



Water on Whidbey

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Newsletter, April 2024

Welcome to Water on Whidbey April 2024!

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association publishes this monthly newsletter to keep the community up to date with water news. The newsletter is sent to our email list and posted on our website to provide a way to find all the month's news and web content.

Please share this newsletter with your fellow water system board members, commissioners, operators, friends and neighbors, and anyone who drinks water! Encourage them to [subscribe](#) to receive it directly to their inbox along with invitations to member meetings and other events.

News from Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

March Quarterly Member's Meeting Recap

Our most recent Member Meeting was held last month with 45 participants attending by zoom and featuring sessions on **SMA Service Levels** with NW Natural/King Water and a recap of **A Day with DOH** held earlier the same week from the Office of Drinking Water.

Silas Olson gave a review of the NW Natural acquisition of King Water and talked about some of the developments during the past year. Already there have been extensive improvements to both the office administration and operations as part of a move to a new location that is underway. They are attempting to respond to communications issues and described changes that are being made. Several members expressed appreciation of recent service actions and that improvements have been noticed.

Alexis Medina from the DOH Office of Drinking Water also presented at the Q1 Member's Meeting, discussing the annual **A Day with DOH** hosted by PNW/AWWA on March 20, 2024. Alexis summarized each of the topics from the day's agenda which you can find at [Day with DOH webpage](#).

During Alexis' talk, she mentioned a number of references that may be of interest:

- [Source Water Protection Grant Program](#)
- [Lead Service Line Inventory Guidance](#)
- [Manganese in DW – What Customers Should Know](#)
- [Manganese in DW – Recommendations for WS Managers](#)
- Manganese Health Advisory Above 0.3 mg/L: [Manganese Health Advisory](#).
- Micheal Pan with the City of Bellevue's Contact Info regarding BWA door hangers / sandwich board templates: mcpan@bellevuewa.gov.

Dates and plans for 2024 member meetings:

Save the date! Our next Member Meeting will be Thursday June 20, 2024 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm on ZOOM. Remember that to receive the invitation email with the meeting zoom link you need to subscribe to this newsletter email list.

Group B Meet-up

Thank you to all who attended the WIWSA Group B Meetup last month. We had 24 attendees (from 17 water systems) for a discussion of common issues faced by members of Group B water systems, joined by John Lovie, and Island County staff members Aneta Hupfauer and Chris Kelley. See this meeting recap post for all the details.

Two presentations were given by Mitch Allen on WIWSA and Aneta Hupfauer on Group B Roles and Responsibilities which can also be found on the website.

During Aneta's presentation there were discussions that raised some points to keep in mind. In particular, keep your own records and protect your source well with the proper covenants.

The rest of the meeting was a discussion during which people asked questions and raised issues including:

- Storage tank cleaning: how often and how to clean
- Issues finding contractors and SMA support
- Reserve planning
- Water quality testing
- PFAS testing for small systems

It was generally agreed that the meeting was helpful and something we want to do again. We will check in with the group that registered for this meeting in a few months to schedule the next meetup. Invitations for all future meetings will be sent out to all newsletter subscribers who have indicated that they belong to a Group B water system when subscribing.

Welcome New Members!

The membership drive completed in March with 8 new Group B members along with one new Group A member who joined during this time. **Welcome to our new members:**

- Eagle Water System
- Eisenbach Water Association
- Kyllenon Hill Water Association
- Lancaster Heights Water Association
- Maxwellton Creek Cohousing
- Rolling Hills Glencairn Community Service, Inc
- Sleeper Farm Community Association
- Summit Assistance Dogs
- Whitehorse Mountain Water System

Reminder: Lead Service Line Inventory due October 16, 2024

Once again, a reminder to Group A systems that there is an **upcoming deadline for compliance with the new Lead & Copper rules**. It may be a sizable effort for some systems; you should look into it if you haven't started already.

You can find the details on the [DOH website](#) which includes links to the technical and compliance requirements along with information about grants and other funding options. The March [ODW newsletter](#) includes some additional updates as well as options for technical assistance with the inventory and related communications.

Scholarship/Apprenticeship Program

WIWSA is partnering with [Evergreen Rural Water](#) and local water service providers to offer a scholarship and apprenticeship training for those interested in pursuing a career in drinking water. Please see the [Scholarship page](#) on our website or contact us for details.

We are actively seeking applicants for 2024, so please refer anyone who might be interested in this program by [email](#). The deadline for applications is May 31, 2024.

Billing— Annual WIWSA Dues Invoice Emailed

You should have received the annual membership dues invoice by email last month. **If you didn't receive the email or have questions about it**, please contact us by email at treasurer@whidbeywatersystems.org. Thanks for your support!

PFAS News

Major announcements this month as the EPA set **national drinking water standards for PFAS chemicals** and established policies to **make polluters pay** for the contamination. More coverage from the [Office of Drinking Water](#) and the [EPA](#).

Other PFAS related news:

- [You Can't Get Fooled Again](#)
- [US Appeals Court Kills Ban on Plastic Containers](#)
- [As WA tackles PFAS pollution, some worry about 'piecemeal' approach](#)
- [Warnings of a "wave of lawsuits" as PFAS exemption debated](#)
- [The Dangers of PFAS](#)
- [Funding for PFAS](#)
- [New Forever Chemical Rules](#)

Other Links

- [Coupeville to Study Reuse of Water](#)
- [California Farming Area Placed on Probation](#)
- [Water is more Valuable than Oil](#)
- [Rate Hike for Cascadia Water customers](#)

News from our Partners

Island County

- The Island County Long Range Planning team currently has one survey available on their [online engagement website](#): **Natural Resources**. This element might be the most important one for WIWSA members as it includes a number of critical groundwater topics. There is also a comments section on the engagement site that is always open for public comment. Please respond to the survey and weigh in with your comments.
- Planning is currently bringing the initial discussion of the Natural Resource Elements forward to the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners work sessions. Watch the [Agenda Center](#) for scheduled meetings and the agenda if you'd like to participate.

Department of Ecology

- There is a **major water rights adjudication** underway in Whatcom county which may set a precedence for future water rights disputes. Read DOE's [news release](#) on the topic. A presentation on water rights is planned at the next member's meeting.
- [Statewide drought declared due to low snowpack and dry forecast and Drought Declaration.](#)
- [Supporting a drier Yakima Basin in 2024](#)

Department of Health/Office of Drinking Water

- Check out this great new series from DOH: **[Chat with PFAS Experts](#)**.
- Keep an eye on award announcements for **[Drinking Water Week](#)** coming up, May 5-11.
- The latest **[ODW Newsletter](#)** includes spring tips, information on Lead Service Line inventory, information on how to submit electronic documents and a new Program at Washington Certification Services.
- Drought Declared: Proactive Steps to Prevent Drinking Water Shortages or Outages. Check out the **[water system guidance](#)** from the Office of Drinking Water.

AWWA Webinars & PNW Training

<https://www.awwa.org/Events-Education/Webinars>

<https://www.pnws-awwa.org/training/training-opportunities/>

NRWA Webinars

<https://www.gotostage.com/channel/nrwawebinars>

RCAC Workshops

<https://www.events.rcac.org/rcac/Calendar.asp>

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@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.