



# Water on Whidbey

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Newsletter

January 2023

## Welcome to the WIWSA January 2023 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

### Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting was held on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Unfortunately, due to the holiday season (and a Seahawks game?) attendance was low and we just failed to achieve a quorum. We held a special meeting on January 5, 2023, and fortunately sufficient members were in attendance to constitute a quorum. The members voted to approve the proposed bylaw changes (see below), to apply for a Public Participation Grant (see below) to reelect Joe Grogan as a director, and to approve the 2023 association budget. Full minutes will be posted once they have been approved by the board.

### Bylaw Changes

#### Key Changes

- The membership approved opening full voting membership to private well owners and to associate members such as service providers. This better reflects participation in our meetings.
- The membership approved increasing the number of directors from five to nine. This will give the board more capacity to handle the ever-increasing workload and make sure that all classes of members can be represented.

The revised bylaws can be found on the Association web site [here](#).

### 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. The membership approved completing our application for this grant.

December 27, 2022, Storm



JOHNLOVIE.SUBSTACK.COM

# An Imperfect Storm

Recent flooding in Puget Sound shows that predictive models work



The December 27, 2022, flooding around Whidbey Island was a foretaste of a future with climate change and sea level rise. The flooding highlights the risks our water systems face from sea water intrusion and other potential problems such as inundation of equipment, loss of power, and contamination from damaged sewer and septic infrastructure. There's a post about this on the web site here: [An Imperfect Storm](#)

## 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 and is doing really well!

## Dates and plans for 2023 member meetings:

The topic of the December meeting was [Inspection and Cleaning of Potable Water Reservoirs Using Remotely Operated Vehicles](#).

**Save the date!** Our next Member Meeting will be **Thursday March 16, 2023, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**. Topic, 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](#)

#### Drinking Water Week

It's That Time Again! Is there a water system you're proud of? Do you know an outstanding waterworks operator or another deserving person in the drinking water industry? [Nominate](#) them for an award! We're collecting nominations until February 20, 2023. Anyone can nominate someone in the drinking water industry for an award, [just fill out this nomination form](#). Some of the categories we use are below. We also adjust categories to fit special situations.

**Above and Beyond.** Recognition for going above the normal call of duty and/or to provide assistance to neighboring water systems.

**Commitment to Excellence.** For those who continuously strive for excellence in providing safe and reliable drinking water.

**Grace Under Pressure/Perseverance Under Adversity.** For handling a crisis well, or for persevering under consistent challenges.

**Lifetime Achievement.** Reserved for those who are retiring.

**Most Improved.** This award is typically presented to water systems that overcome a bad situation and now provide excellent service.

**Operator of the Year.** To recognize an operator for their dedication and commitment. They also help educate and mentor others in the water industry, lending help and knowledge where needed.

**Most Innovative.** Presented to water operators/systems/organizations that come up with innovative solutions for challenges they face. Nomination Form Now Open [View this as a web page](#)

[ODW Newsletter | Washington State Department of Health](#)

The November newsletter is out

[DWAG December 5 Meeting Agenda \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Drinking Water Advisory Group Meeting December 5, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

[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](#)

[Opposition to CAFOs Mounts Across the Nation - Circle of Blue](#)

[Evergreen Rural Water of Washington > Home \(erwow.org\)](#)

[Evergreen Rural Water of Washington > Conferences > 2023 Annual Conference > Attendees \(erwow.org\)](#)

Our 2023 Annual Conference will be February 14-16, 2023

Our Conference will take place at the Hilton Vancouver Washington located at 301 W 6th Street in Vancouver. A list of classes is [here](#). John Lovie is presenting on PFAS in Drinking Water.

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

[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 2023 held in Aurora, CO | NRWA](#)

September 25-27, 2023 | Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center | Aurora, CO

[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.