



Water on Whidbey

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Newsletter, May 2024

Welcome to Water on Whidbey May 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 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.

News from Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

2024 Symposium

SAVE THE DATE: The 2024 Whidbey Island Water Systems Association Symposium will be held on Saturday, June 29, 2024 from 9 am to 1 pm, at the Oak Harbor High School. All representatives and residents from water systems on Whidbey Island are invited to attend to hear from speakers on various topics concerning our water systems and water supply. There will be members of state and county agencies, trade organizations and water system service providers in attendance, hosting demonstrations and information stations as part of the event.

Dates and plans for 2024 member meetings:

Another 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.

Welcome New Members!

- Talking Circle Community Association (Group B)
- Island Park Mobile Home Park (Group A)

Website Update

- The website was updated this week to add support for HTTPS browsing which is the standard for most commercial websites. It's the reason that previously visitors might receive annoying errors from their browser when viewing the WIWSA site saying that the site is not secure or represents a security risk. Whidbey Telecom installed a security certificate and changed the website URL to *https://www.whidbeywatersystems.org/*, replacing the *http* with *https*. The change should not affect bookmarks as anyone browsing to the old URL will be automatically redirected to the new one. However, we did have to change some of the website pages and posts that have links to internal documents, photos or other pages/posts on our website.

We have been checking the pages and posts to confirm that there are no issues. It is possible that we missed something most likely causing a broken link in which case clicking the link will bring up an

error page. If you see broken links or anything that looks wrong, please email us with a copy of the link.

Reminder: Lead Service Line Inventory due October 16, 2024

- There's additional information and support available for Group A systems working on compliance with the new Lead Service rules. The latest [ODW newsletter](#) includes some additional options for technical assistance with the inventory and related communications.
- 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.

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 but will likely be extended for interested candidates.

Billing—Annual WIWSA Dues Invoice Emailed

You should have received the annual membership dues invoice by email. **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

- [Cleaning up: PFAS contamination in the Lower Issaquah Valley](#)
- [Spokane airport \(finally\) hands its shoes to state regulators](#)
- [‘Not a finish line’: For water providers, new PFAS rule is first step](#)

Evergreen Rural Water—Circuit Rider

Evergreen Rural Water has recently added a new Circuit Rider, Julie Robinson, for the Northwest Region which includes Whidbey Island. Circuit Riders are funded by a USDA program primarily to assist service Group A water systems with problems or projects that they may be engaged in—leak detection, sanitations survey prep, lead line inventory, asset management, cross connection surveys, rate structure development, water level measurements and more. Group B systems can also receive assistance as long as the circuit rider can fit it into their travel and work schedule.

Julie is based in Port Townsend, recently relocated to the PNW after more than 40 years of water service work. She was originally trained while serving in the Air Force. You can reach her at [\(360\) 302-6996](tel:3603026996), or jrobinson@erwow.org. You will likely have a chance to meet her at an upcoming WIWSA event. Welcome Julie!

News from our Partners

Island County

- Public Health & Planning have developed a Water Study proposal to update the Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP) for water management and conduct a code review to update drinking water sections among other goals. This is an effort that could address many areas of concern surrounding future water quality and water supply capacity. The Water Study is tentatively scheduled for review at an upcoming Board of County Commissioners Work Session possibly in June. Watch the [Agenda Center](#) for scheduled meetings and agendas if you'd like to learn more.

Department of Ecology

- [Is there a connection between old concrete and water quality?](#)
- [Ecology files water rights adjudication in Whatcom County Superior Court](#)
- [Nooksack Adjudication](#)

Department of Health/Office of Drinking Water

- The Drinking Water Award winners were announced earlier this month; check out this years winners at **Drinking Water Week**.
- The latest **ODW Newsletter** includes spring tips, information on the Lead Service Line inventory, Water Shortage Response Plan and more.
- The next quarterly **Drinking Water Advisory Group meeting is planned for June 3, 2024 from 9 am to Noon**.. You can find the meeting agenda and zoom information [here](#). The agenda includes the [Lead Service Inventory Submission Portal](#), the new PFAS MCLs and some guidance around ADUs for utilities among others.

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.