



Water on Whidbey

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Newsletter, June 2025

Welcome to Water on Whidbey June 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

JOIN US: Special Meeting of the Membership followed by Q2 Member Meeting—June 17, 2025, 5 to 7 pm IN-PERSON or ZOOM

We are trying a new format this quarter with hybrid meetings, both in-person and zoom. We are trying this new format to foster the goodwill of a community meeting with the convenience of a virtual meeting which allows more people to attend. 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.

Another difference this quarter is that we will first conduct a brief Special Meeting of the Membership, before moving to the Q2 Member Meeting agenda. An attorney recently reviewed Whidbey Island Water Systems Association's governing documents and discovered that the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws contained conflicting provisions regarding the number of directors the Association is permitted to have on its Board. We are holding the Special Meeting to vote on amending the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws to resolve the conflict. We do need a minimum quorum of 22 members for both meetings so we hope you will join us at 5 pm.

The documents for this Special Meeting are on our website, you can find them [here](#).

The Q2 Member Meeting agenda will feature a panel discussion on Small Water System Planning, followed by a presentation on fire hydrant inspection and testing from Chief James Meek from Central Whidbey Fire.

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](#).

Meeting notices have gone out. [Email us](#) if you didn't receive an invitation and would like to attend.

Upcoming Events

There are two upcoming events that we want to alert you to:

- WIWSA and the WA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) invite the Island and neighboring county water systems for a one-day workshop at Coupeville Recreation Hall, July 31, 8:30 to 4:30. Topics will include: funding & program updates; registration and navigation with Washington Loan Tracking; eligibility and review process; emerging contaminants in small or disadvantaged

communities; environmental justice and technical assistance and engineering help. There will also be time for a Q&A listening session, to bring forward your concerns and issues to DWSRF. Put the date on your calendar and look for more details soon.

- [Subeca](#) is hosting an online webinar on [Remote Metering on June 24, 2025 from 10:00 AM to 10:45 AM](#). Those of you will remember that Subeca presented at the WIWSA 2024 Symposium at Oak Harbor High School. They will introduce you to remote metering possibilities, flexible multi-comms strategy, and share a real-world experience from Sierra Country Club on Whidbey Island. You'll also learn about the billing and customer portal. You can get more details and register [here](#).

Welcome New Members!

WIWSA's membership is currently 109 members: 62 Group A water systems including municipal systems, 40 Group B systems and 7 associate members. No new members this month.

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!

WIWSA Website — Refresh Project

You may have noticed some changes to the website. We have started a *refresh* project to change the website in several ways. Some of the initial changes include:

- A new [EVENTS](#) page which lists upcoming and recent events along with links to our meeting archives. In the archives you'll find member meeting posts since 2015 along with some of the community events that WIWSA has sponsored or been part of during that time. You can find the Events page on the main menu at the top of any page on the website.
- An archive of all WIWSA newsletters on the [NEWSLETTERS](#) page, also available from the main menu.
- The [SERVICES](#) page is now available from the main menu. It is the most popular page on the website so we thought it should be easier to find.

Some of the changes that are still to come:

- Updates to the ABOUT, MEMBERSHIP and RESOURCES pages to provide more information in each area, particularly with Resources and Training.
- A Home page separate from the Blog Post page which is now the first page you see when coming to the website. The new Home page will be more of a roadmap to the website while the blog page will be where you can find all the news and information that comes up each month.

More News in June

- [This feel personal](#); PFAS found in beer. John Lovie has a new post as part of his series on PFAS (per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances, "Forever Chemicals") in drinking water. You can read all the previous PFAS posts [here](#)
- [WEAN Action Hour](#); two new podcasts with John Lovie on [Drinking Water](#), and [Sea Level Rise](#).
- [PFAS Permanent Rule Updates](#); The comment period is closed but you can read about the rule updates.

News from our Partners

Island County

- [Coordinated Water System Plan Surveys](#); You may have heard that there is a project underway to update the Island County Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP). This first stage is to provide recommendations on what parts of the plan should be updated and what should be the focus or

priorities for these updates. To that end, letters have gone out to three groups (Individual Well Owners [includes only those who were issued IWAVs between 1/1/2023 and 12/31/2024]), Water System Board Members/Owners, and Water Operators to gather data for recommended updates to the CWSP. Click [here](#) to take the survey or to get more information.

- [Revised Goals and Policies for Island County's 2025 Comprehensive Plan update](#) have been released for public review and input. The public comment period will be open for 45-days from May 30, 2025, until July 14, 2025. View the drafts and submit comments on the county's [public engagement website](#). Below is a list of the elements with Revised Goals and Policies (click on element name to view drafts)
 - [Introduction Chapter – New Vision and Values](#)
 - [Land Use](#)
 - [Housing](#)
 - [Natural Resources](#)
 - [Capital Facilities and Utilities](#)
 - [Parks, Recreation, and Open Space](#)
 - [Climate \(new\)](#)
 - [Economic Development](#)
 - [Transportation](#)

Department of Ecology

- [Water rights on the web](#); Ecology released a new [Water Right mapping tool](#) to locate water rights through a map view and access the records associated with each water right. The maps display places of use, water bodies, the type of water rights associated with a property, and “water device points” such as wells, dams, and pumps. The Water Resources Web Map is a replacement for the current Water Resources Tracking System map search tool.
- [Emerging Issue: Municipal Water Law and Permit-Exempt Wells](#); Earlier this year, Ecology released a reminder of the daily pumping and irrigation limits for Group B systems. which may be of interest to Group B systems in Island County who use permit-exempt wells.
- [Washington Water Supply Update](#); Drought conditions continue in eastern Washington and may be developing in the northern and central parts of the state already under drought advisory conditions. According to experts at the recent meeting of the Water Supply Availability Committee, existing drought conditions are likely to persist through the summer. In some areas, conditions may worsen.
- [Drought expanded to 19 more watersheds](#); Island County is not included but many of our neighbors are on this list. The Washington Department of Ecology is expanding the drought emergency declared in April to include areas in the North and Central Cascade Mountains and parts of the Puget Sound area. Declaring a drought emergency allows Ecology to distribute drought emergency response grants to public entities and to expedite processing emergency water right permits and transfer applications. Ecology has made up to \$4.5 million available in drought emergency response grants to eligible public entities to respond to water supply impacts from the current drought conditions.

Department of Health/Office of Drinking Water

- Check out the [updated PFAS website](#). Everything from the basics to specifics including the health concerns and what you can do to minimize your exposure.
- The [May ODW Newsletter](#) was released last month. 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 most recent **Quarterly Drinking Water Advisory Group (DWAG) meeting was held on June 2, 2025 from 9 am to 12 pm**. The meeting agenda and meeting links are posted on the [DWAG page](#) along with some of the meeting presentations on Foundational Health Systems and Federal State Status Regulations and Infrastructure Funding. At any time you can sign up for email notifications for all DWAG notices [here](#).

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) Calendar of Events

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.