



Water on Whidbey

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Newsletter, June 2024

Welcome to Water on Whidbey June 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

June Quarterly Member Meeting

Our next Member Meeting will be Thursday June 20, 2024 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm on ZOOM. All subscribers to the newsletter should have received the Zoom invitation to the meeting this coming week. If you haven't received it but would like to attend, you can [email us](#) and we'll add you to our subscription list and send you the information for this month's meeting.

The featured topics will include a presentation on **Water Rights** by the Department of Ecology and a discussion on the **Lead and Copper Rules** with a focus on the submissions required by the upcoming October 2024 deadline. See the WIWSA website for the [complete meeting agenda](#).

2024 Symposium

Announcing the **2024 Whidbey Island Water Systems Association Symposium** which will be held on **Saturday, June 29, 2024 from 9 am to 1 pm**, at the Oak Harbor High School, 1 Wildcat Wy, Oak Harbor, WA 98277, and is open to the public. No registration is required.

There will be formal presentations along with display tables with sample products, hands-on training and take home materials. The agenda includes presentations on: Reservoir Inspections, Remote Read Meters, Remote Metering Pumps, Equipment Supply, the DW State Revolving Fund and a closing Panel discussion.

There will be members of state and county agencies, trade organizations and water system service providers in attendance, along with some demonstrations and information stations as part of the event. Come for the full session or for as much time as you have available.

Go the [announcement page](#) for more details and the full agenda. Hope to see you there!

Welcome New Members!

- Greenbank Women's Clinic (Group B)

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.
- This will be a topic at this week's **Quarterly Meeting**—Zoom in if you need more information on what you may need to do to comply with the new requirements.

Scholarship/Apprenticeship Program

We've reached the deadline for applying for the 2024 scholarship to the [Evergreen Rural Water Apprenticeship program](#). **We do not have any candidates for this year's program** so would still accept an application if there is someone interested. Please see the [Scholarship page](#) on our website for more information and if you are interested, or someone you know might be interested, please contact us by [email](#) as soon as possible!

Evergreen Rural Water of Washington—QUEST Program

In addition to the [Apprenticeship program](#) that WIWSA has been supporting with a Scholarship, **ERWOW also offers a one-year training program called Q.U.E.S.T.** which prepares participants to pass the WDM1 certification exam. This may be a great opportunity for Group B water systems who are self-operating their system to get more formal training towards becoming a certified operator. For anyone interested check out the details on the [Evergreen website](#) or contact [Ernie Klimek](#) at ERWOW for more information. The next program begins in August 2024.

Billing—Annual WIWSA Dues Payments are Due

You should have received the annual membership dues invoice by email and hopefully have already responded. **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!

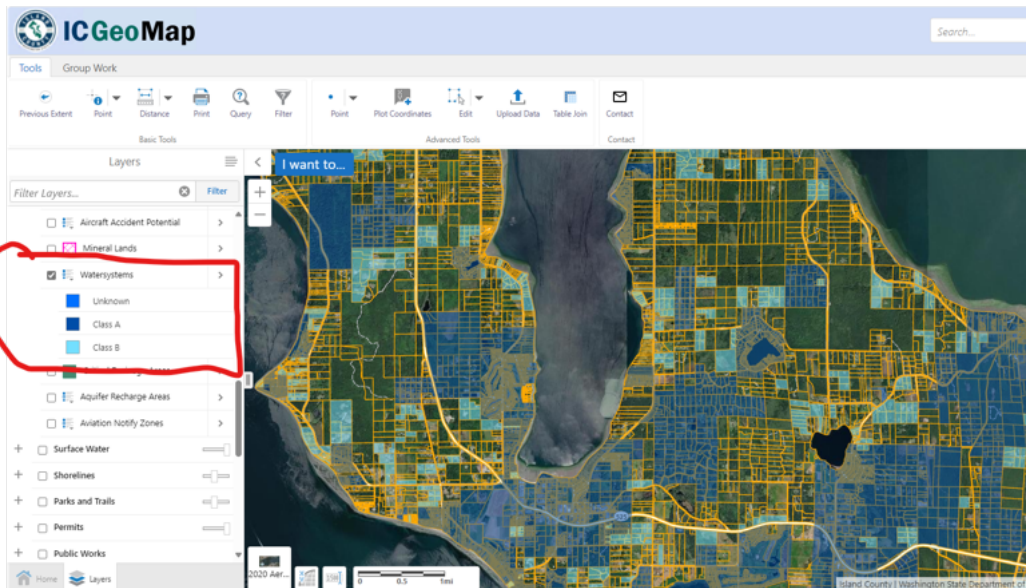
PFAS News

- ['Forever chemicals' entering Great Lakes through precipitation and air: Study](#)
- [Home-raised livestock in West Plains is unsafe to consume due to PFAS contamination](#)
- [City of Spokane passes drinking water test, but two positive PFAS tests found](#)
- ['We don't need more studies:' Maine organic farmers could sue EPA over 'forever chemicals'](#)

News from our Partners

Island County

- At the June 12th BOICC Work Session, Public Health & Planning reviewed a proposed **Water Study centered on an update to the Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP)**. This is an effort that could address many areas of concern surrounding future water quality and water supply capacity. The proposal projects a **study period through July 2025** beginning with an RFP process. It was positively received by the commissioners. View the [presentation](#) and the [water study memo](#) or listen to the session [here](#) starting at the 40 minute mark.
- Island County Hydrogeologist Chris Kelley let us know that he has been working with the GIS team members from IT and Planning Department to update the Water System layer in ICGeoMap. Earlier this month the updates went live **adding Group B and 2-Party public water system service areas to the Water Systems layer in ICGeoMap**. If you are not familiar with the **Water Systems layer**, this option is under the "Site Review" check box (see screenshot below). Check out ICGeoMap [here](#).



Department of Ecology

- Department of Ecology is working with other state agencies to update Washington's Climate Resilience Strategy by Sept. 30th. A significant part of this effort is focused on addressing changes to water availability through actions such as increasing water conservation, supporting funding for drought planning and large-scale integrated water initiatives. See this [news release](#) for more details.
- [Drought update: water supply in the Yakima Basin](#)
- [Nooksack Adjudication Webinar video link](#)

Department of Health/Office of Drinking Water

- Earlier this month, the Office of Drinking Water held their quarterly **Drinking Water Advisory Group online meeting**. They covered updates on the DOE MOU, the potential impact of recent legislation on ADUs, an update on PFAS in WA in light of the recent EPA MCL announcement, Lead Service Line Portal and DWSRF Updates. **Meeting Notes are [here](#), and some presentations are available [here](#).**
- The latest **ODW Newsletter** includes spring tips, information on the Lead Service Line inventory, Water Shortage Response Plan and more.

Environmental Protection Agency

- The EPA is proposing a **Water System Restructuring Assessment Rule**, which outlines a framework for states, public water systems, and the communities they serve to evaluate options for restructuring to help ensure safe, reliable drinking water. Water system restructuring changes may include operational changes, upgrades to or replacement of water system infrastructure, interconnection with another system, consolidation, or transfer of ownership. **Click [here](#)** for more information, to view the webinar or to sign up for one of the listening sessions in July. **The EPA is taking feedback through July 29, 2024.**

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