



IWA PIPELINE



© **THE ISLAND WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.** • **Summer 2017** • **VOLUME 40 ISSUE 2**
 3651 Sanibel Captiva Road, Sanibel, FL 33957 • <http://www.islandwater.com>
 Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. • Phone: (239) 472-1502 • Fax: (239) 472-1505

Your 2017 Island Water Association Board of Directors



Ken Kouril
Vice President

Bruce Neill
VP/Treasurer

Dennis Berry
Vice President

Paul Garvey
VP/Secretary

Ralph Sloan
President

2017 ANNUAL MEETING

On April 10, 2017, the 52nd Annual Meeting of The Island Water Association, Inc. (IWA) was held at the Association's offices, located at 3651 Sanibel Captiva Road.

Board President Gary Dutton introduced the Board of Directors, then presented his President's report pertaining to the state of the company.

Mr. Dutton commented on the major expenses facing IWA in the production of our drinking water: chemicals, fuel, and electricity. He noted that although fuel prices have remained stable through 2016, chemical costs used in the production of our water rose in 2016, but will remain stable for 2017. Again for 2017, LCEC is lowering its Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) charge, resulting in an overall decrease in our cost of electricity for 2017. Mr. Dut-

ton finished his report by noting IWA's greatest assets are its employees.

Vice President/Treasurer Ralph Sloan then presented the Treasurer's report. He reported IWA remains financially sound, with 2016 revenues of \$7.2M and operating costs of \$5.2M. Capital expenditures for 2016 were \$800K, while debt service was \$447K. The 2017 budget includes revenues of \$7.3M, against expenses of \$7.3M, including capital expenses and debt service.

Next, General Manager Don DuBrasky presented his report on accomplishments made in 2016 and projects planned for 2017.

Mr. DuBrasky first mentioned that IWA welcomed 31 new members in 2016. There were 21 new members accepted in 2015. Through April of 2017, 5 new members have joined, putting us on pace for at least 15 new members this year.

He stated that 2016 water production (1.28B gals.), billed water (1.20B gals.), and water sales (\$6.81M) were all up 1% from 2015, as would be expected. The 6% difference between produced water and billed water is considered water loss due to firefighting, hydrant flushing, dead-end flushing, and leaks. This is a low number for the industry, indicating very few leaks in our system.

Mr. DuBrasky then discussed four major projects completed in 2016: the New High Service Pump Station Building exterior, the Old High Service Demolition, replacement of membranes in E & F RO trains, and replacement of aging mains in the Sea Oats subdivision.

He also talked about major capital projects planned for 2017, including continuation of the demolition of the Old High Service Pump Station, replacement of the RO Plant lighting with LED fixtures, purchase of a new pump and motor for E & F trains, and the replacement of aging thin-walled pipe on Golden Olive Court, Paper Fig Court, and Limpet Drive.

Mr. DuBrasky then opened the floor to questions and invited everyone present to tour IWA's RO Plant facilities. One member questioned the extent of the corrosiveness of IWA's finished water and if an article could be written about it in our



IWA Members Touring the RO Plant

quarterly newsletter. An article on this subject can be found in this newsletter

During the meeting, the Board cast the 443 proxy votes and 3 member votes received for Mr. Ken Kouril, Mr. Dennis Berry, and Mr. Paul Garvey, who were selected by IWA's Nominating Committee. Mr. Kouril and Mr. Berry were elected to their first two-year terms, and Mr. Garvey was elected to his third two-year term on the Board.

After the meeting, the Board met in Executive Session to elect Mr. Ralph Sloan President, Mr.

Paul Garvey VP/Secretary, Mr. Bruce Neill VP/Treasurer, and Mr. Ken Kouril and Mr. Dennis Berry Vice Presidents.

10 TIPS FOR HOME GARDENERS

If it seems like IWA runs a lot of articles on water conservation in this newsletter, you are correct. Conservation of our finite water supply is an important and critical issue at IWA. During the very dry season here in Southwest Florida, the following are some very timely water conservation and planting tips from the South Florida Water Management District:

1. Water infrequently, deeply, and thoroughly.

Most lawns need about 3/4" to 1" of water once per week, or once every two weeks when the weather is cool. Water can come from rain or irrigation. Infrequent, but deep, watering encourages deep rooting, as well as healthier and hardier plants with a greater tolerance for drought.

2. Water at the right time of day.

Water early in the day, especially in warmer weather, when evaporation rates are the lowest.

3. Watch your lawn, instead of a schedule or calendar.

Your lawn needs watering when grass blades are folded in half, grass blades are blue-gray, and/or your footprint remains on the lawn.

In our region, in the interest of water conservation, year-round landscape irrigation rules, mandated by the South Florida Water Management District, limit landscape watering to certain days and hours. This information is available at <https://www.sfwmd.gov/community-residents/water-conservation>.

Some local communities have additional water restrictions. You should adapt your watering schedule to comply with these limits on landscape irrigation.

4. Too much water can hurt plants

Over-watering creates shallow roots, making plants more vulnerable to disease and pests, as well as to drought.

5. Drip or micro-irrigation systems save water.

These systems deliver water to the roots of plants, so much less water is lost to the atmosphere.

6. Mulching

Adding mulch helps to keep water in the soil around plants. A depth of at least 2" is suggested around shrubs, trees, annuals, and vegetable and flower gardens. Shredded bark mulches, like pine bark and cypress, are relatively inexpensive and readily available. Some can be bought in bulk.



Bark Mulch

7. Install a rain sensor

This device recognizes when nature brings the rain your lawn needs and shuts off your automatic irrigation system.

8. Adjust the height of your lawn mower blades

Most lawns are healthiest when grass blades are 2-½" to 3-½" long. Longer blades shade the soil and keep it moist.

9. Keep your lawn mower blades sharp

Clean, sharp lawn mower blades cause less trauma to grass blades, keeping the grass more resistant to diseases, and your lawn looking *sharp* 😊.

10. Remove weeds; add native plants

Weeds or other unwanted plants consume water. Removing them means more water for the plants you want. Native plants are adapted to our

rainy and dry seasons and offer habitat to area wildlife.



Native Hibiscus

GOLDEN OLIVE, PAPER FIG, LIMPET

As of the printing of this newsletter, work should be underway replacing the main water lines on The last half of Limpet Dr., Paper Fig Cir., and Golden Olive Cir. This project was described in our Spring newsletter. Periodic project updates can be found on our website, www.islandwater.com.

STORM SEASON (PREPARATION)

By the time this newsletter is issued, it will be hurricane season 2017. We have completed our annual update to our Emergency Response Plan which includes our hurricane plan. Our emergency supplies and food pantry have been restocked and we have replenished our emergency reserves, as we do every year. IWA is as ready as we can be; however, we certainly hope that all of our preparations prove unnecessary this year.

NOAA has predicted above normal activity this hurricane season, which runs from June 1 through November 30. They predict "11 to 17 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 5 to 9 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 2 to 4 major storms (winds of 111 mph or higher)."

We like to encourage our members to **turn off their house valves** when they leave the Islands for storms or extended periods of time. Water breaks and leaks *outside* can be water wasteful and expensive.



Water leaks *inside* an unoccupied home can be disastrous. Failed dishwasher, washing machine, and ice maker hoses can all lead to a lot of damage inside an unoccupied home.

There is one good side to storm season—more RAIN—and hence lower water consumption and increased water conservation!



PLUMBING CORROSION

A good question was brought up by one of our members at our Annual Meeting on April 10. He wanted to know about the corrosive properties of our RO water, if any, and could we include an article on the subject in our newsletter. Ask, and you shall receive!

Water treated with Reverse Osmosis is as close to distilled water as you can get. Most heavy metals, minerals, and salts have been removed. This makes the water corrosive to metals that it comes in contact with, such as iron piping, brass fittings and fixtures, and copper pipes in older homes. To combat this, the state of Florida requires that we add a corrosion inhibitor to our finished water; zinc orthophosphate. We also blend in a small amount of raw water to add some minerals for improved taste. The addition of a corrosion inhibitor to our water coats the inside of pipes, protecting them from the water, vastly reducing any corrosion and lessening the chances of lead from brass fixtures and copper plumbing solder from contaminating your water.

IWA also has an ongoing lead and copper testing

program, and we have test points throughout our distribution system where we introduce a copper coupon into the water stream and test for corrosion annually. Our water is consistently below state limits for contaminants.

In addition to the distribution system testing, IWA has a lab where our water is tested daily for multiple contaminants, along with pH levels and disinfectant levels. Our 3 booster stations are also monitored for pH and disinfectant.

On our website and in this newsletter (below) is a link to our annual Consumer Confidence Report for 2016 which lists the minute amounts of all the contaminants in our water we test for, and the state maximum levels for these contaminants.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The 2016 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/CCR2016.pdf. This EPA required annual report covers our water quality for 2016. 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.



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

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