



Water on Whidbey

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Newsletter

October 2022

Welcome to the WIWSA October 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

Public Participation Grant

Ecology's Solid Waste Management Program Management Team has conditionally approved WIWSA's application for an emergency [Public Participation Grant](#). This grant will provide funding to help WIWSA to increase public understanding and involvement in cleaning up PFAS contamination in groundwater. Further details to follow.

2022 EPA Health Advisory Levels for Four PFAS

On June 15, 2022, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released lifetime Health Advisory Levels (HALs) for four per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water. These included interim health advisories for PFOA and PFOS and final health advisories for PFBS and GenX chemicals. [2022 EPA Health Advisory Levels for Four PFAS \(wa.gov\)](#)

Listing PFAS under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)

October 25 @ 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

On August 26, 2022, the U.S. EPA issued a proposal to designate two per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) — perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)- as hazardous substances under Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as Superfund. During this public, virtual event hosted by the AAAS Center for Scientific Evidence in Public Issues (EPI Center), a panel of experts will discuss the recent announcement. The panelists will discuss CERCLA, the significance of listing PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances, and the process the U.S. EPA has outlined for finalizing the rule. This event will include time for a Q & A session.

*The U.S. EPA is encouraging stakeholders and the public to comment on the draft listing. The 60-day public comment period opened on September 6 and will close on November 7, 2022.

[Center for Scientific Evidence in Public Issues](#)

[Register here](#)

“BREAKING DOWN FOREVER CHEMICALS” WEBINAR

October 26 @ 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Join us for our webinar, “Breaking Down Forever Chemicals,” featuring Dr. Alissa Cordner and Megan Liu. Perfluorinated chemicals (PFAS) are synthetic chemicals used in a wide variety of consumer products, and they are found virtually everywhere: in your house, in the river, in raindrops in Tibet and Antarctica, and even in your bloodstream. They’re called forever chemicals because they don’t break down, but it’s time for us to break up with them.

WHAT: “Breaking Down Forever Chemicals,” featuring Dr. Alissa Cordner and Megan Liu.

WHEN: October 26, 2022, from 12 – 1:00 p.m.

WHERE: Zoom! RSVP and we will email you a link for the webinar. Can’t make it? We’ve got you covered. RSVP and we’ll email you a recording after the webinar airs.

COST: Free! Please invite anyone you know who cares about the Columbia River and environmental justice.

SPEAKERS: Dr. Alissa Cordner, the Co-director of the PFAS Project Lab and an Associate Professor at Whitman College and Megan Liu, the Science and Policy Manager for Toxic-Free Future (TFF).

[Columbia Riverkeeper](#)

[Register here](#)

Engaging in EPA’s Upcoming Proposed PFAS Drinking Water Regulatory Process

November 2 @ 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

EPA will be hosting a virtual public webinar on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, from 2:30 to 4:00 pm ET which is designed to prepare and assist communities on how they can engage in EPA’s upcoming proposed PFAS drinking water regulatory process and provide EPA with their comments on the proposed rule once it is published. Furthermore, this webinar will be an opportunity for EPA to provide these communities with background information about PFAS in drinking water, the Safe Drinking Water Act rulemaking requirements, and the input EPA has previously solicited from community representatives and members. Participants will also be able to ask questions about the information presented. During the webinar, EPA will not be discussing the specific requirements of the proposed rule.

[EPA](#)

[Register](#)

PFAS Project Lab

 [PFAS September Newsletter \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

We devoted our September member meeting to PFAS.
See below for details

Bylaw changes

The Board of WIWSA would like the membership to consider increasing the number of board members from 5 to 9, and to open full membership in the Association to private well owners and associate members such as service providers. This would allow us a broader representation of the drinking water community on the board and increase the number of people available to handle the board's increasing workload. The board will draft and circulate the proposed bylaw changes to the membership before the December meeting, where you will be invited to vote on the proposed changes.

Web site updates

We have changed the look and feel of the [website](#) so you can see recent posts and other features more easily. It also works better on mobile devices. Check it out and let us know what you think!

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

Billing

As we gear up for a new year, 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. Our first applicant is already enrolled in the program.

Dates and plans for 2022 member meetings:

The topic of the September meeting was **PFAS in drinking water**. We met in person at Coupeville's water treatment plant with a Zoom option. We had a tour of the plant and brief presentations from DOH, Ecology, the Navy, and Confluence Engineering, followed by a panel discussion. The presentations are available here: [Presentations from September 2022 Member Meeting – Whidbey Island Water Systems Association \(whidbeywatersystems.org\)](#)

Our next Member Meeting will be **Thursday December 15, 2022, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**. 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](#)

An Overview of the 2022 Construction Loan Cycle

November 16 @ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program will accept Construction Loan applications October 3 to November 30. This year's cycle includes funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

The program guidelines, application worksheet, EZ-1 Form, and WALT Users Guide are available on the DWSRF Webpage. Submit application using the DWSRF on-line system, WALT.

NOTE: Pre-registration is required to access WALT. If you're already in the WALT system, no action is needed. For WALT Pre-registration, please email dwsrf@doh.wa.gov.

November 16, 10 AM to noon – Join us for an informational MS Teams meeting on the Construction Loan program. The MS Teams meeting link is available on the DWSRF Webpage.

Please forward this email to anyone who may be interested. Any questions or concerns, email DWSRF@doh.wa.gov.

[Drinking Water State Revolving Fund \(DWSRF\)](#)

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

[AWWA](#)

AWWA looks forward to ACE23 June 11-14, 2023 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Call for abstracts is open. [ACE23 CFA - 9/8 \(contentsharing.net\)](#)

[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](#).

NWWA-AWWA

[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 \(erwow.org\)](#)

Water & Wastewater Professional Growth Course Catalog July - September 2022 [2022 3rd Quarterly.pdf \(erwow.org\)](#)

[Calendar \(erwow.org\)](#)

[Water and Wastewater News | WWD \(wwdmag.com\)](#)

[Water and Wastes Digest : August 2022 \(mydigitalpublication.com\)](#)

[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.

Connecting Communities with Infrastructure Financing Opportunities from EPA's WIFIA
November 3 @ 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Recent historic Federal investments in water infrastructure have spurred water systems and communities to rapidly develop plans for using these funds to address their current maintenance and operational needs. This also presents an opportunity for NRWA and EPA to collaborate in providing information to those seeking both technical assistance for planning and the financial means to deliver on those plans. EPA's WIFIA program provides loans to communities using a flexible process that focuses on supplementing available grants, accelerating development and combining multiple projects into eligible plans. This presentation will review the basics of the WIFIA program, illustrate successes from current borrowers, and provide a resource that technical assistance providers can share to help communities connect with WIFIA and explore their options.

Free

[NRWA](#)

[Register](#)

[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](#)

H2OsecCon

November 15 @ 8:00 am – November 17 @ 5:00 pm

Security for the Water Sector

\$50 General Registration

WaterISAC

[View Organizer Website](#)

events@waterisac.org

Virtual Event

[Register here](#)

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

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.