



Water on Whidbey

Welcome to the WIWSA January 2021 Newsletter!

During these challenging times when we cannot meet in person, we are sending a monthly newsletter to keep our community up to speed with water news. We send this newsletter to our email list and post it on our website. We aim to provide an easy place to find all the month's news and upcoming events.

Please share this newsletter with your fellow water system board members, commissioners, operators, members, friends, neighbors, and anyone who drinks water on Whidbey and beyond, and encourage them to [subscribe](#).

News from Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Annual Meeting December 10th 2020

- Thanks to all who attended this annual mostly business virtual meeting. [Presentation](#) and [minutes](#) are on the web site. Highlights include:
- On behalf of the members, Randi Perry presented retiring past president Jim Patton with an [award](#) for service to the association. Thanks again Jim!
- The members passed the 2021 budget, including a sum for the [apprenticeship/scholarship program](#).
- John Lovie was reelected for a new term as a director, and Culley Lehman was elected to a new term for the director position vacated by Jim Patton. Welcome Culley!

At the board meeting held on January 7th, 2021, the following officers were elected:

- President – John Lovie
- Vice President – Joe Grogan
- Secretary – Randi Perry
- Treasurer – Bethel Hart

Highlights from 2020

- We welcomed 9 new water systems as members in 2020. A full list is in the [presentation](#). Welcome all!
- In January we held a special member meeting to [comment](#) on the Office of Drinking Water's draft rule changes around PFAS.
- In February Randi Perry and John Lovie presented [What are you Drinking?](#) at Sound Waters University.
- Jim Patton stepped down as president and John Lovie stepped up from Vice President
- Due to COVID, our member meetings moved to zoom. We are looking to improve member participation in future meetings.
- We started this monthly newsletter to keep the membership informed.
- We reviewed our work on the Small Water Systems Management Program. Asset Management was identified as the area where we were struggling. Two member meetings and additional training sessions were held.
- We continued to work closely with AWWA, ERWoW, RCAC, the Office of Drinking Water, and Island County Public Health.
- We partnered with ERWoW and RCAC to develop an apprenticeship/scholarship program

Tentative dates and plans for 2021 member meetings:

- March 18th: Coliform – Both Vistaire and Langley water systems tested positive for E. Coli in 2020. Learn how to prevent and handle positive coliform tests.
- June 17th: Water System Organization. A discussion of the merits of HOAs, municipal, investor owned, water districts, and PUDs as was to organize a water system.
- September 16th: DOH rule changes around PFAS and Water Use Efficiency.
- December 16th: Annual Meeting
- Our next Member Meeting will be March 18th, 2021, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm via Zoom. Please save the date. We'll post an agenda and send an invitation email closer to the meeting. Remember that to receive the invitation email with the meeting link you need to [subscribe](#) to this email service.
- Check out our [Virtual Booth at Sound Waters University 2021](#).



Do you have news you want to share?

If you have water news you'd like to share with the water drinkers of Whidbey Island, please send a message to mail (at) whidbeywatersystems.org

Subscribe!

Please [subscribe](#) to receive our emails including this monthly newsletter and quarterly meeting invitations.

News from our Partners

- **AWWA** is offering a [Math for Operators Workshop](#) on January 27th. WIWSA members can attend at the reduced AWWA member rate of \$60.
- **AWWA** partnering with USDA and Partnership for Safe Water is offering several [FREE USDA Small Systems Trainings](#).
- The **Office of Drinking Water** is changing reporting requirements for the annual Water Use Efficiency (WUE) report and have **rescheduled** a webinar to Thursday, February 18, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 (noon) to discuss the changes. **Registration link:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1372321765323877136> 0.3 CEU credits for this webinar will be available and there is no cost for this event. Additionally, a fact sheet has been created describing the changes to the reporting form. You can find it in our Publications Database at: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/odwpubs/Publications/>. Search for "Water Use Efficiency Changes" or Publication #331-669.

Further details of these events are on our [website](#)

- **BC Water News** is a great resource. We suggest you sign up for a [free subscription](#).
- **NRWA's** Rural Water Wire is another great resource. Click the subscribe link at the top of the email.
- [Wateroperator.org](#) is also well worth a subscribe. Click the subscribe link at the top of the email.
- **The Chemical Action Plan (CAP) team is extending the public comment period on the Draft PFAS CAP until Friday, January 22, 2021.** Find more information on the [PFAS CAP website](#). If you have questions, please reach out to Irina Makarow (irina.makarow@ecy.wa.gov).
- The [Island County Planning Commission](#) held a public hearing on code changes around Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). The Planning Commission referred the proposed changes back to staff for further work. Most of the concerns were around drinking water impacts. John Lovie, Joe Grogan, and Randi Perry attended a workshop with Island County staff to further discuss the drinking water issues. We will continue to monitor these developments.

Podcasts

Podcasts are a great way to catch up with news while giving your eyes a rest. Here are some of the best water podcasts. You can also find the links on the resources page of our web site.

- **Circle of Blue** [What's Up With Water](#) "What's Up With Water" condenses the need-to-know news on the world's water into a weekly snapshot.
- **Water Environment Federation** [Words on Water](#) A podcast featuring conversations with influential and interesting people from the water sector and news from the Water Environment Federation.
- **The H2duO** [Water in Real Life](#) Award-winning communication professionals, Arianne Shipley and Stephanie Corso, aka The H2duO, chat with thought-leaders from both inside and outside of the water industry to serve as a resource for both personal and professional growth. Water in Real Life was created for water professionals who believe that if you desire to build the right relationships with your community, and thereby overcome many of the challenges you face, then your ability to connect with them through storytelling is essential.