



# Water on Whidbey

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Newsletter, December 2024

## Welcome to Water on Whidbey December 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

### RECAP: December Quarterly Meeting (2024 Annual Meeting)

**Our final Member Meeting for 2024 was held by zoom on Thursday December 12, 2024 5 pm - 7 pm.** This was our annual meeting which is where we elect directors and vote on the annual budget. At this year's meeting, the **members re-elected the Board President Randi Perry and Treasurer Brenda Bosman and approved the 2025 association budget.** In addition there was a recommendation made to include **one in-person member meeting in 2025.** The board will review that recommendation and make a decision at the January 2025 board meeting.

The majority of the meeting focused on the featured topic: **a Satellite Management Agency discussion with representatives of the Office of Drinking Water, Island County and NorthWest Natural/King Water.** Thank you to all the members and newsletter subscribers who attended (close to 90 at one point), and to our guest panelists Derek Pell, William Bernier, Sarah Spotts from Office of Drinking Water; Aneta Hupfauer from Island County; and Silas Olson, JJ Olson from NWN/KW.

We have posted a brief recap and **the video recording of the meeting on our website [here](#).** We will post the meeting minutes after the next board meeting in early January.

### Open Board Position!

While the annual meeting included re-election of two of our board members, we did not receive any nominations for the one open board position. **Have you considered becoming a board member?** For 3 to 4 hours a month you can help promote quality water services within Island County. WIWSA is a focal point for information and training within the community and provides a forum that brings together water systems members with local and state agencies, and industry partners to work on issues together.

**Please get in touch by [email](#) if you would like to learn [more](#)** or to indicate your interest in applying for the position.

### Welcome New Members!

- Cornplanters Water System, Group B
- Lighthouse Shores, Group A

### Inviting Camano Island Water Systems and Representatives

Although WIWSA is an association of Whidbey Island water systems, most of WIWSA's focus is applicable across all of Island County. For that reason, **the WIWSA board is inviting Camano Island**

**water systems board members, service providers and representatives to sign up for the WIWSA newsletter, attend member meetings and consider joining WIWSA as an associate member.** We have common issues across the county and we expect you will find that WIWSA provides a great opportunity to work on those issues together.

### Scholarship/Apprenticeship Program

Evergreen Rural Water offers a one-year QUEST program in addition to the full [Apprenticeship](#) program. **Through QUEST you can receive the training for Level 1 certification in Water Treatment and Water Distribution Management and you'd be eligible to apply for the WIWSA scholarship.** We are actively recruiting applicants for the 2025 Apprenticeship or QUEST program. The deadline to apply is May 31, 2025.

Local municipal and SMA employers are invited to sponsor applicants from their organizations, along with Group A water systems looking to certify back up operators.

We are still 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 and Contact Information

**If you have any changes to your Designated or Alternate Representatives or their contact information, please update your information with an email to [treasurer@whidbeywatersystems.org](mailto:treasurer@whidbeywatersystems.org)** at your earliest convenience. Thanks for your support!

### PFAS News & Information

- **The Navy is requesting permission from property owners near Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island to sample drinking water wells** in the direction of groundwater flow near Area 6 Landfill, Ault Field, and Outlying Landing Field (OLF) Coupeville for certain per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) beginning in January 2025 as part of ongoing investigations into Navy PFAS releases. Please visit this website for more information: <https://pacific.navfac.navy.mil/NASWIPFAS>.
- [Ecology releases four-year statewide funding strategy for PFAS](#)
- [Department of Health PFAS Youtube page for Introduction and Basic Information](#)
- [Island County PFAS information webpage](#)

## News from our Partners

### Island County

- Private well owners can add their own water quality test results to the county's water system databases [here](#).
- Some other useful information resources from Island County's website:
  - [Drinking Water home page](#); overview of the Drinking Water program and links to useful resources.
  - [Groundwater Data](#); home page for groundwater data resources and services.
  - [Hydrogeology Dashboard](#); for well information, groundwater quality reports and long term monitoring wells

### Department of Ecology

- There is now an online tool to apply for a water right. **Ecology announced a [Water Right Portal](#) to submit a Water Right Application online.** Eventually, all applications will be available: change application, seasonal change, reservoir, managed aquifer recharge, and aquifer storage and recovery. See the Ecology [announcement](#) for full details.
- The Department of Ecology has updated the [Water Resources Strategic Plan](#). This Strategic Plan represents a new path for the Water Resources Program to integrate two transformational changes to approaches of the work: a focus on climate change and environmental justice. Read the [executive summary](#).

## Department of Health/Office of Drinking Water

- The December **Quarterly Drinking Water Advisory Group (DWAG) meeting** was held on December 2, 2024. The meeting included discussion topics on Groundwater Recharge, Manganese contaminant policy, PFAS and comments on the **new Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)** which is currently planned to be up and running in mid-year 2025. See the [Meeting Notes](#) and the [DWAG Webpage](#) for more information.
- The **next DWAG meeting is planned for March 3, 2025**. You can sign up for email notifications for all DWAG notices [here](#).
- The most recent [ODW Newsletter](#) includes information on the Lead Service Line inventory, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), Free Technical Assistance Program, Drinking Water Week Awards 2025, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ecology and more.

## 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.