



Water on Whidbey

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Newsletter

February 2023

Welcome to the WIWSA February 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

Board of Directors

At the Annual Meeting in January, the membership approved the association pursuing a [Public Participation Grant](#) from Washington State Department of Ecology for public outreach on PFAS in drinking water sources. John Lovie has stepped down as president to lead the actions under the grant. He will continue as a director. The other officer positions remain unchanged.

The membership also approved changes in our [bylaws](#) to extend full voting membership to private well owners and associate members, as well as increasing the size of the board from 5 to 9. We are please to welcome two new board members.

Jeff Tasoff, from Davido Consulting Group, has been a longtime supporter of WIWSA, an advisor to the board, and a participant in our meetings. He brings his expertise in the design of drinking water systems.

Doug Kelly, hydrogeologist, formerly with Island County, has been a champion of safe drinking water in Island County. He brings his unparalleled understanding of our aquifers.

We welcome them both! A [full list of directors and officers](#) can be found on the web site.

New Members

We'd like to welcome the following new members:

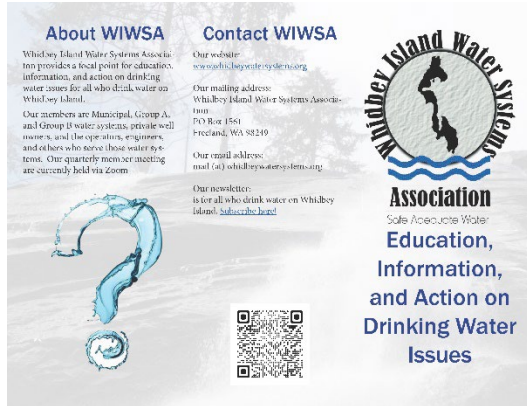
Maple Hill Community Association, Group B

Doug Kelly, hydrogeologist, associate member

A couple of members noted that they were not included in the [list of current members](#) on the web site. We've corrected that. Starting this month, we'll also welcome new members in this newsletter.

Public Participation Grant

Washington State Department of Ecology's Solid Waste Management Program Management Team has approved WIWSA's application for an emergency [Public Participation Grant](#) and the agreement is active. We have some actions completed and many more planned under this grant.

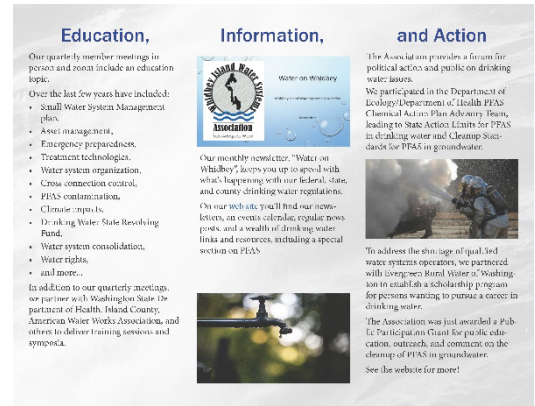


About WIWSA
Whitby Island Water Systems Association provides a focal point for education, information, and action on drinking water issues for all who drink water on Whitby Island.
Our members are Municipal, Group A, and Group B water systems; private well owners; and the operators, engineers, and others who serve those water systems. Our quarterly member meeting are currently held via zoom.

Contact WIWSA
Our website: www.whitbyislandwatersystems.org
Our mailing address: Whitby Island Water Systems Association, PO Box 1561, Freeland, WA 98249
Our email address: mail@whitbywatersystems.org
Our newsletter is for all who drink water on Whitby Island. [Subscribe here!](#)

Whitby Island Water Systems Association
Safe. Accurate. Water.
Education, Information, and Action on Drinking Water Issues

WIWSA once again sponsored and has a [Virtual booth at Sound Waters University 2023](#). To celebrate the occasion, we updated our brochure!



Education, Information, and Action

Our quarterly member meetings in person and zoom include an education topic.

Over the last few years have included:

- Small Water System Management plan.
- Asset management.
- Emergency preparedness.
- Treatment technologies.
- Water system organization.
- Cross connection control.
- PFAS contamination.
- Climate impacts.
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.
- Water system consolidation.
- Water rights.
- and more...

In addition to our quarterly meetings, we partner with Washington State Department of Health, Island County, American Water Works Association, and others to deliver training sessions and symposia.

Our monthly newsletter, "Water on Whitby," keeps you up to speed with what's happening with our federal, state, and county drinking water regulations. On our web site, you'll find our newsletters, an events calendar, regular news posts, and a wealth of drinking water links and resources, including a special section on PFAS.

The Association provides a forum for political action and public on drinking water issues. We participated in the Department of Ecology/Department of Health PFAS Chemical Action Plan Advisory Team, leading to State Action Limits for PFAS in drinking water and Cleanup Standards for PFAS in groundwater.

To address the shortage of qualified water systems operators, we partnered with Evergreen Rural Water of Washington to establish a scholarship program for persons wanting to pursue a career in drinking water.

The Association was just awarded a Public Participation Grant for public education, outreach, and comment on the cleanup of PFAS in groundwater. See the website for more!

Community meeting in Selah, WA

We attended a community meeting in Selah Washington to support Brandi Hyatt, another recipient of an Ecology grant. Her community's drinking water is contaminated by firefighting activities at Yakima Training Ground.



The meeting was covered by local TV and press:

['I don't want to live like this anymore': East Selah families still fighting for access to clean water amid PFAS well contamination | News | yaktrine.com](#)

[Local and state officials hear from Selah residents affected by drinking water contamination | Local | yakimaherald.com](#)

Evergreen Rural Water of Washington Annual Conference

We presented on [Forever Chemicals in Groundwater](#) at [Evergreen Rural Water of Washington's Annual Conference 2/15/2023](#). The talk was well received, with over 100 people in attendance and lots of questions.



Check the [PFAS page](#) on the web site for updates as they happen.

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. Invoices this year should be going out by email shortly.

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 well! If you know of someone who needs this program, please have them reach out.

Dates and plans for 2023 member meetings:

Save the date! Our next Member Meeting will be **Thursday March 16, 2023, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**. The topic will be **Climate Change and Water Systems**. A 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](#)



Who you gonna call?

DOH Island Co. Regional Engineer - Alexis Medina
Alexis.Medina@doh.wa.gov or 253-395-6764
Island Co. Health Department - Aneta Hupfauer
AnetaH@islandcountywa.gov or 360-678-7995

DOH Island Co. Regional Planner - Jennifer Kropack
Jennifer.Kropack@doh.wa.gov or 253-395-6768

DOH Sanitary Survey Program Manager - Carmen Tupas
Carmen.Tupas@doh.wa.gov or 253-395-6752



Island County regulates all Group B Public Water Systems and private wells.



Washington State DOH regulates all Group A Public Water Systems.

Profile of Water Systems (WS) in Island Co.

Total Group A WS	296
Number of Connections	
>1001	4
501-1000	5
101-500	47
<100	240
Governance	
Cities	3
Water Districts	21
Investor Owned Association	209
Other	21
Group B WS	584
Private Wells (2016 data)	6216

Climate Awareness

Climate change brings rising sea level among many other challenges that can impact our WS, homes, and lives. Are you preparing?

176 active sources within 1/4 mile of coast (500 state-wide)

19% of Group A & B WS have sources with High or Very High Seawater Intrusion (SWI) Rating

See WWSA website for more information on climate awareness and emergency preparedness.

DOH Publications on Emergency Preparedness
331-242, 331-115, 331-068, 331-183, 331-221.

From the Tap, Island County, 2023

Who you gonna call?

Our friends at Washington State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water have made a flyer just for Island County! It has a wealth of information about Island County drinking water systems and contact information for all the people you need to know at County and State.

Drinking Water Week

There's still time! 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](#)

Take a look at the [January ODW NOW](#)

[Drinking Water Advisory Group](#)

Next Meeting March 6, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Microsoft Teams meeting Information will be added closer to the meeting date.

[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](#).

The Section Conference is in Kennewick WA, May 3-5. [Information and registration here](#).

[NWWA-AWWA](#)

[NWWA Water Olympics \(constantcontact.com\)](#) is Tuesday, March 21, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM PDT at Blue Taco Restaurant and Bar, 2300 Market Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

[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](#)

[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

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.