



# IWA PIPELINE



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## IWA NEEDS YOU!



It's election time at IWA again, and next year three seats on our Board of Directors will be up for election. The three seats are currently held by Board Secretary James Griffith, Board President Gary Dutton and Board Vice President Paul Garvey. Mr. Griffith and Mr. Dutton are serving out their third and final two-year terms on the Board and are not eligible for re-election. Mr. Garvey is eligible for re-election to his third two-year term.

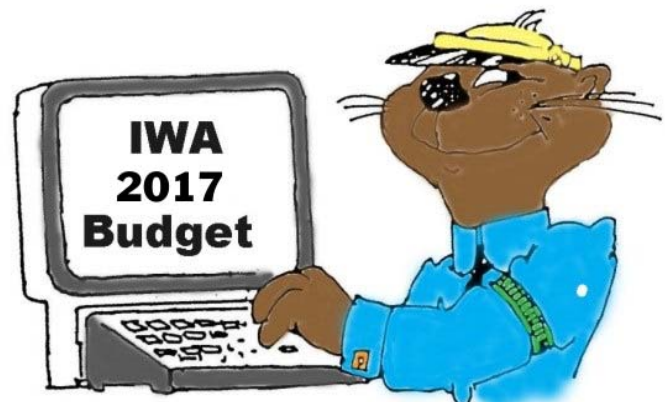
IWA is governed by a five member Board of Directors who all serve without pay. Directors must be residents of Sanibel or Captiva so that they can attend all Board meetings, and must be IWA members or an official representative of a condominium or other IWA Corporate Member. Directors must have no conflict 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 Tuesday of every month. Directors are elected by the Membership at IWA's Annual Meeting which is held on the second Monday of every 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](mailto:beau@islandwater.com) **no later than January 6th, 2017.** A background check will be run on all Board candidates in our post-911 world.

## BUDGET TIME AT IWA

The Island Water Association was incorporated 52 years ago next January 19<sup>th</sup> and is franchised by the City of Sanibel and 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 upcoming 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 for a water utility business on a resort island due to variables beyond our control, such as rainfall and seasonal visitors. Revenues should remain fairly



steady at about \$7.3M, with O&M and Capital expenses estimated at about \$6.8M.

Included in the budgeting process is estimating the cost of 2017 Capital projects. Capital spending involves projects that maintain or upgrade IWA's facilities and infrastructure. Capital spending for 2017 will be close to normal, at about \$916K, with most of the spending attributed to the Limpet Drive, Golden Olive Court, and Paper Fig Court Main Replacement project, the RO Plant Ceiling Lighting, and the purchase of a spare High Pressure Pump and Motor for the RO Trains. We will also study making further improvements to our brine disposal system. Another significant expense this year is the renewal of several State and Local Operating Permits

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.

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### MAIL IT IN, BRING IT IN, PAY ON-LINE, AND NOW e-BILLING

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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 and envelope. IWA will save the time of opening your payment and inputting it into our system, thereby keeping our costs and your water rates as low as possible. Contact our Membership Coordinator, Kathy, at (239) 472-1502, or email [kathy@islandwater.com](mailto:kathy@islandwater.com) to enroll, or fill out an online application. She will be happy to discuss the program with you and answer whatever questions you may have. To us, it seems like a real win-win proposition!

Also, we have received numerous requests over the past couple years to offer e-billing and, after a year in the making, we are finally ready to offer IWA members paperless billing.

Your emailed water bill will look very similar to your paper bill. It will show the customer name, address, account number, the bill date, the meter reading date, the due date, the water usage in thousands of gallons, and the amount due. At the



bottom of the email will be a hyperlink to our website. You can view previous bills and you can make a credit card payment if you wish on our website.

Call our office at 239-472-1502, or click on the link under "Important Updates" on our website home page to send us an email, and we will get you signed up to receive your bills via e-mail. You have the option of receiving only an emailed bill or you may still get a paper bill as well as an e-bill. In the near future IWA members will be able to sign up for e-billing on our website, but you can always call our office and we will happily sign you up over the phone.

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### HIGH SERVICE PUMPING STATION

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Restoration work is nearing completion on the new High Service Distribution Pumping Station. Curbing has been installed and the asphalt parking has been restored. The old ductile iron suction and discharge piping that runs from the restored area under the building to the decommissioned pumping station inside the RO Plant must be filled with grout to prevent the ground from collapsing as the pipe eventually rusts away. Vegetation, gravel, and mulch will complete the restoration of the area behind the curbing. This new Pumping Station will serve IWA's members through build out of the islands, and took about four years and \$1.7M to complete. This project was completed from IWA reserve funds and financing. There were no as-



*New High Service Building Curbing and Asphalt*

sessments or rate increases imposed upon members for this critical project.

This project began in 2013 after testing of the original ductile iron piping to the high service pumps revealed significant rusting and corrosion, decreasing the wall thickness of the pipe. Also, during peak irrigation periods, all three 100HP electric pumps would run at full capacity, effectively leaving us without a spare pump for a few hours.

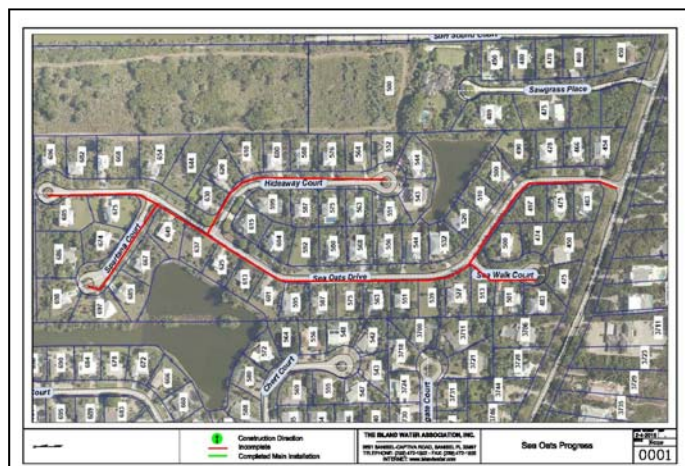
After evaluation of several options to upgrade our high service pumps, we decided to add a building on to our RO Plant and install three 150HP pumps with a pad for a fourth pump, if ever needed. We also installed a 150HP diesel driven back-up pump which will run during power outages. A new 20" PVC pipe was installed from the new building to the distribution piping alongside Sanibel Captiva Road. The new 20" pipe will be used in parallel with the original 16" ductile iron pipe, which is in surprisingly good shape after 35 years.



**New Diesel Back-Up Pump**

## SEA OATS MAINS REPLACEMENT

Work is now complete in the Sea Oats subdivision. 3,700 feet of aging and undersized PVC piping has been replaced with 4-inch to 8-inch C900 and HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) pipe.



**New PVC Main Piping in the Sea Oats Subdivision**

One extra fire hydrant was added for improved fire protection for the community. As absentee owners arrive from the north, there will be minor restorations to be completed. This project was completed about 15% under budget.

## IWA POLICY ISSUES

Prior to 2003, IWA had allowed property owners and developers to determine what size water meter they wanted for their home or business. As is human nature, most people would pick the cheapest option, a 5/8-inch water meter. This often times led to meters wearing out prematurely due to much more water flowing through them than what they were designed to accommodate. It also led to lower connection fees which can quickly lead to rate increases for all members.

In 2003, with water demand ever increasing, it was decided that a new policy was needed to treat all IWA members fairly and have them pay their fair share of their demand on their water system. This policy also requires that all new members and existing members that apply for a remodeling permit including additional plumbing fixtures have their water meter sized by IWA according to the Florida Plumbing Building Code. This generally entails assigning a number of units to each plumbing fixture, depending on the type of fixture, then adding up the number of units. Along with the charge for the new meter, a connection fee is also charged, depending upon meter size required. In the case of a remodel, if a larger meter than the original is not required, there are no additional charges. If the meter must be increased to accommodate the new plumbing fixtures, the member is charged for the new meter and appropriate connection fee, minus a credit for the existing meter and original connection charge. The connection fees are designed to treat each member fairly according to the demand their water service puts on their water system. One Original Connection Unit (OCU) costs \$1,881 and allows a member to consume 18,000 gallons of water per month. The table below shows how many OCU's are assigned to each size of water meter:

<b>METER SIZE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF OCU's</b>
5/8 inch	1
1 inch	3
1 ½ inch	6
2 inch	10
3 inch	23
4 inch	41
6 inch	92
8 inch	164
10 inch	256
12 inch	369

A member with a 5/8-inch meter is allowed 18,000 gallons of water usage per month. A member with a 1-inch meter is allowed 54,000 gallons of usage per month (18K x 3), and so on. Any member who consistently uses more than their allotment per month may be charged additional connection units. These fees are held in reserve for future expansions and upgrades of your water system, and help to keep rates stable. IWA has had one rate increase since 1992.

The success of this policy depends upon our good working relationship with the City of Sanibel and Lee County, who issue development and building permits. Our policy requires them to notify members who pull building permits to contact IWA for a Letter of Water Availability, and to furnish IWA with a set of engineered construction drawings so that we may determine the proper size water meter for your building. We realize the last thing a member wants to hear is that they have to pay an additional fee for water on top of the expensive prospect of building or remodeling a home on Sanibel or Captiva, but it is the price one must pay to be a member of one of the finest and most up-to-date Reverse Osmosis facilities in the country, along with a staff that is here to serve you day and night, all year long. Members can view our Service Rules and Regulations, Water Users Agreement, Letter of Water Availability, and other policy documents by stopping by our office from 8:00AM to 4:30PM Monday through Friday.

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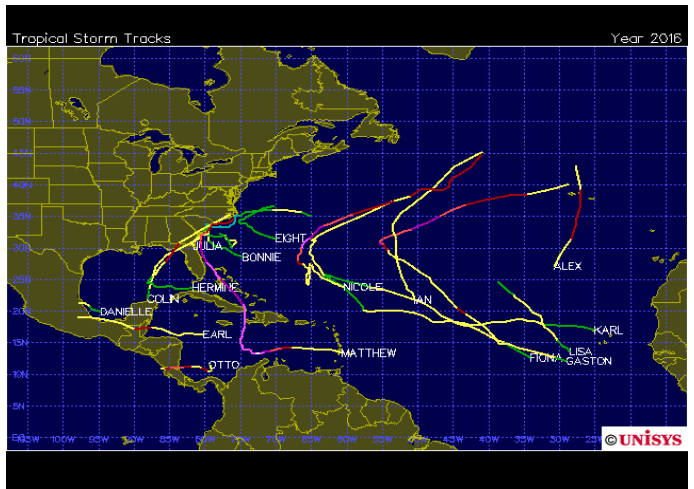
### HURRICANE SEASON ENDS

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The 2016 hurricane was a fairly active one for the Atlantic and Caribbean, with sixteen named storms, seven of them becoming hurricanes. Hurricane Matthew, forming in late September, eroded a lot of beach and caused flooding along the upper

east coast of Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas. Hurricane Hermine struck the Panhandle area in late August, causing widespread flooding.

Believe it or not, once more, the National Weather Service reports it has been over eleven years since a major hurricane has made landfall on the continental United States. Hermine was a Category 1 hurricane, and although Mathew was a Category 3 storm as it approached the Florida coast, technically it never made landfall, as the eye stayed just off the coast.



*This year's hurricane season was busier than in the past few years, but SW Florida dodged another bullet.*



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