted in water and pumped down the well column. After the process was completed, flows increased from around 250 gallons per minute to around 350 per minute, a substantial increase.

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## WATER CONSERVATION

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Most of our northern visitors and winter residents have departed. Traffic is flowing, the weather is approaching the nineties, hurricane season has officially started, and the rainy season is upon us. With that said, many concerns about the numerous unoccupied properties come to mind here at Island Water. We are hoping that preparations

for the summer/rainy/hurricane season are in place. We would like to offer a few suggestions for our winter residences as well as our year round residents when it comes to summer water usage.

Did you know that Island Water offers one free yearly turn off and turn on of your water at the meter? If you are going to be gone all summer and have no reason to have the water left on, have us turn your water off at the meter. You will not have to worry about any accidental use of water or any

inside or outside leaks that may happen while you are gone. By far the most prevalent cause of accidental water usage we see is related to irrigation, with the second cause being a running toilet.

If you do not want your water turned off at the meter because there is a pool or irrigation system, all the toilets in the home can be turned off at the valve at the wall and the water for your washing machine can be turned off as well. Also, be sure to turn off **and** unplug your water heater, saving money on your monthly electric bill.

According to South Florida Water Management District, over half of the water used in Florida is for irrigation. If you have an irrigation system in place, take advantage of rainy season to help you save money on your water bills. Most lawns only need ¾" to 1" of water once per week. During rainy season, your lawn should receive all the water it needs from rain water. If you have a working rain sensor it should prevent your irrigation system from running. Some people simply choose to turn off their irrigation system during rainy season or reduce the

number of days that it is set to water. Additionally, keeping the blades of grass at 2 ½" to 3 ½" long will shade the soil and help keep in water.

Irrigation controllers usually have a battery in case there is a

power outage at your property. When there is a power outage at your property, almost guaranteed here in Southwest Florida, your irrigation timer will use the battery in your irrigation controller for pow-



er. If the battery is dead, some irrigation systems automatically reset to a default setting to water every day when the power returns. It will also default to 12:00AM or PM. It is a good idea to have a fresh battery installed in your irrigation controller every summer.

Lastly, please make sure that we have your current contact information in case there is a problem at your property over the summer and we need to contact you. If you would like more water saving tips, the South Florida Water Management District has a wealth of information. Their website address is [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov).

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## LANDLORDS BEWARE

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A number of the properties here on Sanibel and Captiva are rental properties. As a member owned association, only property **owners** are members of The Island Water Association. Tenants are never considered members of IWA.

What exactly does this mean to a landlord? Many lease agreements between the owner and the tenant state that the utilities, including water, are to be paid by the tenant and the tenant receives the water bills. We will gladly send the IWA bill to the tenant, but Island Water never has an agreement with a tenant, only with the property owner. So, if for any reason, the tenant does not pay the water bills, any unpaid charges will fall to the property owner who is the member of the Island Water Association.

How can the landlord protect him or herself? There are a number of options to protect the homeowner so he/she is not saddled with an unpaid water bill when there was a tenant in residence. The owner can receive a duplicate bill so he/she can monitor the usage at the property and see if payments are being made on a timely basis. Some

owners keep the water bills in their name and build the cost of water into the rent or have the tenant reimburse them for the water usage.

We do try to collect the final charges from the tenant, but ultimately if the tenant does not pay the final bill, we will hold the property owner, the IWA member, responsible for payment of any water that went through the meter while there was a tenant in residence. Some landlords have the tenant's final water bill sent to them and that amount is deducted from any security deposit refund. Some landlords will not refund any security deposit until payment of the final water bill is made. A simple phone call to Island Water can verify payment of a tenant's final water bill.

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## CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

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The 2013 edition of IWA's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, also known as a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), is **not** included as an insert with this newsletter. In accordance with new rules from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, we are not required to mail the CCR as long as we: (1) post a direct link to the CCR on our website, (2) provide a direct link in this Newsletter, and (3) make a hard copy available in our lobby. We will be happy to mail a copy of our CCR to anyone who requests it by calling (239) 472-1502. IWA's CCR can be found on our website at [www.islandwater.com/wp-content/waterReports/CCR2013.pdf](http://www.islandwater.com/wp-content/waterReports/CCR2013.pdf). This EPA required annual report covers our water quality for 2013. IWA's water meets and exceeds all water quality standards, as has always been the case in the past. Please read over this information, and if you have any further water quality-related questions, just give our Production Manager, Pat Henry, a call at (239) 472-2113 ext. 122.



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