

Community Irrigation Committee - Rocky Mansfield, Chair

Irrigation water is something we usually don't think a lot about, but is very important to the look and feel of our community. Six months ago, Section 22 Board of Directors authorized the formation of a Community Irrigation Committee to oversee the operation and maintenance of Burnt Store Marina's irrigation system and determine its functionality. There are over 5 miles of pipe, one hundred fifty-three water meters and a pump house with four pumps to operate and maintain in the community's irrigation system.

For the first time, we have a complete list and location for all water meters in the community. All meters' locations have been marked using a GPS with pictures taken of each location for future reference. The GPS locations have been placed on a satellite map of Burnt Store Marina using Google Earth. For those of us who are old school, the as built engineering drawing of our community has been updated with the master water meter list and GPS locations of each water meter.

The heart of the system is the pump house located on the south side of the pond on Osprey 5. The pump house pumps water from the adjacent pond and distributes it through the miles of pipe to our community. The committee has focused a lot of energy insuring the pump house is running efficiently and updated to the latest codes. Two out of the three main pumps have been rebuilt, the AC on the pump controller has been repaired so all three main pumps are functioning as designed. Most recently, we have finished a complete overhaul of the electrical panels that feed power to the pump house. The panels were rusted through where you could look up underneath an electrical box and see the sky through the top of the box. Multiple size wires were used in the same circuit. We now have a completely up to code pump house.

Two goals of the Community Irrigation Committee are to improve the water quality and insure there is adequate water supply in drought periods. The committee is exploring options for both of these goals. Possible solutions include drilling an additional well, tapping into another supply pond or taking advantage of Charlotte County's reclaimed water program.

The Community Irrigation Committee is composed of Rocky Mansfield (Chair), Joe Baker, Wayne Baltzer, Mike Lemon and Gayle Shaffer. Terry Kelly, Section 22 Vice President, is the committee's liaison to Section 22 Board of Directors.

The Community Irrigation Committee meets weekly year-round and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The items we have discussed in this article are but a fraction of what the committee has done in its first six months of existence.