



# Water on Whidbey

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Newsletter

July 2022

## Welcome to the WIWSA July 2022 Newsletter!

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association sends 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

Special Section: PFAS

#### *2022 Interim Updated PFOA and PFOS Health Advisories*

On June 15, 2022, EPA issued interim updated drinking water health advisories for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) that replace those EPA issued in 2016. PFOA and PFOS are members of a chemical group called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The updated advisory levels, which are based on new science and consider lifetime exposure, indicate that some negative health effects may occur with concentrations of PFOA or PFOS in water that are near zero. These interim health advisories will remain in place until EPA establishes a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation.

At the same time, EPA also issued final health advisories for two other PFAS, perfluorobutane sulfonic acid and its potassium salt (PFBS) and for hexafluoropropylene oxide (HFPO) dimer acid and its ammonium salt ("GenX chemicals"). In chemical and product manufacturing, GenX chemicals are considered a replacement for PFOA, and PFBS is considered a replacement for PFOS.

Details of the new health advisories can be found here: [Drinking Water Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS | US EPA](#)

The advisory levels for PFOS and PFOA are orders of magnitude lower than the previously issued health advisories. The EPA has yet to set MCLs for these materials. We can expect that when they are released that these MCLs will impact some water systems on Whidbey Island.

Here's an article from Circle of Blue: [EPA Warns of Health Problems When PFAS Levels in Drinking Water Are Inconceivably Tiny - Circle of Blue](#)

### *Results of voluntary PFAS testing in Island County available*

Some water systems in Island County participated in the Office of Drinking Water's voluntary PFAS testing program. The results are in. 12 out of 122 systems had detections. Of these, one had results above the State Action Level, and three were above the EPA's new LHAs.

We will be devoting our September member meeting to PFAS.

### Web site updates

We have added an [events calendar](#) to the web site. You'll find it on the main menu. The calendar contains WIWSA events and those from partners. There's a submenu that lets you choose just [WIWSA events](#).

We've added a special [PFAS resource](#) section to the web site.

Look for further website improvements over the coming months.

### Billing

- 2022 invoices have been sent by regular mail. Thank you to those who have already paid. Let us know if you have not received your invoice. If your water system's contact information needs to be updated, please use the [Membership Application/Renewal/Update](#) form.

### Scholarship/Apprenticeship Program

- WIWSA is partnering with ERWoW/RCAC and SMAs and water systems on Whidbey Island to offer a scholarship and apprenticeship for persons interested in pursuing a career in drinking water. Please contact us for details. We have already interviewed our first applicant for this scholarship.

### Dates and plans for 2022 member meetings:

- The June member meeting was held in person with a zoom option. It was great to see people in three dimensions again. We are working on improved sound for the next meeting. The topics were:
  - Grant and loan opportunities for water systems
  - Water use efficiency
- Our next Member Meeting will be **Thursday September 15, 2022, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**. We will meet in person at Coupeville Library with a Zoom option. The topic will be PFAS in drinking water.
- Full agenda and zoom link to follow. Remember that to receive the invitation email with the meeting link you need to [subscribe](#) to this email service.

### News from our Partners

- [Office of Drinking Water | Washington State Department of Health](#)
  - **The Northwest Regional Office is moving to a permanent remote work environment**
    - [ODW Updates and Staffing \(govdelivery.com\)](#)
  - The Office of Drinking Water July Newsletter is out. [ODW Newsletter :: Washington State Department of Health](#). We recommend that you subscribe to this newsletter.
- **Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation**
  - [WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Year 2023](#)

- This Water and Energy Efficiency Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) provides funding for projects that result in quantifiable water savings, implement renewable energy components, and support broader sustainability benefits. These projects conserve and use water more efficiently; increase the production of renewable energy; mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict; and accomplish other benefits that contribute to sustainability in the Western United States.
- [AWWA](#)
  - Did you know AWWA has an entire catalog of online, self-paced educational opportunities designed to bolster your professional development? Check it out here: [eLearning Hub - 6/28 \(contentsharing.net\)](#)
- [PNWS-AWWA | Drinking Water Management Resources for Northwest Professionals](#)
  - Latest newsletters: [PNWS-AWWA Newsletters - PNWS-AWWA - Drinking Water Management & Resources for Northwest Professionals](#). We suggest you subscribe to the AWWA-PNWS newsletter [here](#).
  - The abstract window is now open for next year's section conference May 3-5, 2023 in Kennewick, Washington. The Abstract Window Closes July 30. [Submit your 2023 Conference Abstract >](#)
  - AWWA's Water Infrastructure Conference Comes to Portland September 11-14. [Registration is Now Open](#)
- [Circle of Blue | Water Reporting, Data & Convening](#)
  - [EPA Warns of Health Problems When PFAS Levels in Drinking Water Are Inconceivably Tiny - Circle of Blue](#)
- [Evergreen Rural Water of Washington > Home \(erwow.org\)](#)
  - [Evergreen Rural Water of Washington > Conferences > 2022 Fall Conference > Call For Presentation \(erwow.org\)](#)  
The fall conference will be at the Yakima Convention Center Aug 30 – Sep 1, 2022
  - [Calendar \(erwow.org\)](#)
- [Water and Wastewater News | WWD \(wwdmag.com\)](#)
  - [Water and Wastes Digest : July 2022 \(mydigitalpublication.com\)](#) This is a well-produced magazine
- [Environmental Working Group – Know your choices | Environmental Working Group \(ewg.org\)](#)
  - [EWG Updates Tap Water Database](#)
  - [EWG-AvoidingPFCs.pdf](#) A timely guide to avoiding PFAS
- [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.
  - [WaterPro Conference 2022 held in National Harbor, MD | NRWA](#) is coming up, September 26-29
- [Wateroperator.org](#) is also well worth a subscribe. Click the subscribe link at the top of the email.
  - All their Newsletters and Innovations for Small Water Systems can be found in the [WaterOperator > Newsletter](#)

## 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.
- **(Don’t) Waste Water** weekly water podcast covers case studies, market trends, and technology breakthroughs.
- [talkingunderwater | Water & Wastes Digest \(wwdmag.com\)](#) Talking Under Water is the premier podcast for the water industry, including municipal and industrial water and wastewater, residential water treatment, storm water management and erosion control. It is produced in coordination between [Water & Wastes Digest \(WWD\)](#), [Water Quality Products \(WQP\)](#) and [Storm Water Solutions \(SWS\)](#).

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](mailto:whidbeywatersystems.org)

Subscribe!

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

Join!

We encourage water systems, private well owners, and companies serving water systems to become members of WIWSA. Please use the [Membership Application/Renewal/Update](#) form to apply.