



# IWA Pipeline

The Island Water Association's Semi-Annual Newsletter

## 2022 IWA Board of Directors



Vice President/Secretary  
Kathleen Sergeant



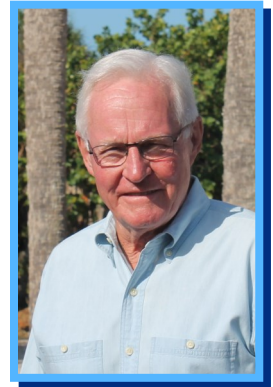
Vice President/Treasurer  
Michael Boris



President  
Jeffrey Springer



Vice President  
Dennis Berry



Vice President  
Don Rice

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2022 ANNUAL MEETING

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HURRICANE SEASON PREP

...and more!

### 2022 Annual Meeting Highlights

The Annual Meeting of The Island Water Association was held via Zoom at 9:00 AM on Monday, April 11, 2022. The meeting's agenda included the election of Directors, a report on the utility's financial condition and operations, and the status of major capital projects.

Board President Jeffrey Springer presided over the meeting, which he opened by thanking Island Water Association's staff for their continued commitment to excellence and exemplary performance during a challenging two years. Following the President's opening remarks, the election of the Board of Directors was held. Kathleen Sergeant was elected to her first, three-year term, and Jeffrey Springer was elected to his second, two-year term. These individuals join Vice President and Treasurer Michael Boris, Vice President Dennis Berry, and Vice President Donald Rice to comprise the 2022 IWA Board of Directors.

IWA Treasurer Michael Boris reported on the financial condition of the utility, highlighting the utility's efficient operations, stable water rates, and strong reserves. The utility's

healthy financial position allows IWA to pursue initiatives to modernize and improve operations.

Audited financial statements for fiscal years 2020 and 2021, prepared by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, are available on our website at [www.islandwater.com](http://www.islandwater.com).

Diana Wilson, IWA's General Manager, outlined the utility's efforts to identify operational challenges on the horizon and develop a strategic plan to ensure the continued delivery of abundant and affordable potable water. The strategic plan includes recommendations outlined in the recently completed engineering study entitled "Comprehensive Water System Master Plan" developed by Black & Veatch, Inc. The Master Plan contains a detailed analysis of the utility's population and demand trends, water resources, treatment alternatives, control systems, and distribution network. Using the recommendations contained in the Master Plan, strategic initiatives were identified and prioritized on a five-year horizon. Examples of recently completed, or ongoing, initiatives include the update of the financial and utility billing systems, water main replacement in the Caloosa Shores subdivision, and the multi-year project to replace all water meters with cellular endpoints to provide 'real time' water usage and allow members to set leak and high consumption alerts. These strategic initiatives modernize the utility's systems and improve the reliability, safety, and service provided to our members.

At the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors met and elected officers for the upcoming year. Jeff Springer was elected President, Michael Boris as Vice President/Treasurer, Kathleen Sergeant as Vice President/Secretary, and Dennis Berry and Donald Rice as Vice Presidents.

## Operator Licensing

Members of IWA can have confidence that their potable water is treated and distributed by licensed, experienced water professionals. Having highly qualified staff operate and make decisions regarding the water we rely on for health, safety, and sanitation is critically important. IWA's Board of Directors and management therefore encourage and incentivize employees to reach the highest levels of licensure available through the State of Florida.

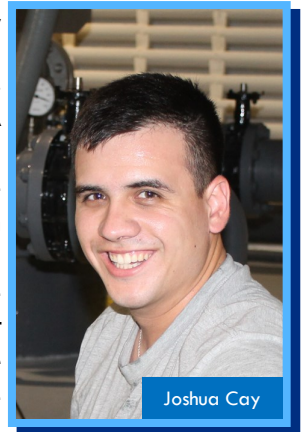
We are proud to announce that Plant Operator Jarrod Adkins recently achieved his Grade B treatment license, and Distribution Technician Cody Dahlberg

received his Grade 3 distribution license. Obtaining these licenses requires thousands of hours of hands-on experience, rigorous coursework, and passing a series of examinations. Well done and congratulations, Jarrod and Cody!

## New Employees

The Island Water Association welcomes two new water treatment operators to the Production Department.

Joshua Cay currently serves in the Army National Guard, where he works in diesel and heavy equipment mechanics. Joshua also comes to IWA with experience as an electrician, working as an apprentice and electrician assistant in residential construction projects. Joshua lives in Fort Myers and when not busy at work or Guard training, he enjoys spending his time fishing, going to the gym, and spending time with his family.



Matthew McAtee is an Army Veteran and Southwest Florida native. Matthew was previously stationed in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he was an Air Traffic Controller. Upon his return to the Fort Myers area, he worked in quality assurance for aviation fuel at the Naples Airport. Matthew enjoys fishing, video games, and spending time with his wife, Christian, and two sons, Elijah (6) and Connor (3).

Thank you, Joshua and Matthew, for your service. We are excited and proud to have you both on the Island Water team!

## New Well Site Prep Underway

Behind a swath of native trees, vegetation, and black silt fencing along Sanibel Captiva Road, landscaping and construction contractors are busy at work con-



structing a pad and access road for IWA's next production well. The preparation work for an access road and well pad are the first steps in a phased project to construct an additional supply well to increase the amount of raw water entering the RO treatment plant. IWA's Comprehensive Water System Master Plan, developed by engineering firm Black & Veatch, Inc., indicated three new water wells will be required by 2045 to meet the water system's future demand and redundancy requirements. A location on Sanibel Captiva Road, adjacent to IWA's administrative office and water treatment plant, was selected for the first new well. Not only is the property already owned by IWA, but its proximity also minimizes the length of water, electricity, and fiber optics lines required from the new well to the treatment facility.



After the access road and well pad are completed, engineering plans for the well head and transmission line will be developed, and applications will be submitted for various required permits. The new production well is anticipated to be online in 2024.

## [Tips for Seasonal Residents](#)

Many of IWA's members are seasonal residents. If you will be away from your island home over the summer, consider the following actions to keep your water secure while you are away.

1. Contact IWA and take advantage of the free annual turn off and turn on of your water at the meter. If you don't have a pool or irrigation system, and will be gone until next season, it makes sense to have your water turned off at the meter. IWA does not recommend that homeowners operate the curb stop on their meter. Please contact IWA so one of our technicians can turn the water off at the meter. Alternatively, you can turn the water off at your backflow

prevention device if your property has one. Turning the water off at the meter, or the backflow device just behind the meter, turns off all the water to your property.

2. If you don't want your water turned off at the meter and you don't have a backflow prevention device, you can still turn off your house valve. Turning off the house valve will turn off all spigots that are attached to the house and water to the inside of the house. It is usually recommended to turn off your water heater valves and the corresponding circuit breaker when the water is off. Turning off the house valve does not usually turn off the irrigation system.

3. As a precaution, remove any outside hoses that will not be used while you are not in residence.

4. Have your home watch read your water meter to check for high usage and to see if water is going through your meter. IWA is only at your property once a month to get a meter reading, and a lot of water usage can occur during that time. IWA is in the second year of a five-year phased installation of cellular reading devices at all service properties. The cellular devices allow members to monitor 'real time' water use and set up leak alerts using an online portal at [www.eyeonwater.com](http://www.eyeonwater.com). IWA will notify members when a cellular device has been installed at a property and provide instructions to register for the online portal. We encourage members to take advantage of this monitoring tool when it is available at your property.

5. Put a fresh battery in your irrigation controller. During the summer months, power outages and power surges are common. Your irrigation system controller has a battery back-up for these instances, but if the battery is dead, some irrigation controllers will default to a setting to water every day. Check your rain sensor to make sure it is operating properly and set appropriately for your landscaping.

## [Hurricane Season Preparedness](#)

By the time this newsletter is issued, the 2022 hurricane season will be upon us. IWA will have updated its Emergency Response Plan and restocked its emergency supplies and reserves. IWA will be ready; however, we certainly hope that all of our preparations prove unnecessary this year.

We encourage members to include the following wa-





ter and utility related actions in their hurricane preparedness plan to protect themselves and property:

1. Trim shrubs and landscaping. Remove dead tree limbs and limbs extending over structures, fences, and utility lines (including backflow devices and meter boxes).

2. 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 arrange to have water service restored to your property after the storm event.

3. 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.

While we 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 the following websites:

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

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

## [Consumer Confidence Report](#)

The 2021 edition of IWA's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, also known as a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), can be found on the top right of our website's homepage under the Reports tab at [www.islandwater.com](http://www.islandwater.com), obtained in our lobby, or by using this direct link:

**[bit.ly/IWA2021CCR](https://bit.ly/IWA2021CCR)**



The CCR can also be requested by calling (239) 472-1502. The EPA required annual report covers our water quality for 2021, 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.



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