

# Welcome to the Group B Meet-up!

## March 14, 2024



# Agenda

- Intro to Whidbey Island Water Systems Association (WIWSA)

*Mitch Allen, WIWSA Board*

- Island County & Group B Systems

*Aneta Hupfauer, Environmental Health Specialist, Island County Public Health*

- Group Discussion: What's your Experience? Issues? Concerns?

# First, Some Questions for You...

- What's the name of your water system?
- What is your primary role?
- What brought you to the meeting tonight?

# Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

- WIWSA is a **non-profit** formed in 2004
- Mission is to provide member water systems on Whidbey Island with **information, training and a community forum**
- Managed by a 9-member **volunteer board**, no direct employees
- Completely funded through member dues, **no fundraising**
- WIWSA's website, monthly newsletter and quarterly member meetings are **open to all**



# What is WIWSA's Purpose?

- **Act as Focal Point** for members for information on operations and maintenance
- **Keep Membership** informed about government requirements & pending legislation
- **Training** for member Water Operators, Owners and Boards
- **Provide a Forum** for political action & public information on water issues



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



Taken from Island County Public Health Website: Public Health Home (islandcountywa.gov)

### 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	42
Association	209
Other	21
Group B WS	584
Private Wells (2016 data)	6216

## Why focus on Group B?

- Regulatory requirements between Group A and Private wells
  - Leading to **many Group B systems** in Island County but each **servicing small populations**
  - Most Group B systems **managed by owners or members.**
- Group B systems are also **under-served**
  - **Not able** to contract with **SMA's**
  - **Not eligible** for state and federal water system **grants or loans**
  - **Excluded from PFAS testing and remediation programs**



# What is WIWSA doing for Group B Systems?

- Appointed **two new Board members** from Group B systems
- **Membership drive** through March 31st
- WIWSA Membership includes **31 Group B systems**
- Plus **108 Newsletter subscribers** belong to a Group B system
- Evaluating **Group B specific programs for 2024**
- Looking to **this meeting to help set priorities**



# Island County & Group B Water Systems

*Aneta Hupfauer, Environmental Health Specialist, IC Public Health*





## In Closing, one more question...

- What kinds of programs would you be interested in?

Thanks for coming tonight!

