

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

General Membership Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2022

I. Call to Order

John Lovie called to order the regular meeting of the Whidbey Island Water System Association General Membership Meeting at 6:00 pm on September 15, 2022 Fort Casey Water Treatment Plant and online via zoom.

II. Quorum Call and Introductions

Quorum confirmation made. Present: WIWSA-John Lovie, Randi Perry, Bethel Hart, Joe Grogan, and Culley Lehman. State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water – Barbara Morrissey, Mike Means, State Department of Ecology Pricilla Tomlinson. US Navy – Kendra Clubb. Confluence Engineering Chris Mcmean. Island County Environmental Health – Heather Kortuem, Aneta Hupfauer.

III. Approval of Agenda

Agenda presented. Motion to approve the agenda from the membership. Second by member. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Minutes presented for June 2022 General Membership meeting. Motion to approve minutes from the membership. Second by Lehman. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report presented. Motion to approve the agenda from the membership. Second made by member. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. Meeting Program

John Lovie – President WIWSA. 2016-investigation near US military installations for PFAS contamination in drinking water. 2018-Department of Ecology (DOE) and Department of Health (DOH) started the Chemical Action Plan (CAP), Lovie served on the advisory committee. Draft released in 2020 with recommended limits. 2021-DOH set limits for PFAS in drinking water and final PFAS CAP released with guideline State Action Levels (SALs). Detection over SAL requires public notification. 2022-soil/groundwater cleanup, EPA issued new health advisory 10,000 times less than previous. Voluntary results received, 13 of 137 in Island County have detections, 1 over the 70ppt health advisory level. DOH begins stakeholder forum. AWWA estimates \$400 billion needed for cleanup.

Barbara Morrissey and Mike Means- Department of Health –PFAS is a class of 9000 Chemicals used in nonstick, stain and water resistance coatings and firefighting foam, are persistent, bioaccumulate, are toxic at low levels, don't breakdown in the environment and are extremely mobile. Health concerns present in both lab animals and humans. State Board of Health passed 5 PFAS compound SALs. Testing required for systems beginning January 2023-25, detections require notification/follow-up testing. State detection levels are about 20% most near military installations. Systems with detections can move or blend sources and install treatment alternatives. The Department of Defense established standard of providing alternate sources for detections over 70 ppt. Evolving health guidance is challenging to implement. Current EPA PFOA and PFAS levels are not achievable. DOH decision depends on EPA finalizing MCL.

Chris Mcmean, Confluence Engineering– Discussed different treatment technologies to remove PFAS from Drinking water. Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)- it is important to test media in advance to determine effectiveness.

Backflushing filters can create waste stream. Ion exchange is effective with movement through 2-5 times faster and utilized less media. Media requires prefiltration. Reverse Osmosis is very effective, best under the counter application, pretreatment needed and is 2-3x more expensive and is not generally used in large water systems.

Kendra Clubb, NAS Environmental Restoration Program manager– The Navy goal is to provide cost effective remediation from past activity. Coupeville and whidbey in remedial investigation phase underway. 170 off base drinking water wells sampled, 8 exceed 2016 EPA lifetime health advisory associated with 26 homes. 1 resident connected to a deeper well, and 25 residents to public water systems.

Pracilla Tomlinson, Department of Ecology– PFAS in drinking water subject to clean up per Model Toxic Control Act (MTCA) equivalent to superfund. DOH SAL's are basis for cleanup. Revised health advisory is not achievable. EPA proposing MCL for PFAS and PFOA addition MCLs take time. Established MCL means contaminant eligible for superfund cleanup. EPA already considers PFOS hazardous due to fluorine compounds. Ecology requests reporting detections, detections indicate contamination in area, which may trigger cleanup.

Panel was open for Q&A

Adjournment John Lovie adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm

Minutes submitted by: Randi Perry