



## **SOUTH FEATHER WATER & POWER AGENCY**

---

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Michael Glaze, General Manager

**DATE:** August 15, 2006

**RE:** General Information (regarding matters not scheduled on the agenda)  
8/22/06 Board of Directors Meeting

### **Assistant Engineer Recruitment**

Chris Crown Lewis has tendered her resignation, effective September 20. The following excerpt from her resignation letter explains her decision.

*As you know, I have been recently married and plan to relocate to Auburn. To stay at SFWPA would require three hours of commuting each day which is not feasible in the long term. Once in Auburn, I will be opening a GIS consulting practice and taking the opportunity to pursue additional geospatial-oriented education and training objectives relevant to water, hydroelectric and public health/humanitarian applications.*

Replacing Chris will be difficult. She single-handedly transformed our GIS system into a functional tool and saved us thousands of dollars in relicensing expense for work that would otherwise had to have been done by consultants. More importantly, Chris is just simply a great person who is loved by all her fellow employees. We will all miss her very much after she leaves.

Nevertheless, as with seemingly irreplaceable people in the past, we will begin advertising the availability of her position as quickly as possible and look forward to the opportunities that may present themselves thereafter.

### **November Election**

Now that the filing period has ended for candidates for the board seats up for election in November, I can affirm that all three of the incumbents – Jean Brown, Lou Cecchi, and Dee Hunter – filed to run for re-election. Dee Hunter's seat was uncontested and she will return to the Board for another four years. Dennis Moreland filed as a candidate for Division 3 to run against Jean Brown, and Robert Warka filed as a candidate for Division 5 to run against Lou Cecchi.

Beginning with this agenda through the regular meeting in October, we will be sending the two new candidates the same information directors receive (absent any closed-session information) so they can be informed of the ongoing business and activities of the Agency.

## Papua New Guinea Hydro

My two weeks in Papua New Guinea during the past month were interesting, compelling, moving, unnerving, exhilarating...

The hospital compound on which Rosie and I worked had its own 75 kW hydro plant.



The photo at left is their equivalent of SFWPA's Miners Ranch Canal.

In the photo below, I'm standing at the penstock intake with Thomas, the John Davis of their system.



Thomas' wife – seen through the leaves of young banana trees - is standing next to the penstock.



This system has a multitude of problems, even though they seem to keep it running most of the time. After hearing what I did for a living, they wanted me to tear it apart, replace a water bearing, repair a worn spot on the lower shaft into the turbine, and realign the shaft to eliminate a vibration problem that developed when roller bearings overheated because they failed to lubricate them. I finally convinced them that I would be far more valuable to them if I just kept working as a carpenter and block layer building the new hospital kitchen.

