

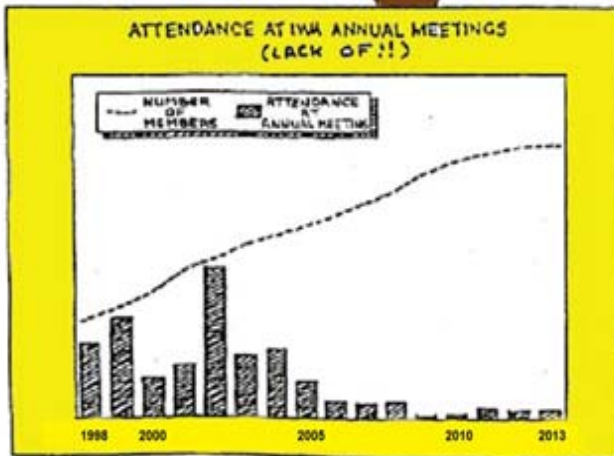


# IWA PIPELINE



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## Y'ALL COME, Y'HEAR!



IWA's Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, **April 13, 2015** at 10:00 a.m. in our offices at 3651 Sanibel Captiva Road. This year, the only items on the agenda to be voted on by members are the election of three Board members whose two-year terms are up this year. All three Board members are eligible for re-election. Those wishing to participate in person and/or cast ballots at the meeting must register at the teller's table between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at the meeting location. In the event you will not be in attendance, please sign and print your name as it appears on your bill on the **enclosed proxy card**. Mail your proxy to the Head Teller. It must be received by Friday, April 10, 2015. Further materials relating to this meeting are enclosed with this Newsletter. **PLEASE** vote your proxy and return it to us as soon as possible.

The Nominating Committee met on January 29, 2015 to select candidates for the three open seats on the Board of Directors this year. Mr. James Griffith, current Board member, was nominated for

his third two-year term. Mr. Gary Dutton, current Board member, was nominated for his third two-year term. Mr. Paul Garvey, current Board member, was nominated for his second two-year term. Brief résumés for the nominees are enclosed on a separate sheet.

We will have the customary coffee and doughnuts available before the meeting begins. And, as always at our Annual Meeting, we'll be happy to give everyone a tour of our facilities after the meeting is over. We encourage all attending members to take advantage of this opportunity to see where and how our drinking water is processed here on the Islands and to meet some of our dedicated employees.

So mark your calendars for April 13<sup>th</sup> and plan to attend. We'd like to see **YOU** at our Annual Meeting this year! It will be a great opportunity to learn about your water company and the issues and challenges we face in providing safe and reliable drinking water to Sanibel and Captiva Islands. All of our members own a part of IWA, and this is your chance to participate in its operation and to ask whatever questions you may have.

## 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

This year marks 50 years of The Island Water Association providing fresh drinking water to its members. IWA was incorporated on January 19, 1965, as a not-for-profit association (501(c)4) whose purpose was "To construct, maintain, and operate a water system for the supplying of water for domestic, commercial, agricultural, industrial, and other purposes to its members..." Its founders and first Board of Directors were John Kontinos, E. G. Konrad, C. Smith Kauffman, Francis Bailey, and Paul Stahlin.

IWA's first franchise agreement was granted by Lee County in July of 1965. Our first water supply came from the Pine Island Water Treatment Plant via an 8" subaqueous pipe laid across the



*IWA Reverse Osmosis Plant*

bay from St. James City to the end of Dixie Beach Rd. The pipe and all valving are still in place, but leaks in the pipe prevent its use. Our last gallon of usable water from Pine Island was obtained in 1983.

By 1972, IWA realized it needed its own supply of water, as the 8" line from Pine Island was becoming insufficient to meet demand, and the price of the bulk water was becoming prohibitive. An ElectroDialysis plant was completed in 1973, drawing well water from the Hawthorn aquifer. It was able to produce around 1MGD of water, which served the population throughout the 1970's. In the late '70's, it was obvious the ED plant would not keep up with current population growth, so a reverse osmosis plant was commissioned on the present day site of IWA. It opened in 1980, originally producing about 1MGD, adding to the ED plant production. When the RO Plant was up to full production by 1992, the ED plant was shut down forever. The RO Plant is now capable of producing around 5.9MGD, although current demand is around 3.3MGD. It draws its feed water from 14 active production wells.

Come to the Annual Meeting on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, find out what's going on at your water treatment plant, and take a tour of the facilities. You'll be impressed with our spic and span facility, and we'll be glad to explain the latest technologies we employ to streamline the process and save you money!

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## 2015 BUDGET

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IWA's Operating Budget for 2015 has been presented to our Board of Directors and approved at the January 29th Board meeting. 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. The budgeting pro-

cess begins in October with Department Managers analyzing their department's needs for the coming year. The Production Manager must estimate how much water will need to be produced for the year, based upon rainfall, the economy, and predicted tourist season, while the Distribution Manager must estimate how many repairs might have to be made and how many water meters and valves might have to be replaced based upon the age of various sections of our system. Our 50 year history certainly helps with these budget estimates.

2015 Revenues are budgeted at \$7.16M, with Operations, Maintenance, and Capital expenses budgeted at \$9.10M. Capital expense should consume about \$3.03M of the total expenditures, resulting in a \$1.94M Budget shortfall, which will be funded by \$2M in financing obtained in 2014. The financing is intended to fund the High Service (distribution system) Pumping Station addition to the RO Plant (50% complete) and the drilling of a new Suwannee Aquifer Production Well (25% complete). Both projects were budgeted in



2014, and have rolled over (\$1.7M) into 2015. In this day and age, budgeting has become even more challenging due to the increased volatility of the cost of energy, chemicals, health insurance, and the overall state of the economy.

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## HIGH SERVICE BUILDING

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Phase one of the High Service Pumping Station Upgrade, the building that will house the up-graded pumps and motors that feed treated water from our storage tanks to our members, is now



*Northern View of Distribution Pump Station Addition*

complete. Our thanks go out to Benchmark General Contractors for a job well done. The project came in on budget and on time.



***Southern View of Distribution Pump Station Addition***

Phase two involves installing the pumps, motors, and piping that will connect the existing piping from our storage tanks to our distribution system. When completed this year, we will have three 150 HP motors turning three 2,500 GPM centrifugal pumps, with a pad and piping for a fourth pump and motor, covering future demand. We will also have a diesel powered 2,500 GPM pump that will start immediately upon an electrical power outage. The new pumping station will increase our pumping capacity from the RO Plant by 2/3. With a fourth pump and motor installed our pumping capacity would more than double. Currently, during dry season when irrigation use is at its peak, we see flows of over 9,000 GPM, which takes all three 1,500 GPM pumps at the RO Plant, and all three booster station pumps to handle the demand.

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## **NEW SUWANNEE WELL (S9)**

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More than six months later than expected, drilling finally began on IWA's newest production well, Suwannee 9, in early January 2015. A long



***Setting the 18" Intermediate Steel Casing***

list of permits needing approval, and mobilization issues on the part of our drilling contractor, caused the delay. This new well will replace a low capacity Hawthorn aquifer well (H13) on the same site, effectively doubling its capacity to around 600 GPM. Completion of this project can be expected by this summer.

The first part of this project involved the plugging and abandonment of the existing well, H13. The easement for this well, which is located on the site of IWA's original electro dialysis (ED) plant, is large enough to drill a deeper Suwannee aquifer (S9) well near the abandoned Hawthorn aquifer well (H13). The property is now owned by the Department of the Interior. The plugging process involved filling the borehole of H13 with gravel until the artesian flow was overcome, then filling the rest of the casing with a Portland cement plug. The casing was then removed below ground level.

Next, a 30" hole was drilled to a depth of 50', and a 26" steel outer casing was set in the hole and grouted in. Then, a 24" hole was drilled inside this casing to a depth of 350', and an 18" intermediate steel casing was set in this hole and grouted in. This is where the project stands as this newsletter goes to print.



***18" Intermediate Casing Grouted Inside the 26" Outer Casing***

Finally, an 18" hole will be drilled inside the intermediate casing to a depth where they find the best quality and quantity of water, somewhere around 700'. The water returning up the drilling rod as they drill will be continuously monitored for quality (lowest Total Dissolved Solids). When they reach the proper depth, a 660' long, 12" PVC inner casing will be set inside the intermediate and outer casings and grouted in. The submersible pump and motor will be placed into the inner casing to a depth of 160'. This new well will give IWA the extra feed water capacity it will need to meet future demands.

## WATER METER ACCESS

When a new home is built on Sanibel or Captiva, or a water meter is upgraded due to a home remodel, the Island Water member must sign a Water Users Agreement. Item C.6 of the agreement states, "The Member shall keep an area clear and accessible for 2 feet on all sides of the water meter and backflow prevention device." Before we changed all of our meters to radio read meters,



**Scott hard at work!**

Scott, our meter reader, had to hand read every meter, and often had to trim overgrown vegetation to access the meter. With the new remote read meters, inaccessible meter boxes and backflow devices have now become a problem for our Distribution Technicians when there is an issue that demands access to the meter or backflow device, such as high usage or a leak. Also, as a courtesy to our members, our technicians test the backflow devices on a semi-annual basis. We are the first to admit that we are not landscape experts, so we would prefer the homeowner maintain the 2' radius surrounding the meter and backflow device. In ad-

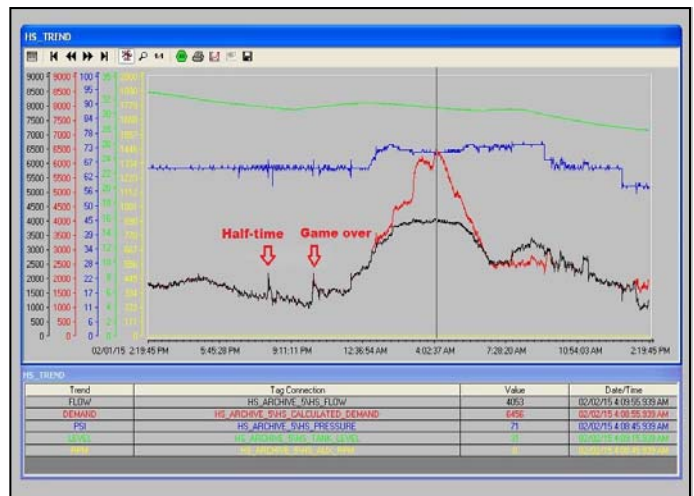
dition, please make sure we have a clear path 3' wide and 7' tall to the meter and backflow device.

Thanks!

## ANOTHER SUPER SUPER BOWL!

IWA maintains a SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system that allows us to monitor and control water pressure and flows throughout both islands. We can access trends that collect and display this data every few seconds. The red trend line rising above the black trend line indicates that booster stations are running in order to maintain pressure and flow during peak irrigation hours. When the red trend dips below the black trend, the booster storage tanks are being refilled.

The screenshot below shows the pressures and flows on Super Bowl Sunday. A very exciting game was evident by the spike in demand (black trend line) at half-time and at the end of the game. Island fans are pretty good at "holding it!"



**Super Bowl bathroom breaks**

