



# Water on Whidbey

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Newsletter, July 2025

## Welcome to Water on Whidbey July 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

### Department of Health/DWSRF Road Show, July 31, 2025 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

WIWSA and the WA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) invite the Island County and neighboring county water systems for a one-day workshop at Coupeville Recreation Hall, July 31, 8:30 to 4:30. The topics include: funding & program updates; registration and navigation with Washington Loan Tracking (WALT); eligibility and review process; Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities; Environmental Justice, Technical Assistance and Engineering help. There will also be time for a Q&A listening session, so DWSRF understands your concerns and issues. Refreshments will be provided.

- Where: Coupeville Recreation Hall
- Address: 901 Alexander St, Coupeville, WA 98239
- Date: 7/31/2025
- Time: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
- Virtual link: [Join the meeting now](#)
- Meeting ID: 233 442 823 510 1
- Passcode: xb6Y23gf

### SAVE THE DATE: Q3 Member Meeting—September 18, 2025 IN-PERSON or ZOOM

After a successful turnout in June with 30 people physically present at the library and an equal number online, the Board decided to continue the hybrid member meeting format indefinitely. This means that for the September Q3 Member's Meeting 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. Agenda and announcements to follow in early September.

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

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. The board called the Special Meeting to vote on amending the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws to resolve the conflict, as well as re-electing three Directors who were affected by the conflict. After some discussion the membership unanimously approved both amendments and re-elected Jeff Tasoff, Mitch Allen and Michael Quintus to

the board. The updated documents are on the website through these links: [Articles of Incorporation](#), [Bylaws](#).

The Members Meeting included three topics:

- **State Revolving Fund funding Support Letter**—President Randi Perry discussed a request from the Washington Water Utility Council to write a letter in support of SRF funding. The current level of funding is in jeopardy due to proposed funding cuts at the federal level. The members voted to approve an action to submit the letter representing the WIWSA membership as a whole. Individual water systems are also encouraged to submit their own letters as well. We previously posted about this on the website [here](#), where you can find additional information including a copy of the [template letter](#).
- **Small Water System Management Plan (SWSMP)**—The members of our panel were Crystal Nuño (DOH Office of Drinking Water), Jocelyne Gray (DOH Drinking Water State Revolving Fund), Sarah Spotts (DOH/ODW) and Julie Robinson (Evergreen Rural Water of Washington). They spoke on the benefits of developing and maintaining an SWSMP and offered suggestions on resources that are available to water systems in the form of guidelines and document templates, as well as funding and technical resources. Jocelyn included a link for [Technical Assistance Requests](#). Julie also offered that she is available to assist with the process through the Circuit Rider program at ERWoW ([jrobinson@erwow.org](mailto:jrobinson@erwow.org)). There was good interest in this topic among the membership for further information and training opportunities. The WIWSA board will followup and there will be more to come on this topic. There are links below for program guides. You can also find more information and additional links on the [DOH SWSMP page](#).
- **Hydrant Testing and Maintenance**—Deputy Chief James Meek of the Central Whidbey Fire and Rescue presented Central Whidbey's program for tracking, inspecting and maintaining the hydrants across their district along with information on Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau scoring and the Fire Service. Central Whidbey Fire and Rescue is a resource to Group A and B water systems in their district. The Fire Service will assist in keeping the hydrants operational and available to responders should there be a fire emergency in the vicinity of the hydrant. The practices discussed in the presentation are a good model for all water services but those in the North and South districts were encouraged to contact their fire service for additional guidance.

You can review the full recap on the [Events](#) page under the *Recent Events*. In the recap you will also find links to the [Meeting Recording \(Video\)](#), along with meeting agenda, minutes and many supporting documents.

### **Welcome New Board Member, Meade Brown!**

At its July board meeting, the Board of Directors appointed Meade Brown to fill the one vacant director position. Meade joins the WIWSA board with more than 30 years as a practicing attorney and with experience in both non-profit board service and water systems advisory work. He served on the board of Evergreen Recovery Centers for 10 years, including three terms as President, and on the Advisory Well Committee and Advisory Bylaws Committee with the Adams Road Community Association. He is currently on the Whidbey Island Music Festival Board serving as President. Join us in welcoming Meade to the WIWSA board.

### **Welcome New Members!**

WIWSA's membership is currently 112 members: 63 Group A water systems including municipal systems, 41 Group B systems and 8 associate members. This month we welcome:

- Sharon Asplund aka Peritae Accounting (Associate)
- Hillcrest Homestead Tracts Water Association (Group A)

### **Billing—Unpaid Annual Dues are Due**

If you haven't paid the annual membership dues for this year, please send in your payment or contact us by email at [treasurer@whidbeywatersystems.org](mailto:treasurer@whidbeywatersystems.org) at your earliest convenience. Thanks for your support!

## WIWSA Website — Refresh Project

You may have noticed some changes to the website. Last month we started a refresh project to update the website content and present more menu options to give you access to key information quickly. Recent changes include:

- The [ABOUT US](#) page has been updated with more information on the organization and links to the membership page and updated versions of the organization's legal documents.
- The [MEMBERSHIP](#) page has been elevated to the top menu with more details on the membership benefits and a [PLEASE JOIN US](#) button.

Some of the changes that are still to come:

- Updates to the RESOURCES page to provide more information in each area, particularly with documentation 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 July

- [Study finds 'alarming' PFAS pollution from biosolids in Spokane River watershed](#); Testing revealed that biosolids, or treated sewage sludge commonly used as fertilizer, are a major source of PFAS pollution in the Spokane River watershed.
- [Letter to the editor: Edmonds School District must address PFAS contamination near Madrona School](#)
- [WSU study offers detailed look at declining groundwater in regional aquifer system](#); Groundwater is declining across Eastern Washington's complex, interconnected aquifer system, as people draw on it for irrigation, drinking and other uses at a pace that threatens its sustainability, according to a new study by a Washington State University researcher.
- [Decades after it was initially promised, the Odessa Groundwater Replacement Program delivers Columbia River water to Central Washington farmers.](#)

## News from our Partners

### Island County

- At the July 16th County Commissioner's Work Session, there was a discussion with Public Works on using the County franchise permit as leverage to ensure that water systems make any necessary repairs to keep water leakage within compliance. The discussion seemed to arrive at a directive to work on revising franchise applications with this in mind and reportedly would affect new franchise applications and existing franchises at the time of renewal. Those interested in the details can [download the video](#) and watch starting at 1:05:00 for about 20 minutes.
- [Revised Goals and Policies for Island County's 2025 Comprehensive Plan update](#) were released back in May and open for public comment through July 14th. The public comment period on the goals and policies statements is now closed but general comments can be made through the end of the year if you have something to add to the conversation. General comments can be made [here](#) under the GENERAL COMMENTS tab. The Revised Goals and Policies can still be viewed and are listed below; 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.
- [Safer Products for Washington Cycle 1.5 PFAS Rulemaking](#); DOE invites comment on the proposed rule and rulemaking documents regarding PFAS use in 12 product categories through July 20, 2025.
- [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.

## 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.
- In June, the Office of Drinking Water announced an organizational restructuring, which we posted about [here](#) with a link to the [official release](#).
- The [July ODW Newsletter](#) was issued earlier this month. Check it out for information on the organizational changes at DOH/ODW, a recap of new legislation that is coming into effect, Backflow Assembly Tester Program Update, Same Farm Exemption Policy, Guidance on Water Shortage Response Planning, the DWSRF roadshow and more.
- The next Quarterly Drinking Water Advisory Group (DWAG) meeting will be held on September 8, 2025 from 9 am to 12 pm. The meeting agenda and links will be provided closer to the meeting date on the DWAG page [here](#). The previous DWAG meeting [agenda](#) and [notes](#) are posted as well, along with some presentation materials. At any time you can sign up for email notifications for all DWAG notices [here](#).
- As mentioned in our events section earlier, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) staff members are conducting workshops in a roadshow across the state through September. Check out the [July ODW Newsletter](#) for the full calendar of the events, and join us in Coupeville on July 31st if you can.

## AWWA Webinars & PNW Training

- 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

- RCAC Small Water System Management Programs, ONLINE July 30th from 9 am to 12 pm
  - RCAC's Small Utility Consultant Samuel Rodriguez will conduct this free online training. [Register Now](#), at no cost to you!
  - *0.3 Washington Drinking Water Continuing Education Units awarded, Course#A3168.*
  - If you are planning to apply for drinking water state revolving funds, this training is designed to help you complete the required "Small Water System Management Program."
- RCAC's full catalog of workshops is available here:
  - <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](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](mailto: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.