



IWA Pipeline

The Island Water Association's Quarterly Newsletter



Finished Water Storage Tanks

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2019 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

and more!

2020 Annual Meeting

On April 10, 2020, the 55th Annual Meeting of The Island Water Association, Inc. (IWA) was held via teleconference, as a precautionary measure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Board President, Jeff Springer, presided over the meeting, where he was elected to his first full two-year term and J. Bruce Neill, Ph.D. was elected to his third two-year term. Directors Dennis Berry, Michael Boris and Ken Kouril were not up for election. The Revised and Restated Bylaws of The Island Water Association, Inc. were approved with no other business or presentations conducted at the meeting. Current budget and audit documents are available on IWA's website at www.islandwater.com under the Reports tab.

At the conclusion of the annual meeting, the Board of Directors met and elected officers for the upcoming year. Jeff Springer was elected President, Dennis Berry as Vice President/Secretary, Mike Boris as Vice President/Treasurer and Ken Kouril and Dr. Bruce Neill as Vice Presidents.

COVID-19 & Drinking Water

The availability of safe, high quality water is among the most critical aspects of public health and wellness. The Island Water Association Members can be assured that the necessary actions have been implemented to ensure that a safe, reliable and abundant water supply remains available to our Membership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic event. IWA management and the Board of Directors are staying up to date on the latest information and recommendations from health and environmental professionals and will continue to adapt our operations as the situation evolves.

Is my tap water safe to drink?

You can have confidence that the water you receive from IWA is safe and wholesome for consumption and use. IWA employs a Reverse Osmosis (RO) filtration and disinfection process which meets the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) drinking water regulations to kill or remove pathogens, including viruses.

Additionally, The Center for Disease Control (CDC) states on their website, "The COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking water. Conventional water treatment methods that use filtration and disinfection, such as those in most municipal drinking water systems, should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19." The World Health Organization (WHO) has stated that the, "presence of the COVID-19 virus has not been detected in drinking-water supplies and based on current evidence the risk to water supplies is low."

Is tap water safe to use for hand washing and sanitation?

EPA recommends that Americans continue to use and drink tap water as usual. According to the CDC, washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Do I need to buy bottled water or store drinking water?

EPA recommends that citizens continue to use and drink tap water as usual. There are no indications that COVID-19 is in the drinking water supply or will affect the reliable supply of water.

Where can I get additional information regarding COVID-19 and my drinking water?

Additional information about COVID-19 can be found at the following websites:

US EPA:

<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-drinking-water-and-wastewater>

CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>

FL Department of Health:

<https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/>

IWA Master Plan Update

In January of this year, IWA engaged a national engineering firm, Black & Veatch, to develop a Comprehensive Water System Master Plan. The Master Plan will establish near and long-range system needs and serve as a guide for future planning and construction activities. Priorities of the plan include the evaluation of existing water sources, treatment, storage and pumping system components to meet current and future water demands, potential system controls' technology upgrades, and current and alternative water treatment methodologies.

The Master Plan has encountered delays due to access restrictions to IWA's facilities to protect employees amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Completion of the plan is anticipated in early 2021 and will include 5-year and 20-year timeframes with recommended capital improvements and cost estimates. We look forward to sharing the information and recommendations from the completed Master Plan with Members in the future.

Hurricane Water Tips

By the time this newsletter is issued, it will be hurricane season 2020. Recent forecasts predict that the 2020 Atlantic hurricane season will have above-average activity. While we are hopeful that these predictions are incorrect, IWA has prepared for any weather conditions Mother Nature may send our way.



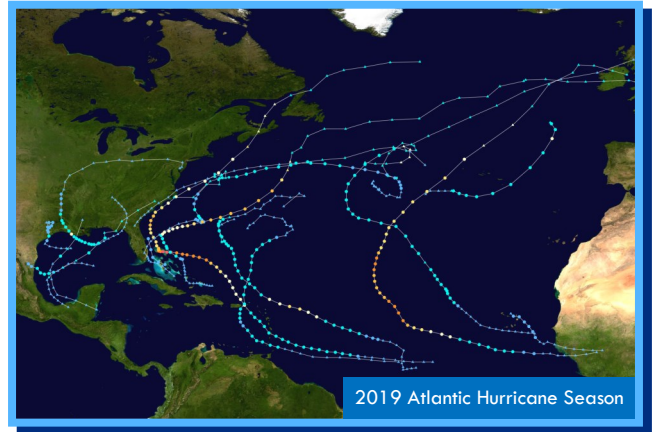
IWA's Emergency Response Plan, which includes our hurricane plan, has been updated, emergency supplies and food restocked, and our emergency reserves replenished.

When a tropical storm or hurricane threatens Southwest Florida, numerous actions are taken by IWA to secure the treatment plant and distribution facilities. These measures help to protect against damage during the storm and expedite restoration of normal operations and service after a storm. The goal during any weather event is to maintain a safe and reliable water supply to our Members. However, even after implementing the necessary preparations, the strength of a storm and severity of the damage can result in the temporary interruption of water service. If service is temporarily disrupted, all available resources will be utilized to restore service as quickly as possible.

We encourage Members to include the following water and utility related actions in their hurricane preparedness plan to protect themselves and their property:

- Trim shrubs and landscaping. Remove dead tree limbs and limbs extending over structures, fences, and utility lines (including backflow devices and meter boxes).
- If you are away from your property and a storm is predicted to make landfall, have your water service turned off at the meter. If time permits, IWA will perform this service at no charge. Simply call IWA's administrative office at (239) 472-1502 to request this service. In the event IWA's staff is unable to do so because of high priority storm preparations, other service providers such as your irrigation company or home watch may be able to turn your water off at the meter box or backflow device. Please be aware that you will need to make arrangements to have water service restored to your property after the storm event.
- Store enough water for drinking and sanitation in the event a prolonged water outage occurs. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends having enough water stored for at least 10 days, estimating consumption of one gallon per person per day. If you have pets, be sure to include additional stored water for their needs.

- In the event of prolonged water outage, or if your potable water stores run low, Members can fill up jugs of water at our treatment plant located at 3651 Sanibel Captiva Road.



While we can hope for an uneventful hurricane season, nothing takes the place of proper planning and preparedness. In addition to the water tips provided in this article, general information on personal hurricane preparation can be found at:

<https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4339/hurricane-preparedness>

[Consumer Confidence Report](#)

The 2019 edition of IWA's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, also known as a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), can be found on the right side of our webpage's homepage at www.islandwater.com, obtained in our lobby, or by using this direct link:

bit.ly/IWA2019CCR

The CCR can also be requested by calling (239) 472-1502. The EPA required annual report covers our water quality for 2019, which meets and exceeds all water quality standards, as has always been the case in the past. If you have any further water quality questions, just give our Production Manager, Pat Henry, a call at (239) 472-2113 ext. #122.



Employee Hellos & Goodbyes

On March 19, 2020, The Island Water Association said goodbye to Steve Rensing, Water Treatment Plant Operator, who retired with over 32 years of service. Steve was a favorite around IWA for his story-telling and entertaining personality. More importantly, he was an extremely dedicated employee and a talented mechanic. He took the time to teach new employees how to do things the 'Island Water way', doing it right the first time and leaving it better than you found it.



Steve Rensing proudly holding SEDA awards

We wish Steve many years of well-deserved enjoyment, filled with fishing, relaxation and new adventures in retirement.



Stephen Bishop

As IWA says goodbye to one Steve, we welcome another! Steve Bishop joined IWA in late March as our newest Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant Operator. Steve is a humble and easy-going guy who is quickly learning how to operate and maintain our source water wells and water production systems. Co-workers have already noted Steve's mechanical aptitude and desire to be hands-on. Steve's wife Hannah and children, Chance and Gracelyn, live in North Fort Myers, where they enjoy the typical south Florida hobbies of fishing and boating.

IWA is excited to introduce Josh Campbell as our newest Distribution Technician. Josh spends his days performing valve and backflow maintenance, upgrading meters and repairing water mains and service lines. Josh enjoys the busy and varied schedule at IWA as well as the beautiful views. Josh and his wife Laurie live in Cape Coral with their young daughter, Allison. When not busy at work or with his family, Josh spends time fishing and working on his project car.



Josh Campbell

Welcome Steve and Josh! The Island Water Association is excited to have you on our team.



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