



# Water on Whidbey

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Newsletter, September 2024

## Welcome to **Water on Whidbey** September 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

### THIS WEEK: [September Quarterly Member Meeting](#)

**Our next Member Meeting will be this week, on Thursday September 19, 2024 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm on ZOOM.** All subscribers to this newsletter should have received the Zoom invitation to the meeting this coming week. If someone forwarded this newsletter to you, consider subscribing [here](#).

The featured topics will include a discussion on **best practices for water systems planning and operations involving ADU's** with representatives of the **Office of Drinking Water and Island County**. You can find the complete agenda on the WIWSA website [here](#).

If you are a subscriber but didn't receive an invitation, send an email to [mail@whidbeywatersystems.org](mailto:mail@whidbeywatersystems.org) and we will forward an invite to you before the meeting.

### NEXT MONTH: [Group B Meetup in October](#)

We are planning another Group B Meetup for next month over Zoom, probably in the 3rd week of October. Last March, we had 24 attendees from 17 Group B water systems who attended our first Group B Meetup where they heard a presentation on Group B roles and responsibilities and spent more than an hour discussing issues and questions from the group. If you want to find out more about how the first meeting went, see the recap [here](#).

Next month's meeting will again include an open forum for questions and issues, preceded by a discussion on water rates. An invitation to the meetup will be sent to all those who attended the last meeting along with any subscriber to this newsletter who belongs to a Group B water system. Prior to the meeting, we will conduct an anonymous poll of Group B members to ask for some general data on water rates in our community.

Look for those notices and we would greatly appreciate your participation in the poll. If you have suggestions or questions, please email us at [mail@whidbeywatersystems.org](mailto:mail@whidbeywatersystems.org).

### [Welcome New Members!](#)

- No new members this month

## Reminder: Lead Service Line Inventory is due October 16, 2024

- This was a topic at **June's Quarterly Meeting**. If you didn't attend or just want to refresh your memory, you can view the meeting recording [June Q2 Meeting Video](#). The Lead and Copper presentation starts at 43 minutes, 25 seconds (43:25). There's additional information and support available for Group A systems working on compliance with the new Lead Service rules.
- The September **ODW newsletter** includes some additional options for technical assistance with the inventory and related communications and includes some information on the penalties for failing to meet the deadline.
- You can find more 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

As you probably know, WIWSA offers scholarships each year to qualified applicants who enroll in Evergreen Rural Water's [Apprenticeship program](#). We have one apprentice returning for a second year this year (2024-2025). We had hoped that we'd also award an additional scholarship to a new applicant, but no one chose to apply despite interest from several candidates. The program continues next year and we are seeking new applicants. See the [Scholarship page](#) on our website for more information.

We are also looking for help with outreach to employers and educational programs to recruit potential applicants. If you're interested in assisting the board with this program please contact us by [email](#).

## Billing—Unpaid Annual WIWSA Dues are Overdue

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

## PFAS News

- [West Plains residents with PFAS in wells urged to sign up for filters](#)
- [Spokane International Airport releases first PFAs report](#)
- [Port of Vancouver, WA PFAS Report](#)

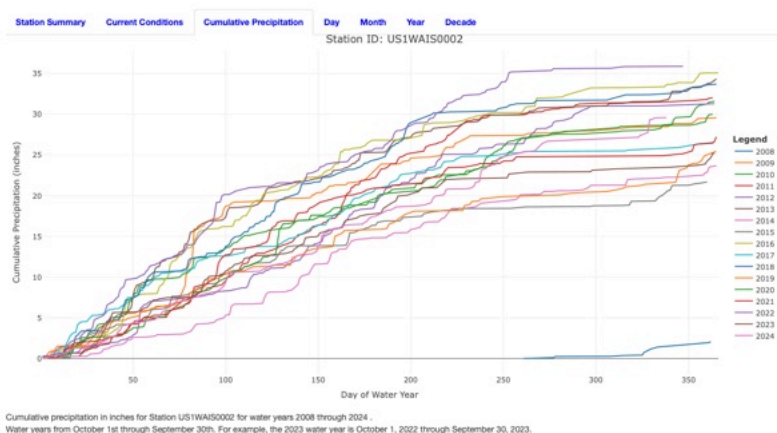
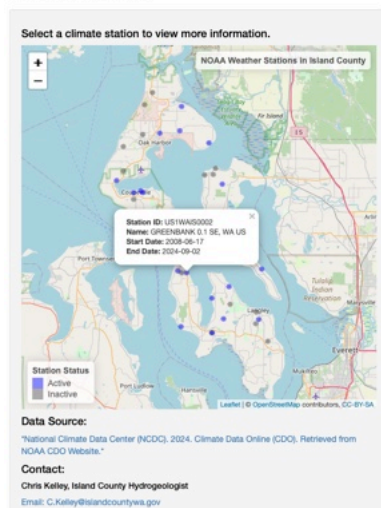
## News from our Partners

### Island County

- A **Climate Dashboard** is available on Island County's website displaying precipitation data as recorded by the NOAA weather stations throughout the county. Check it out [here](#). *Select a climate station to see the data for that region.*

### Island County Climate Data Dashboard

Last Updated September 16, 2024



Cumulative precipitation in inches for Station US1WAIS0002 for water years 2008 through 2024. Water years from October 1st through September 30th. For example, the 2023 water year is October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

- Some other useful links:
  - [Upcoming and past Planning Commission meeting information and schedules](#)
  - [County Commissioner's regular and work session meeting information and schedules](#)
  - [County Drinking Water Webpage](#)
  - [From the Tap, Groundwater Information](#)
  - [Hydrogeology Dashboard](#)

### Department of Ecology

- There's been a staffing change within the northwest region. **Joe Kim is now the appropriate contact for Ecology's seawater intrusion monitoring and metering programs.** All data requiring submittal should be submitted to Joe going forward, and Joe should be contacted with any questions you may have regarding your water right provisions.

Email: [joe.kim@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:joe.kim@ecy.wa.gov)

Phone: (206) 594-0188

Mailing: PO BOX 330316, Shoreline, WA 98133-9716

### Department of Health/Office of Drinking Water

- The latest **ODW Newsletter** includes information on the Lead Service Line inventory, CyberSecurity, SWAP Map updates and more.
- The **Quarterly Drinking Water Advisory Group (DWAG) meetings** are a good way to keep in touch with current programs and status with Office of Drinking Water (ODW) activities. The most recent meeting was held just last week. You can view the September agenda [here](#) and some of the presentations on the [DWAG Webpage](#) along with minutes and presentations from previous meetings. The next Advisory Group meeting will be held on December 2, 2024. You can sign up for email notifications for all DWAG notices [here](#).

### 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](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.