



Water on Whidbey

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Newsletter, October 2023

Editor [John Lovie](#)

Welcome to the WIWSA October 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

Meeting Attendance

This newsletter has almost 400 subscribers, with more joining every week. We're grateful to every one of you for reading. Similarly, your engagement through emails is strong. It seems you continue to value this organization. However, attendance at meetings has never recovered from pre-COVID levels. We're having trouble reaching a quorum. Some of you may recall that we had to repeat last December's annual meeting in January because of an insufficient number of members in attendance. The Seahawks game might have been a factor too, but we can't always schedule around that. Hybrid meetings seem to be less than satisfactory for both in person and online attendees.

The board will be brainstorming ideas at our next board meeting. We are considering sending you a survey and/or bringing this issue for discussion at the next meeting. Meanwhile, if you have any ideas, please reach out.

Most importantly, mark your calendars for the Annual Member Meeting, Thursday, December 14th, 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Remember that you must be a member to vote, and that it's one vote per member or member water system. If you're not a member, [fill out the form](#) to join and get the rest of 2023 free!

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 have had no new members since the last newsletter. There is a [list of current members](#) on the web site.

PFAS News

We recently published a roundup of PFAS news here: [‘Forever chemicals’ haven’t gone away. – Whidbey Island Water Systems Association \(whidbeywatersystems.org\)](#)

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.

Here's the [September 2023 PFAS Newsletter](#) from PFAS project lab. This is an excellent monthly digest of PFAS news. Here's link to the website: [The PFAS Project Lab – Studying Social, Scientific, and Political Factors of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances](#)

NAS Whidbey: Department of Defense (DoD) personnel visited 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). If you'd like to take a survey on your views of the Navy's communication around their cleanup process, you can do so here: [Environmental Cleanup Communication and Outreach Initiative \(ECCOI\) Community Member Voluntary Questionnaire Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)

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.

[NRWA Webinars](#)

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](#)