



# Water on Whidbey

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Newsletter

August 2023

## Welcome to the WIWSA August 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

There were no further changes to the board of directors. The list on the web site is current. [Board of Directors – Whidbey Island Water Systems Association \(whidbeywatersystems.org\)](#)

We currently have two vacancies on the board.

John Lovie's term ends at the end of 2023. After 10 years on the board and having served as a director and as treasurer, vice-president, president, and secretary, he's decided that the time has come to step down.

### New Members

We have had no new members since the last newsletter.

There is a [list of current members](#) on the web site.

### PFAS Public Participation Grant

WIWSA's application for a further two year Public Participation Grant for outreach on PFAS was not awarded. All payment requests, progress, and closeout reports have been submitted and final payments received and disbursed. We will produce a final report for the membership.

We presented at [Whidbey's Water Future in a Changing Climate](#), Saturday, June 10, 2023, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm, Whidbey Island Center for the Arts. It was great to see so many members of the Association present at this event. Here's a link to all the presentations: [WATER | Whidbey Climate](#).

We ran community meetings for the Harrington Lagoon and Mabana Shores (Camano Island) communities affected by PFAS. ['Forever chemicals' in drinking water found at Whidbey 'slice of heaven' | South Whidbey Record – Whidbey Island Water Systems Association \(whidbeywatersystems.org\)](#)

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](#).

#### *Other PFAS News*

ODW is running a PFAS forum in September. [ODW Sept PFAS Save the Date.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#)

In case you missed it, Washington State Department of Health has published three great [educational videos on PFAS](#).

DOH has also published a [PFAS Testing Results Dashboard](#), which is a great resource.

[PFAS July Newsletter \(mailchi.mp\)](#) from the PFAS Project Lab

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

#### Billing

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 well! If you know of someone who needs this program, please have them reach out. We'll have an update at the September meeting.

#### Dates and plans for 2023 member meetings:

**Save the date!** Our next Member Meeting will be **Thursday September 15 21, 2023, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm**.

The tentative topic is **Rate setting and related topics**. 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](#)

The DWAG is looking to move to a monthly schedule due to the volume of work to be done. These meetings are a great opportunity to learn what the Office of Drinking Water is up to and to offer comments. Check the [DWAG website](#) for details of upcoming meetings.

#### [AWWA](#)

[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](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.

## Author

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