



# IWA PIPELINE



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## **MORE \$ FOR NOTHING**



In May 1990, the City of Sanibel joined with Fort Myers, Cape Coral and Lee County to form the Lee County Regional Water Supply Authority. The stated purpose of the Authority was "... to meet the water needs of the rapidly urbanizing areas of Lee County..."

Using funds from the South Florida Water Management District, the Authority has now produced a Master Plan for Lee County's water supply through the year 2030. The activities and facilities recommended by the Plan are forecast to cost around \$600,000,000.

Future funding will come from a variety of sources. The first step is likely to be a charge of 3¢ per 1,000 gallons of water consumed by everyone in Lee County, including IWA members. In total, IWA's members would pay over \$30,000 per year ... and this only covers operation of the Authority, not

construction of any of the \$600,000,000 facilities.

IWA appeared before the Sanibel City Council and stated that it does not believe that these proposed fees, or the higher ones likely in the future, can in any way be justified by the potential benefits realized by our members, who have already paid for a first-class water system. We are not a "rapidly urbanizing area" and should not have to pay for developing water systems for those Lee County areas that are.

If you agree with us, you are encouraged to make your views known to the City Council (Sanibel members) or the Board of County Commissioners (Captiva members). Give our Engineering Department a call at 472-1502 if you have any questions.

## **Y'ALL PLEASE COME!**

Enclosed with this newsletter are materials relating to this year's Annual Meeting on April 11. We'd really like you to attend and hear all the latest about what's going on at IWA. You'll meet our new General Manager, Roger Blind. We will even provide the coffee and donuts.

If you are unable to attend, please be sure to use the enclosed envelope to return your Proxy. It's your way of participating in the operation of your water company.

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## BRAIN TRANSPLANT SUCCESSFUL

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Just before Thanksgiving, IWA successfully underwent a brain transplant ... electronic brain that is. Our old computer system was showing its age. Its memory was about full with important information, and it was getting so tired that it was taking longer and longer to do its job. We decided that radical surgery was the only answer. So we increased both its memory storage capacity and its thinking speed.

The transplant was handled by our Information Services Supervisor, Rusty Isler. The operation took about 30 hours. Although the surgeon was a bit tired, the operation was a complete success. With our new and improved brain, we are now able to do our jobs even quicker and better than before. Rusty assures us that the new brain should serve us well for many years in the future.

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## PARDON OUR DUST

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We have received several questions regarding our pipe laying projects around the Islands. Most are along the lines of "When are you ever going to finish your work on my street?"

We appreciate your concern. We assure you that both IWA and our construction contractors want to complete the work as rapidly as possible. Sometimes we also get impatient as we encounter delays beyond our control, such as wet weather.

It's important to realize that these projects include a lot more than just laying the pipe. We have to pressure test the pipe to be sure it will not break when placed into service. Leaks that are found must be fixed. Then the pipe must be flushed with large volumes of water to make sure it's clean. Next, we have to sterilize the pipe with chlorine and get two successful bacteriological tests. Only then is the new pipe good enough to connect to our members' homes. Finally, we restore landscaping, driveways, etc.

That's a lot of steps just to lay a new pipe. We'll continue to do it as fast and as well as we can. We welcome your comments about any specific problems that we can address to do our job a little better.

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## MEET PHIL NOE

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Phil Noe, IWA's Assistant Production Supervisor/Chief Plant Operator, was born 31 years ago near Buffalo, NY (he's a Redskins football fan). Prior to joining

IWA in 1987, Phil worked as an oil field machinist and a home improvement subcontractor. Today, Phil and his wife, Krista, and son, Matthew, 2 1/2, reside in Cape Coral.

As our Chief Plant Operator, Phil is the one in charge of operating the RO Plant so that you always have a safe and reliable supply of water when you turn on your faucet. In the last couple of years, he has also supervised an in-house project to modify some of the plant equipment and save us a lot of money.

Phil says that the main things he likes about his job at IWA are the great group of people he works with and the ever-changing and challenging work at the RO Plant. He says that the key to his success at IWA is his belief that "you get out of life what you put into it."

Outside work, Phil says his main interests are sports and hunting.

Keep up the good work Phil! We'll be counting on you when we take our showers tonight.

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## THANKS FOR YOUR COMMENTS

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Your responses to the "Water Works" questionnaire in our last newsletter are much appreciated. Most of the comments were positive and have given the project pointers on where emphasis is needed in the future.

One member wondered, "Why not promote more non-grass landscaping such as gravel or sea shell covered lawns?"

First, City codes prohibit stone yards. A maximum of 200 square feet of stones other than for driveways are permitted for ornamental purposes.

Second, there are better options to grass than stones. Both "Water Works"

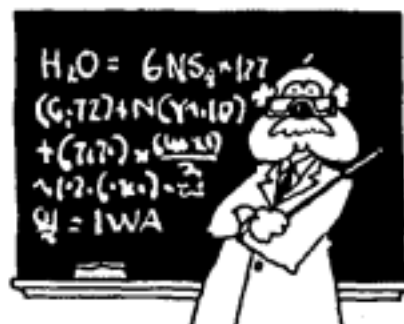
and the City encourage reduction in grassed areas and establishment of mulched beds with native vegetation. These beds not only require no supplemental irrigation, but also provide habitat for birds and, unlike stones, create a cool micro-climate surrounding your home.

For answers to any questions you may have concerning water conservation in your landscaping, please feel free to call Dee at the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation's Native Plant Nursery, 472-1932.

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## QUIZ

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1. What percent of the feed water to IWA's RO Plant comes from the Gulf of Mexico?  
A. 5% B. 25% C. 100% D. None of the above.
2. Most of the pipes that carry water to our customers are made of?  
A. Plastic B. Steel C. Wood D. Lead
3. About how many meters does the IWA meter reading crew read in a typical day?  
A. 50 B. 200 C. 400 D. 1,000
4. Cross connections between IWA's water and private wells are?  
A. Illegal B. Dangerous C. Both A & B

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## IN YEARS PAST ...

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### 29 Years Ago (1965)

Patrick Murphy, serving as Administrator of the infant IWA, was directed by the Board at its January meeting to "close the office in the afternoon and secure memberships." It seems that Captiva residents were slow in joining the Association.

### 25 Years Ago (1969)

At the February meeting, Board member E.G. Konrad was asked to contact U.S. Naval authorities for information about salt water conversion. The Board was worried about the "apparent increasing need to develop a new source of water."

### 10 Years Ago (1984)

As of February 29, 1984, there were a total of 2,988 members of IWA. Today there are 4,192.

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## HARD OR SOFT? ...THAT'S THE QUESTION

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One of the questions we get asked most often concerns the need for a water softener in our members' homes.

The water we make in our RO Plant is so soft that it would not be very pleasant trying to get the soap off when you take a shower. We go to a lot of trouble to make the water a little harder before we send it to you so you don't have that problem.

Therefore, installing a water softener at your home would only undo what we've already spent money to do. It's just "more \$ for nothing."

We'll tell you about other home treatment units in future *Pipeline* issues.

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## ANSWERS TO QUIZ

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1. D. All of the water fed to our RO Plant comes from deep wells.
2. A. 70% of our pipes are plastic (PVC) and are good for pressures up to 200 pounds per square inch.
3. C. The meter readers read about 400 meters per day, or nearly one per minute.
4. C. Cross connections pose a very real health hazard to our customers and must be avoided at all costs.