



IWA Pipeline

The Island Water Association's Newsletter

Sanibel Island's Permitted Schedule for Irrigation

Address Ends With	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
EVEN (0, 2, 4, 6, 8)		✓			✓		
ODD (1, 3, 5, 7, 9)	✓			✓			

Lee County's Permitted Schedule for Captiva Island Irrigation

Address Ends With	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
EVEN (0, 2, 4, 6, 8)				✓			✓
ODD (1, 3, 5, 7, 9)			✓			✓	

Irrigation Times are 12 AM to 9 AM and/or 5 PM to 12 AM. No irrigation is allowed any day between 9 AM to 5 PM.

[Sanibel and Captiva Water Conservation Rules](#)

For many years, steady population growth and consistent usage patterns allowed IWA to accurately predict the combined annual water demand of Sanibel and Captiva Islands. Accurate water consumption forecasts are used to obtain regulatory permits and develop appropriate capital and operating budgets. Importantly, tracking per capita water usage provides valuable data on how our membership is consuming water and how we compare to other cities, regionally and nationally.

In recent years, IWA's water consumption data indicated that usage has started to far exceed historical trendline projections. Additionally, Sanibel and Captiva Islands are among the highest per capita water users regionally. Rather than an anomaly from temporary drought or a surge in tourism, the data points to a large escalation in turf and landscape irrigation. Adding to the impact of escalating irrigation usage, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) estimates that an additional 3 million people will move to south Florida by 2025. Florida's limited freshwater resources and existing treatment and distribution facilities will be further strained to serve the additional population, requiring conservation measures to ensure everyone has access to safe and affordable potable water.

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?

CONSERVATION RULES

BOARD ELECTIONS

2020 CAPITAL PROJECTS

EMPLOYEE RETIREMENTS

2019 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

and more!

To protect our regional freshwater resources, SFWMD developed the Year-Round Irrigation Rule which limits the days and times of day that turf and landscape irrigation can occur. Locally, the City of Sanibel and Lee County have adopted ordinances in line with the SFWMD's rule to restrict irrigation to two-days per week with watering prohibited between the hours of 9 AM and 5 PM. Additionally, the City of Sanibel's recently adopted ordinance was developed to evenly distribute irrigation demands from IWA's membership throughout the week. Widespread adherence to the Lee County and City of Sanibel ordinances will stabilize daily irrigation water demands and reduce IWA's need for costly equipment upgrades in the future.

Irrigation restrictions for Sanibel and Captiva Islands are provided on the front page of this newsletter. IWA members must utilize this schedule when setting irrigation timer devices. The websites listed below provide detailed information about the local water irrigation ordinances and additional conservation measures to ensure sustainable freshwater resources.

City of Sanibel, Ordinance No. 20-001

www.mysanibel.com/City-Council/Recently-Adopted-Ordinances

Lee County, Year-Round Irrigation Restrictions

www.leegov.com/utilities/customer-resource-center/water-restrictions

[IWA Board of Directors Election](#)

The Island Water Association, Inc. is governed by a membership elected, five-person Board of Directors. The election process begins months before voting is held at IWA's Annual Meeting, typically scheduled for the second Monday of April. At the end of each year, the Board of Directors selects a five-member Nominating Committee to recommend qualified candidates to fill upcoming Board vacancies. The Board of Directors reviews the committee's recommendations and selects a slate of candidates which are submitted to the membership no less than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

In 2021, three of the five seats on IWA's Board of Directors will be up for election with the three existing incumbents standing for re-election. The three incumbents are: Board Vice President/Secretary Dennis Berry, Board Vice President/Treasurer Michael Boris, and Board Vice President Don Rice. Dennis Berry is completing his second two-year term and is eligible for re-election to a final two-year term. Michael Boris is completing his first two-year term and is eligible for re-election to a second two-year term. Don Rice was appointed to complete the remainder of a term left vacant

due to a resignation and is eligible for election to his first three-year term.

The Board of Directors receive no compensation for their service, which requires regular attendance at monthly Board meetings. Directors must be residents of Sanibel or Captiva and must be IWA members or an official designated representative of a legal entity member. Directors must also have no conflicts of interest, including, but not limited to, active involvement in an enterprise which could potentially provide services to IWA or which could benefit from involvement with the Association. Background checks are required on all candidates for the Board of Directors.

For further information, please refer to IWA's bylaws which are posted on our website.

[2020 Capital Project Updates](#)

The need for clean, safe, potable water flowing from the tap does not stop during a worldwide pandemic, nor does the need to maintain and upgrade our vital water facilities that produce and distribute water. However, the COVID-19 pandemic changed how IWA accomplished these projects in 2020. By adapting our construction methods and schedules, IWA completed major work on wells, treatment equipment and distribution facilities while protecting the health and safety of employees, members and contractors.

◇ [Rehabilitation of Hawthorne Well #14](#)

IWA pumps groundwater from 15 Suwanee and Hawthorne aquifer wells. Raw water pumped from wells carries tiny particles of sand, minerals and clay which eventually plugs the aquifer formation and reduces well capacity. Wells require routine cleaning and maintenance to keep the aquifer's pore spaces open and allow the passage of water into the well. In the early months of 2020, IWA's water production team noted that Hawthorne Well #14 (H-14), our highest quality raw water well, was experiencing lower water production due to pore space plugging.

This fall, IWA worked with hydrogeology professionals and well experts to perform an acid cleaning of H-14. The cleaning process included injection of an acid solution into the wellbore to dissolve deposited materials. After the chemical cleaning process was complete, a mechanical process of airlifting was performed to remove dissolved and suspended solids from the aquifer surrounding the wellbore. Preliminary data from the post-cleaning pump tests indicate that the project was successful, with a doubling of the well's calculated specific capacity (pumping rate divided by drawdown).





Well H-14 acidification

◇ Bulk Chemical Storage Tank Replacement

IWA's reverse osmosis (RO) treatment process requires onsite chemical storage for pH adjustment, disinfection of potable water and periodic cleaning of membrane equipment. In October, a twenty-five-year-old bulk sodium hydroxide storage tank was removed by a large crane and replaced with a new model tank. The original tank was beginning to show signs of age and replacement parts were no longer available making necessary repairs impossible. IWA operators will plumb and leak-test the piping connections to the new tank before placing online for future decades of service.



Installation of new chemical bulk tank

◇ Kinzie Island Pipe Replacement Project

Providing potable water on our barrier islands requires the installation of numerous distribution pipes across waterways. These aqueous crossings can be aerial (exposed over the waterway), subaqueous (below the waterway), or buried (installed over a culvert system). IWA has twenty-four (24) aqueous crossings throughout the distribution system, all of which require periodic inspection and maintenance. These crossings are prioritized for replacement based on observed conditions and system impacts if the crossing unexpectedly failed or was otherwise out of service.

Based on the priority analysis, the aqueous crossing entering the Kinzie Island subdivision was selected for replacement in 2020. The construction project included removal of the existing aerial crossing, which showed signs of corrosion from environmental conditions, and installation of new high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe as a subaqueous crossing. Construction crews will complete the project and have the new crossing in service in December 2020.



Kinzie Island pipe replacement

[Saying Goodbye to IWA Retirees](#)

In a year with more than its share of challenges and negative news, there are reasons to celebrate! For two long-term Island Water Association employees, leaving behind the schedules and responsibilities of work and embarking on the travel, relaxation and freedom of retirement is a cause for cheer!

Many islanders know Scott Sommerville as IWA's Jeep-driving meter reader, having spent 20 years on the job. Scott spent that time fixing failed equipment, collecting meter reads and developing a deep knowledge of every nook, cranny and oddity along the meter routes. In June, Scott announced his well-earned retirement and plans to unhurriedly explore the country with his wife, Cindy. Scott is an exceptional storyteller, so all of us at IWA look forward to hearing about their adventures in the future.



Scott Somerville

On October 17, 1990, Robbie Smith walked through the doors of IWA as a new, inexperienced Water Plant Operator Trainee. Exactly 30 years later, to the day, Robbie retired from IWA as the Distribution Manager, having held leadership positions in both the water treat-





Robbie Smith

ment and distribution departments. Robbie's combination of natural mechanical aptitude and personal drive for improvement made him a huge asset to IWA for three decades. Robbie and his wife, Debbie, plan to spend free time traveling by RV, visiting family, and fishing... lots of fishing.

Congratulations to Scott and Robbie! Enjoy your well deserved retirement!

[It's 2020... Still Paying By Check?](#)

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, envelope and aggravation. IWA will save the cost of opening your payment and inputting it into our computer, thereby keeping our costs and your water rates as low as possible. Contact our Membership Coordinator, Cate, at (239) 472-1502 or cate@islandwater.com to enroll or fill out an online application. She will be happy to discuss the program with you and to answer whatever questions you may have.

[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

website's homepage at www.islandwater.com, obtained in our lobby, or by using this direct link:

bit.ly/IWA2019CCR

You can also use your smartphone and camera app to scan this QR code:



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-related questions, just give our Production Manager, Pat Henry, a call at (239) 472-1502.



From all of us at IWA, we wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!



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THE ISLAND WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
PO BOX 509
SANIBEL, FL 33957