



IWA PIPELINE



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Supplies are limited...

A recent IWA study of average water bills for the last two years shows that most (64.5%) of the islands' single family residences spent less than \$25 a month for water. That isn't unusual, but the study did reveal some things that might come as a surprise to you, as they did to us.

There are 108 single family residences on the islands that have had average monthly water bills for these same two years of \$100 or more. The bills for some of these homes have averaged nearly \$300 per month! These high using residences, about 3.4% of the single family homes, are using nearly 19% of the total water provided to single family homes. That's almost exactly the same percentage as the combined usage of the 1,744 homes using under \$25 worth!

How can one category of homes use 16 times as much water as the other? We're not sure, but we are concerned.

There are good reasons for IWA to worry about a trend toward higher water consumption. The amount of water we take from the ground each day is monitored by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).

SFWMD issued IWA's water use permit which will expire in less than four years — we will stand hat in hand on this lesser judgment day and our collective behavior will be scrutinized. (Five years ago as part of a water use permit, SFWMD mandated the famous (infamous?) dual water system in Cape Coral because of the high consumption caused by the need to irrigate sodded lawns.)



- If you are in the high user category:
1. Are you aware of your relatively high consumption? You may think your high bills are "normal". De-salted water like ours usually does cost more per gallon than water which is naturally fresh, but not that much more. (We gloat a bit that Fort Myers Beach residents pay more than \$3 per 1,000 gallons compared to our \$2.50 — even though their water is not de-salted.)
 2. Are you sure you need to use so much water? Consultation with experts in modern plant and lawn care practices may save enough water to help our case at the next permit hearing.
 3. Do you know something we don't? We've been assuming that such high levels of use come from heavy landscaping irrigation, but we have no real evidence. We'd appreciate your comments.

It is clear that all categories of water users must practice conservation if Sanibel and Captiva are to maintain adequate water supplies.

How do you spell relief?...

D-E-R-O...



Dick Derowitsch, IWA's Engineering Supervisor, has recently been awarded a U.S. Patent on his system for solving one of the most bothersome problems with wells.

It may sound strange but wells do get indigestion — not acid indigestion — lime indigestion. As wells are emptied deposits of lime form on the walls of the well and eventually make it impossible to pump out the water.

In the past it has been necessary to treat wells twice a year with concentrated acid — an expensive, time-consuming and dangerous practice. All of the pumping equipment had to be removed from the well, the acid added and allowed to eat away the lime, and, after two or three days, the acid was pumped out and water pumping could be resumed. There was always some risk of acid getting into the water source and even of explosion unless the process was carefully monitored.

Dick Derowitsch's solution for the problem works better, is much less expensive and entails no risk to the water source or equipment.

Dick's process depends on two things. First, our water produced by reverse osmosis is so pure that it is hungry for chemicals such as lime. Second, lime deposits are very soluble in the presence of carbon dioxide. So Dick's "solution" is a mixture of water fresh from the reverse osmosis plant and CO₂ — like a large Alka-Seltzer.

This is added to the well with no need to remove equipment and the lime is dissolved without any dangerous chemicals involved.

IWA funded Dick's patent application. The patent was awarded on October 18, 1988. In return, Dick will not charge IWA for the use of his system. IWA has already saved about \$180,000 while the patent process was under way.



And now the bad news...

Two of the five wells that IWA has had under construction have had to be abandoned. Test holes for the two wells, which were planned to go into the Hawthorn aquifer, did not indicate sufficient water quality to justify proceeding with the drilling of the actual wells.

The remaining three wells have shown positive results and two of them should be in service within two months, the other later this year.



Decisions, decisions

In recent meetings the IWA Board of Directors...

- Authorized a study of the IWA's insurance program
- Instructed staff to work on water conservation suggestions
- Initiated an update of IWA's real estate property valuation
- Okayed new customer service request procedures
- Authorized a consultant study of copper pipe leakage
- Reviewed IWA By-Laws and water rates
- Set up an Affirmative Action Program
- Asked staff for demand fee study and analysis

Getting Directions

Your water association is governed by a five-member Board of Directors. These directors serve without pay. Each spring at our annual meeting two or three directors are elected by the membership.

Our Nominating Committee meets each year at this time to select a slate of recommended directors for the coming year. This year's Nominating Committee is made up of Glenn Ristine, John Rogers, John Miller, George Parker and Jerry Melum.

Directors must be year-round residents of Sanibel or Captiva and be IWA members or an official representative of a local condominium association or corporate IWA member.

A pleasant surprise...

As we reported last spring the sodium content of IWA water in 1987 was surprisingly low considering that our supply comes from brackish water.

We continue to monitor sodium levels and the results for calendar year 1988 are as follows:

- Highest month (April)
 - 126 milligrams/liter
- Lowest month (September)
 - 39 milligrams/liter

We figure that the Islander who drank the recommended eight glasses of water per day last year consumed from 74 to 239 milligrams of sodium from this source.

For comparison the average American consumes about 2,400 to 7,200 milligrams of sodium per day; special restricted diets are often aimed at a maximum of 2,000 milligrams per day.



THE ISLAND WATER ASSOCIATION, INC.
COMPARISON OF 1988 BUDGET TO ACTUAL RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>1988 Budget</u>	<u>TWELVE MONTHS OF</u> <u>Actual Receipts</u>
Water Sales	\$3,250,000	\$3,673,642
Interest	50,000	94,008
Other Receipts	10,000	12,818
Connection Fees	400,000	223,286
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>	<u>\$3,710,000</u>	<u>\$4,003,461</u>
Carryover 1988	774,660	774,660
<u>TOTAL FUNDS</u>	<u>\$4,484,660</u>	<u>\$4,778,111</u>

<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>	<u>1988 Budget</u>	<u>TWELVE MONTHS OF</u> <u>Actual Disbursements</u>
Wages and Benefits	\$1,121,763	\$1,079,910
Professional Fees	78,000	82,680
Electricity	560,000	594,581
Telephone	16,500	13,961
O & M Service & Supply	446,437	466,639
Motor Fuels	13,700	11,986
Insurance	106,200	102,280
Postal Charges	11,000	11,480
Travel, Training, Conferences	21,300	18,982
Debt Repayments (Farmers Home Admin.)	300,468	300,468
Capital Expenditures	1,515,494	888,522
Contingency Fund	100,000	20,238
<u>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</u>	<u>\$4,289,862</u>	<u>\$3,561,707</u>
<u>EXCESS OF FUNDS OVER DISBURSEMENTS FOR 1988</u>		<u>\$1,216,404</u>
<u>LESS RESERVE REQUIREMENTS & CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS</u>		<u>\$799,724</u>
<u>NET AVAILABLE FUNDS</u>		<u>\$416,680</u>

These figures represent the unaudited accounts as of December 31, 1988.

William D. Angst

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 President