



Water on Whidbey

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Newsletter, April 2025

Welcome to Water on Whidbey April 2025!

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 single place to find this 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.

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association News

SAVE THE DATE: Q2 Quarterly Meeting—June 17, 2025, 5 to 7 pm IN-PERSON or ZOOM

The **Q2 Member Meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting on June 17, 2025, 5 pm to 7 pm**. This means that we will be hosting an in-person meeting at the Coupeville Library (788 NW Alexander St, Coupeville, WA 98239) with a Zoom option for those that prefer to join virtually. We will provide information about the meeting agenda and more details next month. For now, please note it on your calendar and plan to either join us at the library or over zoom.

All subscribers to this newsletter will receive invitations and Zoom information for upcoming member meetings along with the planned agenda. If you are not currently on the email list, you can sign up [here](#).

Group B Members, Please Join Us at the Group B Meetup, April 22, 2025 5:30 to 7 pm

Invitations have gone out to our Group B members and newsletter subscribers for our first 2025 meetup which will be a hybrid meeting at the Coupeville Library and over Zoom. If you did not receive an invitation with the meeting agenda and want to join, please contact us by [email](#).

The main topic will be a presentation on the potential impact of the Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP) revision on Group B systems. The discussion will be led by Jeff Tasoff and Donna Keeler who are working with county staff on an assessment of what parts of the plan should be revised. This is a great opportunity for Group B water system members to provide input on the priorities and needs from your perspective.

The agenda will also include a forum for your issues and questions along with news and updates. One of those updates will include information on [House Bill 1947](#) which passed the WA State Legislature this month and will result in changes to the Satellite Management Agency rules for some Group B systems.

The meeting will be held at the Coupeville Library (788 NW Alexander St, Coupeville, WA 98239) as well as Zoom for those who would prefer to attend virtually. This will be our first chance to try out the library's new facility that combines an in-person and online meeting.

Welcome New Members!

WIWSA's membership is 106 members: 60 Group A water systems including municipal systems, 39 Group B systems and 7 associate members. There were no new members added this month.

Billing and Contact Information

It is annual dues time again! **You should have received your 2025 dues invoice in your email inbox by now.** If you haven't received the invoice or if there has been a change in the main contact for your water system please get in touch with treasurer@whidbeywatersystems.org. We will update the account and re-issue the invoice. Thanks for your support!

Scholarship/Apprenticeship Program

Ernie Klimek spoke about the Evergreen Rural Water (ERWOW) programs for Apprenticeship and QUEST at the member meeting last month. As you may know WIWSA has teamed with Evergreen to offer a scholarship to an Island County resident who wishes to enroll in the one-year [QUEST](#) program or to the full two-year [Apprenticeship](#) program. The QUEST program is ideal for members of smaller Group B systems to receive the basic training needed to service their system or Group A systems to train backup operators.

Please check out the programs on [ERWoW's website](#) and visit the [Scholarship page](#) on the WIWSA website for more information or to apply for the program. The deadline for the scholarship application is coming up at the end of May.

More News in March

- [How to get rid of toxic 'forever chemical' pollution](#)
- [37M Americans exposed to unsafe 'forever chemicals' in water, EPA report shows](#)
- [New Study Shows Groundwater Level Declining in the Odessa Subarea](#)
- [45 Million in Infrastructure Funding Secured in Washington State Senate Capital Budget for Critical Irrigation Infrastructure Project to Help Stop Groundwater Depletion in parts of Grant, Adams and Lincoln Counties](#)
- [Landfill neighbors worry about PFAs contamination seeping into drinking water](#)

News from our Partners

Island County

- Check out the [Spring Drinking Water newsletter](#) from the county for some updates on Seawater Intrusion and water quality notices. You can sign up for the newsletter [here](#).
- The county is discussing emergency preparedness and wanted to make us all aware of a resource that might be a benefit. Check out the [Washington Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network](#) (WAWARN: Water and Wastewater Utilities Helping One Another). Their mission is to support and promote emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual aid assistance for Washington's public and private water related utilities in the case of emergencies. A number of water systems in Island County are already members of WAWARN.
- As mentioned last month, if you haven't looked over the [Drinking Water](#) webpage please check it out, and **sign up for the Drinking Water Newsletter**. There are new tabs for FAQ (water quality, wells, and building permits), ICGeoMap tab (find water system, well, and seawater intrusion info), and links to other data sources. You can email DrinkingWater@islandcountywa.gov if you have any questions or suggestions.

Department of Ecology

- [Drought declared for Yakima region for third year in a row](#); The Washington Department of Ecology is extending a drought emergency for a third consecutive year in central Washington. It is also issuing a drought advisory for north-central Washington and parts of the Puget Sound region.
- [Proposed changes to state's water quality permit fees provide options for businesses, update costs](#); The Washington Department of Ecology is proposing changes to many of the fees for the 6,500 water quality permits the agency issues statewide.
- [New innovative program prevents Columbia River drought shutoffs](#); Almost 400 water right holders are at risk of having their water shut off in the next Columbia River drought.

Department of Health/Office of Drinking Water

- Looking for information about your water system? If you're not already familiar with it, a very useful tool is the [Sentry Intranet](#). You can look up the data on file for your water system including basic information on connections, population served, primary contact information along with access to water quality and required reports filed with DOH.
- The most recent **Quarterly Drinking Water Advisory Group (DWAG) meeting was held on March 3, 2025**. The meeting included updates on many topics including information on Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), PFAS, Climate Resilience and Same Farm Policy. See the [Meeting Notes](#) for a recap. There is also a copy of the Climate Resilience presentation posted [here](#). You can sign up for email notifications for all DWAG notices [here](#).
- The latest [ODW Newsletter](#) came out last month. Check it out for updates on the Consumer Confidence Report, Lead and Copper FAQ, the online Water Quality Monitoring Schedule (WQMS) and more.

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>

Evergreen Rural Water of Washington (ERWOW)

https://www.viethconsulting.com/members/calendar6c_responsive.php?org_id=ERWW

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 [Apply Online](#) or print out and mail in the [Membership Application/Renewal/Update form](#) to become a member.