

Notes from the Whidbey Island Water Systems Association Meeting

June 15, 2022 at the Coupeville Library

PLWA Attendees: Bill Burnett, John Romanski (author)

(The author's comments are italicized)

PLWA joined this group earlier this year to help gather information regarding our transition to a class A system as well as assistance in maintaining and renovating our system. Cost is a nominal \$38.00 per year, \$2 per connection. *It appears to be worth it.*

A number of speakers presented on various topics. Here is a summary of items that pertain to the PLWA

- Alexis Medina et. al; WA DOH, Office of Drinking water.
Self-financing is best: the least expensive and quickest.
Loans for repairing & improving small water systems are available from various sources:
 1. State office of Drinking water Revolving Fund: 20 year repayment.
 2. US Dept. of Agriculture Rural Development program: 40 year repayment.
Both of these resources require lots of paperwork. They typically add 30% to 40% to the cost of a project due to the need for contractors to comply with a myriad of rules, regulations & reporting requirements. This does not include additional requirements for the applying system such as management plans & monitoring. There is a very narrow annual window for applying, for example the month of June.
 3. Banks: Very short term & *high interest.*
 4. Emergency grants: Reserved for repairs due to natural disasters, e.g., earthquakes. Typically require income surveys of users and lots of paperwork*(PLWA should stick to the self-financing approach)*
- Robert Bennion, Davido Consulting Group
The state requires well logging by direct measurement twice a year in the Columbia River Basin. Not on Whidbey Island. This requirement is put on wells in areas where the water table is shrinking. Typical water usage for a WA small water system is 150-250 gallons per day. *(Ours is 381, but for 6 months of the year it is below 250. We have some members who water their lawns. We also flush our system frequently.)*
Nominal cost of water for a small system is \$50-\$65 per month. *(Ours is currently \$42, set to rise to \$67.)*
Island county has a well logging/usage website. *(King water collects our usage data & send it in).*
- Other Information presented that was useful:
Concrete reservoirs *(like ours)* have a lifetime of 50 to 100 years.
PVC pipe typically lasts 40 to 80 years depending on quality of materials.
Cost to replace piping, typically PVC, is \$150 to \$200 per foot. This includes labor, valves, joints, other fittings, not just the pipe itself. *(We have about a mile+ of piping so to replace it all would be in the \$750,000 to \$1 million range.)*

We made contact with Jeff Tasoff, PE of Davido Consulting and informed him that we would be starting our engineering effort with them. We will contact him via email shortly to begin the process. Jeff visited our facility last year.