



Water on Whidbey

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Newsletter, May 2025

Welcome to Water on Whidbey May 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 hope to provide an introduction to Small Water System Planning at this meeting, along with a presentation on fire hydrant inspection and testing from Chief James Meek from Central Whidbey Fire. Meeting notices with the full agenda will be sent by email in early June to this subscriber list. Look for them in your inbox and hope to see you either at the Coupeville Library or on Zoom.

All subscribers to this newsletter will receive meeting notices including location 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](#).

RECAP: Group B Meetup, April 22, 2025 5:30 to 7 pm

Thanks to everyone who attended the Group B Meetup last month, and special thanks to our speakers: Jeff Tasoff and Donna Keeler from Facet, Aneta Hupfauer from Island County and Brad Burnham from Department of Health. We had 20 people at the Coupeville Library and another 20 on Zoom, who together heard a presentation on the Coordinated Water System Plan and a briefing on legislative changes to the SMA requirements for Group B systems.

Throughout the meeting we had discussions in response to questions and issues raised, many of which are captured in the recap the WIWSA website. You can read that recap [here](#) and find links to the video recording and information presented during the meeting.

The next Group B Meetup will be likely be held in October 2025. Please [email](#) with any suggestions or requests for topics.

Welcome New Members!

WIWSA's membership is 109 members: 62 Group A water systems including municipal systems, 40 Group B systems and 7 associate members. This month, we welcome three new members:

- Waterloo Acres Water System (Group A - 47 connections)
- Whidbey Shores Association (Group A - 123 connections)
- Wildes Grove Community (Group B - 12 connections)

Congratulations Jeff Tasoff, WIWSA Board Member!

As part of 2025 Drinking Water Week, Jeff Tasoff, principal of Civil Engineering at Facet NW and a board member for Whidbey Island Water Systems Association, was recognized with the **Commitment to Excellence Award**. As stated in the Office of Drinking Water announcement:

“Jeff collaborates with local government and community leaders to ensure that infrastructure projects are not only effective but aligned with community needs and priorities. Jeff is a... resource for multiple small water systems on the island. He helps them address failing infrastructure, future planning improvements, and offers advice on complex challenges. He mentors young professionals and has made a profound difference in the area. He exemplifies the spirit of innovation, compassion, and excellence.”

Congratulations Jeff, and to the rest of the award winners announced last week. Read more about it [here](#).

Note from the Treasurer

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!

At the March Member meeting there was a question on how to get a copy of the WIWSA financial reports. The Treasurer presents the reports at every Quarterly Member Meeting along with the Budget at the Annual Meeting. There are two Quarterly reports presented: a Balance Sheet with the balance in the checking account as of a specific date, compared to the same date from the year before; and the Profit and Loss report which shows income and expense by category. Any WIWSA member may request a copy of a report by emailing treasurer@whidbeywatersystems.org with the request along with any questions for the treasurer.

Scholarship/Apprenticeship Program

Time is running out to apply for the Whidbey Island Water Systems Association scholarship for operator certification. The deadline for application is May 31st. If you are interested in learning more or know of someone who might be a good candidate for this scholarship, please email us at mail@whidbeywatersystems.org.

For the past three years, 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.

WIWSA Website — Water System Services

Do you need help with your water system? The most popular page on the WIWSA website is the [Water Systems Services](#) web page (under the Resources menu), which lists local services that might be useful to any public or private water system. Please take a look if you haven't checked it out already and let us know by [email](#) if you have feedback or suggestions for this page.

More News in May

- [Kennewick water again found tainted with 'forever chemicals'](#)
- [\\$7.5M state grant kicks off PFAS cleanup in West Plains after years of pollution](#)
- [PFAS Exception Rule Updates](#)

News from our Partners

Island County

- Meetings are held each month on topics relevant to [Island County's 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update](#). This month the next Planning Commission meeting will be on Wednesday, May 21st at 6pm for an online only meeting. **Long Range Planning will give a schedule update for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update**. Meeting materials are available in the [agenda center](#); you'll find the zoom link in the agenda.
- Do you know your water system's service area? Or who and where your neighboring water systems are? Island County Public Health has a web tool ([Hydrogeology Web App](#)) that can help you answer both questions. Once you launch the tool, select the Water Systems check box to visually display the service areas for the Group A and B water systems down to the parcel boundaries. There are also other selections that will display seawater intrusion risk areas and critical aquifer risk areas on the map. Thanks to county staff for providing this powerful yet simple tool for groundwater-related information.

Department of Ecology

- [New steps to improve groundwater management in the Pasco Basin](#); Water in eastern Washington is a scarce resource, and tracking groundwater sources and supplies is a critical part of making sure there is enough water to meet everyone's needs.

Department of Health/Office of Drinking Water

- The [May ODW Newsletter](#) has just been released. Check it out for information on Drinking Water Week, efforts to expand the certified operator workforce, the latest on the most recent Drought Emergency, an update to the WUE guidebook and more.
- The next **Quarterly Drinking Water Advisory Group (DWAG) meeting will be held on June 2, 2025 from 9 am to 12 pm**. The meeting agenda and meeting links have just been posted on the [DWAG page](#). At any time you can sign up for email notifications for all DWAG notices [here](#).
- Looking for information about your water system? A very useful tool is the [Sentry Intranet](#). You can look up your water system records and information, including basic information on connections, population served, primary contact information along with access to water quality and required reports filed with Department of Health.

Department of the Navy

- The Navy is developing a Community Involvement Plan (CIP), a site-specific strategy to enable meaningful community involvement throughout the environmental clean-up process. The NAS Whidbey Island CIP will provide an opportunity for community members to comment on the Navy's Environmental Restoration Program investigations on and/ or near OLF Coupeville and NAS Whidbey Island. You are invited to provide feedback by **Friday, 30 May 2025** by completing the questionnaire using this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VSHR5LV>. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Lincoln, Public Affairs Officer, at navfacnwpao@us.navy.mil or (360) 340-5592. We hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to provide input to this process.

AWWA Webinars & PNW Training

- AWWA is sponsoring some upcoming events:
 - [Western Washington Short School & Trade Show Tulalip Resort June 3-4](#)
 - Basic Waterworks for Water Board Officers Fall 2025 (links will be available soon for registration)
- Check out AWWA's full catalog of webinars and training events:
 - <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.