



Water on Whidbey

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Newsletter

May 2023

Welcome to the WIWSA May 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

[Drinking Water Week 2023—May 7-13 - Awards](#)

Association vice-president and Town of Coupeville Public Works Director Joe Grogan received a Grace Under Pressure award, while Association director and former president John Lovie received a Lifetime Achievement award.

Grace Under Pressure

Joe Grogan, Public Works Director, Town of Coupeville. Joe started his career as Utility Supervisor in 2016 as the Navy confirmed PFAS contamination in the Town of Coupeville's newest drinking water well. Joe became an expert on PFAS contaminants, testing, state and federal regulations, treatment operations, and more. He acted as liaison between the Navy and the town, communicating complex information in a transparent and understandable way. He created a calm environment and gained the trust of the community, the press, and the Navy. Joe was recently promoted to Public Works Director and continues to oversee capital projects, the utility crew, and all while keeping current with emerging state and federal PFAS regulations.

Lifetime Achievement

John Lovie, former Whidbey Island Water System Association President, is recognized for his Lifetime Achievement. John also served on other boards and committees during his tenure, including the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WIWSA). He founded and still runs the WIWSA newsletter, which covers topics like emerging contaminants, regulations, and available funding. He's also served on nine local community scientific organizations, providing his expertise and hours of his time. He is passionate about water conservation and works tirelessly to advocate for the preservation of natural resources. John is involved with the PFAS response and is a member of the PFAS Chemical Action Plan Advisory Committee. Part of that work is making recommendations to the Department of Ecology. It also works to ensure safe drinking water, managing environmental contamination, and reduce PFAS in products

available to consumers. John's work encompasses the whole of Island County, not just his own community.

Board of Directors

We have more changes on the board of directors.

Bethel Hart is stepping down after years of service as our treasurer and bookkeeper. Bethel also created and managed our apprenticeship program. We thank you Bethel for all you have done for the Association.

Doug Kelly is also stepping down, as he and his wife are relocating to be nearer to their growing family. Although only an Association director for a short time, Doug has been a friend of all who drink water on Whidbey for many years in his role as Island County hydrogeologist.

Brenda Bosman joins us as Treasurer and bookkeeper. Brenda has extensive experience with water system billing and bookkeeping, as has been able to pick up quickly. Thanks to Brenda and Bethel for ensuring a smooth transition.

Mitch Allen joins us from Maple Hill Community Association. We're excited to have a representative of a Group B system on the board. Mitch has offered to be the focal point for Group B systems and issues.

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

We're looking for a couple more board members!

New Members

We'd like to welcome the following new members:

Maple Hill Community Association

Sitka Bluff Water Association

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.

PFAS Public Participation Grant

WIWSA has applied for a further two year [Public Participation Grant](#) for public education and participation in cleanup of PFAS in groundwater.

PFAS News

Washington State Department of Health has published three great [educational videos on PFAS](#).

PFAS was in the news in the region, with new detections on [San Juan Island](#) and [Paine Field](#).

The State Department of Ecology has begun to investigate groundwater contamination around **Harrington Lagoon** on Whidbey and **Mabana Shores** on Camano. Ecology has added the Island County sites to the [site map](#).

We're working with the State Department of Health, the Climate Change Action Committee, and the State Department of Ecology on several public meetings and workshops on Whidbey and Camano Islands.

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](#) section to the web site.

Billing

If your water system's contact information needs to be updated, please use the [Membership Application/Renewal/Update](#) form. Invoices this year have been sent out by email. Thank you to those who have already send in their payments.

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 June 15, 2023, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**. The tentative topic is **Revised Lead and Copper Rule**. 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](#)

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

Take a look at the latest [ODW Newsletter | Washington State Department of Health](#)

[Drinking Water Advisory Group](#)

Next Meeting June 5, 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](#).

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

[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.

Author

Water on Whidbey is written and edited by John Lovie. You can read more by John at [Mostly Water | John Lovie | Substack](#)