



Water on Whidbey

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association
Newsletter, September 2023

Editor [John Lovie](#)

Welcome to the WIWSA September 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

We have had no further changes to the Association Board of Directors since the last newsletter! HOWEVER, we still have two vacancies, one expiring at the end of this year and up for reelection (or election) at the December meeting, and one with a year to run and then up for reelection at the end of 2024. In addition, my term is expiring. After ten years on the board (and a lifetime achievement award!), I've decided not to run again. That will create a third vacancy. If you're interested in running, please let the board know at mail (at) whidbeywatersystems.org. All members are eligible to run. We would like to have more Group B representation as well as someone from a Water District.

New Members

We had no new members over the summer. There is a [list of current members](#) on the web site.

PFAS Public Participation Grant

WIWSA applied for a further two year [Public Participation Grant](#) for public education and participation in cleanup of PFAS in groundwater. The grant was not awarded. This was not a tremendous shock, as we wanted to work to try to fix the problems, work that was out of scope for the grant.

PFAS News

Earlier this year, the Attorney General, Bob Ferguson, filed a lawsuit against 20 manufacturers of "forever chemicals", while Chemours, DuPont, and Corteva reached a settlement in the South Carolina AFFF multi-district litigation. We analyzed these lawsuits and settlements here: [Lawsuit week for PFAS - by John Lovie - Mostly Water \(substack.com\)](#). A group of State attorney generals is now appealing the settlement on the grounds that is too little money. NRWA is still pushing water systems to join.

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.

Salish Sea toxics monitoring synthesis

A new report from the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program takes a comprehensive look at some of the greatest dangers posed by toxic chemicals in the Salish Sea. The report was produced with support from the UW Puget Sound Institute, and brings together recent findings on PCBs, CECs, PFAS, 6PPD-Q, and other toxics of concern. It represents a compilation of activities from almost 50 groups in both the United States and Canada. Read it to find out how rogue chemicals are affecting the health of the ecosystem. [Read more.](#)

Here's the [September 2023 PFAS Newsletter](#) from PFAS project lab. This is an excellent monthly digest of PFAS news.

NAS Whidbey: Department of Defense (DoD) personnel are planning to visit Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island, Washington on 17-18 October 2023. This is one of several installation visits, which are an element of the DoD Environmental Cleanup Communication and Outreach Initiative (ECCOI). The purpose of this email is to introduce you to the ECCOI and inform you of community interviews with DoD personnel and contractors on Tuesday, 17 October 2023 or Wednesday, 18 October 2023. If you would like an opportunity to be interviewed, please respond directly to Alicia Solis (Alicia@galendriscol.com) and she will schedule the interviews.'

[The trouble Spokane's airport may face for not disclosing its contaminated groundwater problem \(substack.com\)](#)

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

Web site updates

Billing

If your water system's contact information needs to be updated, please use the [Membership Application/Renewal/Update](#) form. Invoices will be going out in the new year.

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 starting a second year, and a second applicant has joined. 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 December 14th, 2023, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm.** This is our annual meeting where we have important business to conduct for which we need a quorum. Please be there! A full agenda and zoom link will follow. Remember that to receive the invitation email with the meeting zoom 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](#)

[AWWA](#)

AWWA looks forward to ACE23 June 11-14, 2023 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

AWWA-PNWS 2023 Water Storage Basics Workshop – Online, Wednesday, October 25, 2023 from 7:30 AM to 3:45 PM PDT [Get more information](#)

[NRWA Webinars](#)

[California's struggle for clean water is getting harder - Los Angeles Times \(latimes.com\)](#)

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.

Editor

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