



# IWA PIPELINE



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## IWA NEEDS YOU!



It's election time at IWA again, and next year two seats on our Board of Directors will be up for election. The two seats are currently held by Board President Dr. Ralph Sloan and Board Vice President/Treasurer Dr. Bruce Neill. Dr. Sloan is completing five years on our Board and is foregoing his third and last two-year term. Dr. Neill is eligible for re-election to his second two-year term.

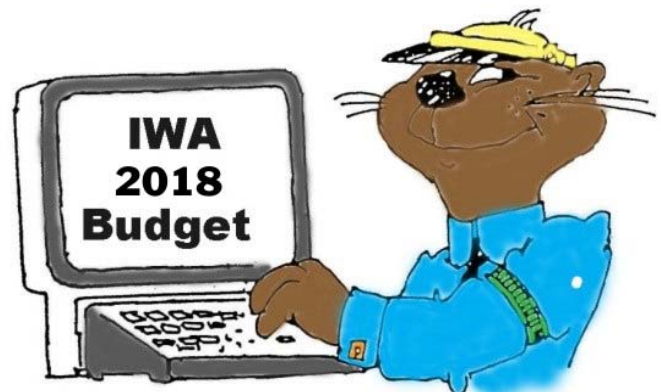
IWA is governed by a five member Board of Directors who all serve without pay. Directors must be residents of Sanibel or Captiva so that they can attend all Board meetings, and must be IWA members or an official representative of a condominium or other IWA Corporate Member. Directors must have no conflict 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 Tues-

day of every month. Candidates for the two open seats are chosen by a Nominating Committee selected by the Board of Directors. The candidates are selected from a pool of applicants who apply for the seat and are then interviewed by the Nominating Committee on January 23, 2018. The candidates are then elected by the Membership at IWA's Annual Meeting, which is held on the second Monday of every April. Next year, that will be Monday, April 9th. 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 5th, 2018.** 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 53 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 \$7.25M.

Included in the budgeting process is estimating the cost of 2018 Capital projects. Capital spending involves projects that maintain or upgrade IWA's facilities and infrastructure. Capital spending for 2018 will be close to normal, at about \$1.1M, with most of the spending attributed to the East Rocks Main Replacement project and the replacement of our brine disposal tank, or brine clearwell. The Brine Clearwell Replacement project will be explained below.

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 all commodities used in our process, especially health insurance and fuel.

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## BRINE CLEARWELL REPLACEMENT

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Brine is the leftover high mineral concentrate created by the RO process. It comprises about 20% of the raw water coming in from the well field, which means we recover about 80% of the raw water as nearly distilled potable water. The brine is pumped down our Deep Injection Well, which we share with the City for disposal of their excess reclaimed water. The disposal area is a boulder zone about 3,200 feet deep. Since we pump our drinking water from about 700 feet deep, there are a few confining layers of clay between the brine injection zone and our drinking water aquifer. We also have monitor wells at about 1500 feet that we monitor for brine intrusion.



*Current Brine Clearwell with Three Centrifugal Pumps sitting at Ground Level*

Our present brine clearwell is nearing its maximum capacity, and the three pumps and motors are below flood level, forcing us to keep three 30 HP spare pumps and motors in stock. The new clearwell will have increased capacity and use vertical turbine pumps, the motors of which will sit on top of the tank, well above flood level. It is the same system we use for our untreated fresh water (permeate) before it is transferred (pumped) to our storage tanks. The permeate clearwell is used to add disinfectant and a corrosion inhibitor before the water is pumped to the storage tanks.



*Current Product Clearwell, with Three Vertical Turbine Pumps and Motors Installed, as the New Brine Clearwell will have*

The vertical turbine pumps sit in the water in the tank, which is more efficient than using centrifugal pumps as in the existing brine clearwell. Since the motors sit on top of the pumps, they are well above flood levels, protecting them from storm surge.

This project will cost close to \$1M over the next two years, which will be covered by IWA reserves, with no assessments to IWA members' accounts.

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## EAST ROCKS MAIN REPLACEMENT

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The East Rocks water main replacement, a portion of which was planned for completion in 2017, will now be started and completed beginning in the Spring of 2018. Since a majority of the country's raw material for manufacturing PVC and HDPE pipe originates in the Texas area, Hurricane Harvey put a serious dent in the supply and price of this commodity. The portion of East Rocks Drive that was planned for 2017 was put off until 2018 when it will be completed along with the rest of the project.

East Rocks had some streets partially upgraded years ago when fire hydrants were installed. This current project will remove all of the remaining thin-walled pipe and add a fire hydrant on Durion



*East Rocks Subdivision*

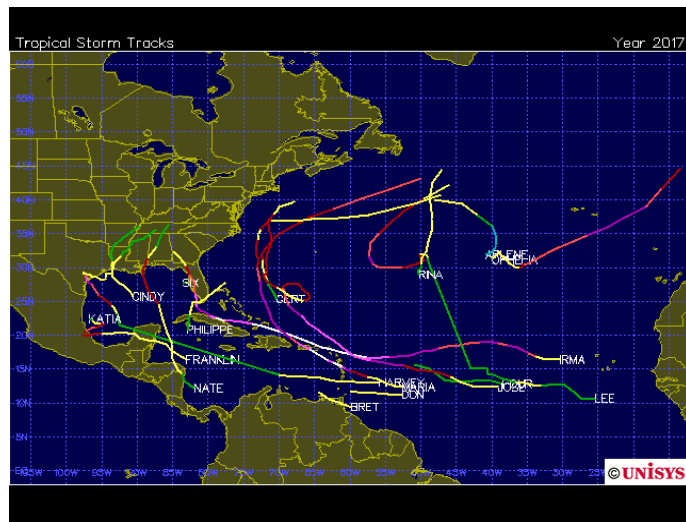
Court. As with the Brine Sump Replacement project, this project will be paid for out of our reserves, with no assessments to members. This project has a budget of \$280K.

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## COSTLY HURRICANE SEASON ENDS

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The 2017 Hurricane season has been one of the most devastating and costly seasons of all time. Three major hurricanes struck the United States and Puerto Rico within the span of a month. Harvey left the Houston area with 60" of rain in some areas, then a week later Irma crashed through the Florida Keys, made landfall on Marco



*There were 17 Named Storms in 2017, the Most Active Hurricane Season Since 2010*

Island, then ran up the center of the Florida peninsula, affecting 48 of 67 counties. A few weeks later, Maria destroyed Puerto Rico and severely damaged the Virgin Islands. Areas of Puerto Rico are still without power.

The 2017 season will go down as the most costly season on record, with a preliminary total of damages exceeding \$368B, over three times the cost of the last season a hurricane made landfall in the USA (2005). Nearly all of the damage was wrought by Harvey, Irma, and Maria. It is only the second time in the history of record keeping that two Category 5 hurricanes made landfall (Irma and Maria).

Let's hope that next season doesn't mimic the seasons of 2004 and 2005 (Charley and Wilma). Good riddance hurricane season 2017!

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## HOME WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS?

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It has recently come to our attention that plumbing companies are attempting to sell our members expensive whole-home water treatment/softener systems. There is simply no need to install such a system to treat our water. The mineral content of our water is very low. In fact, after running through the Reverse Osmosis membranes, there are no minerals in the water. We have to add minerals in the form of a small amount of raw water back into our water to bring the total hardness up to between 30 to 60, depending on which wells we use. The state considers a total hardness of between 80 -120 to be optimal. Anything below 100 is considered soft. Do not let a water treatment sales person try to tell you our water is hard.

If the issue is chlorine residual, which is required by law, buy yourself a charcoal filter for the kitchen faucet or refrigerator water line for drinking water and ice. If you buy a whole-house charcoal filter, you will be removing the disinfectant from your house plumbing, which could lead to bacterial growth in your piping.

If you would like your water tested, bring in a sample in a clean plastic or glass bottle, and we can test for chlorine residual and hardness. It should be at least a pint, at room temperature, and brought here as soon as possible. Chlorine degrades over time.

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## READING YOUR WATER BILL

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If you have trouble deciphering your monthly water bill, the following are some of the more common questions (and answers) which we hope will help you to better understand your water bill:

**What is the Cycle number in the upper left-hand portion of the 'bill'?**

**Ans:** The first digit in the Cycle number denotes which week of the month your water meter is read. For examples, Cycle 10-03 is read on the first week, and Cycle 40-03 is read on the fourth week.

**What are the Reading numbers in the upper right-hand portion of the bill?**

**Ans:** Reading refers to your water meter reading. All readings are in 1,000s of gallons. For example, if the Current (most recent) Read is 2345, and the Previous (last month's) Read is 2335, then the monthly Usage will be the difference, or 10 (10,000 gallons).

**How is the dollar amount of the bill calculated?**

**Ans:** First there is a \$13.00 fixed charge to cover the cost of providing water service to your house (or condo) and reading your meter. In addition, there is a variable charge based on your water usage. In order to encourage conservation, the more water you use, the more each gallon costs. Our rates range from a low of \$3.30 per 1,000 gallons for the first 5,000 gallons to a high of \$6.55 per 1,000 gallons for all usage over 25,000 gallons. See our website at [www.islandwater.com](http://www.islandwater.com) for more details, or call Karen at (239) 472-1502.

**What does "Avg. IWA Member Usage = 12" on the left middle portion of the bill mean?**

**Ans:** The average IWA Member uses 12,000

gallons of water a month. If you use less than that amount, thanks for helping conserve water and helping us to keep our rates as low as possible. If you use more than that amount, please try to use less. Thanks!

**What is all that nonsense on the back of the card entitled "IWA By-Laws"?**

**Ans:** The By-Laws are the Member-approved Rules by which IWA operates. The specific sections of the By-Laws quoted on the back of the bill card define when delinquent accounts will be assessed a penalty (10% after 60 days) and when water service may be shut off for non-payment (after 65 days). Also covered is the fact that the Membership will be cancelled if the bill is not paid within 90 days. Our delinquency rules are very lenient, but they are necessary for the fair allocation of our costs among our Members.

SIGN UP FOR PAPERLESS BILLING!  
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