

Courthouse Journal

W W W . W A C O U N T I E S . O R G

Washington State Association of Counties
Washington Association of County Officials

May 18, 2001
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[www.wacounties.org/
wsac/](http://www.wacounties.org/wsac/)

LEOFF 1 Surplus Bill passes Senate, again (SSB 6166)

SSB 6166, the bill that earmarks the LEOFF 1 surplus to the state, local governments and employees has passed the Senate for a second time by a vote of 39-8. The bill passed during the regular session, but was not acted upon by the House. At the beginning of the special session, bills not passed by both houses went back to the house of origin.

This bill is a key component of the Senate budget, which funds the I-695 backfill promised in the 2000 Supplemental Budget. It will provide up to \$110 million for local governments to pay for long-term care and extraordinary medical costs through creation of a risk pool comprised of county, city and fire district elected officials.

While the Senate has passed this bill, it is uncertain as to whether the House will take action. They continue to insist upon any use of these funds for one-time expenses only. This

results in the proposal that the I-695 backfill be fully funded on a one-time only basis. This proposal was rejected unanimously by the Legislative Steering Committee last Friday.

The WSAC Legislative Steering Committee reaffirmed their position of supporting the Senate version of the budget, which provides full funding at last year's level with a growth factor. They base that position on the promise given by the Legislature last year. That needs to be honored this year.

At this time, it is unlikely that an operating budget will pass before the end of the special session. That means the Governor will need to call a second special session. If that happens, it is critical that all county officials, both WSAC and WACO members, call their legislators while they are home over the Memorial Day week-end and insist that they support the Senate version of the I-695-backfill budget.

Esther Stefaniw leaves legacy of involvement in local government

We are sorry to tell you that last Friday, May 11, Chelan County Commissioner Esther Stefaniw passed away. An email notice was sent to all members as soon as we were informed of her passing, so they could be notified of her funeral on Saturday, May 19. She had been battling brain cancer since December 2000.

Esther was elected to the Manson School Board in 1985 and served two terms as president of the Washington State School Directors' Association. In 1996 she was elected Chelan County Commissioner in a spirited race against former commissioner John Wall, and along with former Commissioner Jim Lynch ended

the county's lawsuits over the Growth Management Act. The Governor had withheld over \$1 million in local revenues because the county was out of compliance with the act.

She worked closely with other counties including Douglas and Okanogan in working on issues such as regional jails and salmon recovery planning. She was also a member of the Washington Arts Commission and active in many community organizations.

One member of the community described her as having two speeds, fast and faster. WSAC found that out when Chelan County hosted the 1999 Summer Convention in Chelan

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Esther Stefinaw

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and Esther organized the barbecue and the boat trip on the lake while also participating in several panel presentations. She was a lady of incredible energy, a refreshing can-do spirit and infectious enthusiasm. Esther will be missed by her many friends.

Funeral services are planned for Saturday, May 19, at 2:00 p.m. at the Manson High School. Donations can be made to the "It's About Kids" fund set up in Esther Stefinaw's name at any Pacific Northwest Bank branch.

The Courthouse Journal

The *Courthouse Journal* is published weekly by the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC).

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly deadline is noon Thursday.

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WSAC Board of Directors accepting applications to CRABoard

There are three terms expiring on the County Road Administration Board June 30, 2001. The WSAC Board of Directors will be accepting applications to serve on CRAB for three positions: A county commissioner from a county with a population under 12,000; a county commissioner from a county with a population between 12,000 and 125,000 and a county engineer from a county with a population between 12,000 and 125,000. Garfield County Commissioner Dean Burton and Walla Walla County Commissioner Dave Carey currently serve in the two commissioner positions and Cowlitz County Engineer Ken Stone serves in the county engineer's position. Commissioner Burton has served since April 2001, Commissioner Carey since January 2001 and Ken Stone since July 1998.

The only restriction is that no more than one member of the CRABoard shall be from any single county. The WSAC Board is free to reappoint members to the CRABoard or to appoint replacements. There is no statutory limit on the number of terms served. If any WSAC member wishes to serve on the CRABoard please submit your name to Bill Vogler in the WSAC office and your names will be forwarded to the WSAC Board.

The Washington State Association of County Engineers will be submitting two names to the WSAC Board and if any county engineer from an eligible county wants to be considered, please submit your names to Walt Olsen, Pend Oreille County Engineer. They will be forwarded to the WSAC Board.

Municipal Research Council and MRSC seek nominations

The Municipal Research Council has two vacancies for members from WSAC and the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) is accepting nominations for one position. The Council contracts with the Municipal and Research Services Center, a private non-profit located in Seattle, to provide the services for which MRC is required to provide to cities, towns, and counties. MRC has been contracting with the Center since 1969. Currently the Council meets annually in June, alternating between the Association of Washington Cities and the Washington State Association of Counties Conferences. Occasionally the Council will meet in the Fall or Winter.

The County portion of the Council's budget is funded under RCW 82.08.170 from the counties' share of the Liquor Excise Tax, also appropriated through the State General Fund. Funds are distributed to the County Research Services Account prior to being distributed to the counties from the General Fund.

The law requires the WSAC Board of Directors to forward nominees to the Governor. If you would like to serve on the Council please submit your name to Bill Vogler and he will forward you

names to the WSAC Board of Directors for consideration.

MRSC is a private non-profit that incorporated in 1969. The Center provides assistance and information on virtually every facet of local governing to city, town, and county officials and staff throughout Washington State. MRSC responds to thousands of requests annually for information on municipal law, finance, growth management, public works, management and operations. The range of requests is broad, ranging from animal control, to cable television, to personnel matters, to exotic dancing.

The Center's library contains the state's largest collection of municipal reference materials, with over 12,000 volumes. Materials available to clients include copies of ordinances, municipal codes, budgets, financial reports, studies, zoning codes, and comprehensive plans.

MRSC has a Web Site that delivers a library catalog, municipal codes and ordinances, timely news bulletins, and other important information to the desktops of public officials around the state.

The Center also produces comprehensive publications to share municipal research, including: Affordable Housing

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Techniques, Annexation Handbook, Bidding in Washington Cities and Towns, Budget Suggestions, Chief Administrative Officers, Code City Handbook, Handbook for Councilmembers, Level

of Service Standards, Municipal Incorporation Guide, The New City Guide, A Revenue Guide, and A Debt Primer for Washington's Cities and Towns.

The Center has a board that is comprised of present and past city and

county officials. If you would like to serve on the MRSC board please submit your name to Bill Vogler who will forward it to MRSC for consideration.

News in Brief

Unclaimed Property

You may be richer than you think! Did you know that the state of Washington is searching for the rightful owners of \$200 million in unclaimed property? The Department of Revenue website reports that your chances are one in seven that you have unclaimed property with a cash value being held by the state. Often counties, cities and port districts are listed as well. These assets are turned over to the state for safe keeping by businesses and organizations throughout the United States when they are unable to locate the rightful owner of the property. There is no charge to file a claim. You can access all unclaimed property at www.dor.wa.gov.

Jail Industries Board Seeks WSAC Member

The Washington State Jail Industries Board of Directors must fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Jim Lewis, Yakima County Commissioner, from the Board. Membership on the Board represents a challenging opportunity to shape the future of inmate work all across Washington. The Board will be managing issues of private sector business involvement, encouraging the growth of enterprises owned and operated by local jurisdictions, and seeking to broaden the dialogue about the appropriate uses of inmate labor. As counties are faced with a continuing crisis in criminal justice, the Board needs strong leadership from WSAC in order to maximize its contribution to corrections and county government.

Board work is conducted during one-day meetings held four times per year at various locations around the state. The new WSAC member will join a diverse group representing local government interests appointed by the Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, Corrections and Jail associations, County Clerks, the Prosecuting Attorneys, and the Association of Cities. Other Board members

appointed by the Governor represent business, labor, crime victims, and state agencies with interests in criminal justice, employment, and economic development.

For more information about the Jail Industries Board, please call Jill Will, Executive Director, at 360-586-1534 or email jwill@wacounties.org. Address a letter of interest in serving to Bill Vogler at WSAC. The WSAC Board will select a new representative at the June Board meeting.

Scholarship Winners

County employees can be truly proud of their children! Once again, the applications for the Washington Counties Scholarships reflected superior scholastic achievement, outstanding leadership qualities, and the dedication of the students to family, friends and community. Unfortunately only seven awards could be made to a field of 292 applicants.

A complete list of the students who were included in the final round of consideration for the seven awards is attached to this Courthouse Journal. The selection process involved two separate and independent committees composed of persons who have no affiliation with either WACO or WSAC. They spent countless hours carefully scrutinizing and evaluating each application.

The Washington Counties Scholarship Fund is a joint endeavor of the Washington Association of County Officials and the Washington State Association of Counties.

Scholarship Trivia

1. When were the first Washington Counties Scholarships awarded? **1993**
2. How many awards have been given since then? **36 scholarships totaling over \$59,000!**
3. How many counties can boast of their scholars? You all can! **But the winners have come from: King 5; Snohomish 4; Thurston 4; Whatcom 4; Pierce 3; Mason 2; Kittitas 2; Clark 2; Spokane 2; and one each for Lewis, Grant,**

Wahkiakum, Chelan, Island, Asotin, Klickitat, Douglas and Stevens! Congratulations!

4. How do you explain 36 awards in #2 and 37 winners in #3? **A 1997 winner has parents who are employed by two neighboring counties.**

5. Are girls smarter than boys? **Who knows! But 28 scholarships have gone to girls and only 8 to boys.**

6. What do you do if you didn't win? **Apply again next year!** As long as you are a dependent child of a county employee enrolled full-time in a baccalaureate degree, associate degree or vocational/technical certification program, you are eligible!

WSAC Seeks Volunteers For Parks Funding Task Force

Chapter 275 of the Laws of 2001 establishes a legislative task force to analyze local park and recreation needs with a specific focus on maintenance and operations costs and funding sources. The task force of 20 members is to include two representatives of county parks and recreation and will report back to the legislature by December 1, 2001.

Interested county parks and recreation directors, county commissioners or councilmembers, should contact Paul Parker at WSAC by May 29 to notify the WSAC Board of Directors of your interest. The WSAC Board will make the appointments at its June meeting, or sooner depending on when the Task Force begins its operations.

WSAC Summer Convention agenda available on the website

Go to www.wacounties.org/wsac to find the link to the WSAC 95th Annual Summer Convention.

The agenda will be updated every week, bookmark the site to keep informed.

DOE revising state Solid Waste Plan

The Department of Ecology is holding meetings to gather input into a revision of the 1991 Solid Waste Plan. The new plan will incorporate sustainable practices and regional cooperation into the State's solid waste system. The plan revision is expected to be complete

in 2002 and will include an implementation schedule and milestone goals.

Two Western Washington meetings have been scheduled. The first will be in Vancouver, Monday, May 21 from 2 pm to 5 pm at the Water Resources Education Center at marine Park. The second

will be held in Des Moines on Tuesday, May 22, at Highline Community College, Building #2, Highway 99 at South 240th Street. The two meetings follow earlier meetings held in March and April.

For more information, call (360) 738-2112 or go to www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/swplan.

Douglas County approves tent camp proposal

The Douglas County Board of Commissioners has approved plans to operate a temporary housing project for cherry workers during this year's harvest. The tent camp will be on Port of Douglas County property in the Pangborn Industrial Service Area. This is the same site as last year.

During a May 8 public hearing before the Commissioners, Ray Price, Asst. Director, Housing, for the Office of Community Development, told the Commissioners that the state is committed to improving on last year's success. The project will be able to accommodate up to 300 persons for twenty-eight days during the cherry harvest. Plans are to then move the camp to the Monitor Park

location approved by Chelan County.

Commissioner Mary Hunt noted using the site one more year would amortize the costs associated with development of the site last year. "The state spent a lot of money preparing the land and extending infrastructure." She said. "One more year of use will be more cost effective."

Commissioner Dane Keane commented that the Commissioners had reservations about hosting a camp for a second year. "We told the neighbors last year that we were trying to address an emergency and we asked for their indulgence. We were surprised that alternate locations were not secured during the past year," he said. Keane noted, how-

ever, that the county had met with area residents to discuss their concerns, which were passed on to the state. "The involvement of Mr. Price and his staff and Jim Potts from the Washington State Association of Counties, has made me more comfortable with allowing this for one more year." Keane said.

Commissioner Ken Stanton added, "The neighbors have been very patient and understanding. They deserve the gratitude of the community."

The camp will be operated by the state under contract with North Columbia Community Action Council of Moses Lake. The camp will open after June 1 when harvest begins.

California finds Mental Health Aid cuts costs of homelessness

A pilot mental health program targeting homeless people has reduced California's hospital and jail costs by millions of dollars, according to a legislative report. The state's Community Mental Health Treatment Program has enrolled more than 1,100 participants in Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Stanis-

laus counties since November 1999, saving more than \$7.3 million.

Through a combination of aggressive outreach, less debilitating medications, and help with housing, job training and money management, the program has reduced homelessness and increased treatment among participants, the study

said. The study determined that hospital visits by participants were cut nearly 78 percent from the previous year. The number of days participants spent in jail fell nearly 85 percent and days spent homeless decreased 69 percent.

Regional Jail Study complete, report available

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs has completed its nationwide study of regional jails. A final report and recommendations are available on the WASPC web site at http://www.waspc.org/regional_jail_report.pdf.

The regional jail study was designed to provide information about regional jails, whether they could work in Washington state, and whether there are opportunities for local and state jurisdictions to cooperatively work together to address local corrections issues. It is not a feasibility study for a specific facility at a specific site, but could provide the

basis for beginning to move forward in planning specific projects.

Among its 11 recommendations, the study endorses development of statutory authorization for multiple jurisdiction jails, state as well as local funding for construction and operations, and a pilot project that includes participation by the state Department of corrections.

The study will provide the springboard for a discussion of regional jail issues at the WSAC annual convention, Friday, June 15 in Yakima. Participating in that panel are state Director of Corrections Joe Lehman, State Representative Gary Alexander, Douglas

County Commissioner Dane Keane, and Director of the Northern Oregon Regional Corrections facility Paul Barnett. Moderating the discussion is Jim LaMunyon, the author of the WASPC study.

Questions and comments about the study may be directed to Sophia Byrd of the WSAC staff at sbyrd@wacounties.org, or Jim LaMunyon of WASPC at jimlamunyon@thurston.com

The regional jail study was funded by a grant from the Washington State Law and Justice Council. The project was managed by WASPC with the ad-

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vice of a steering committee that included representation from the WASPC,

the state Department of Corrections, the Washington State Association of Counties, and the Association of Washington

Cities. Whatcom County Sheriff Dale Brandland chaired the steering committee.

State Patrol offering emergency operations classes

The Washington State Patrol Fire Protection Bureau is offering several classes this summer in emergency response to terrorism and hazardous materials awareness. The sessions will be held 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the State Patrol's

Fire Training Academy at North Bend. The classes are designed for on-scene supervisors and responders, including volunteers. One class in hazardous materials awareness is a "train the trainer" course to prepare instructors for

hazardous materials response training. For more information about the classes contact Bob Jones at the Fire Training Academy, 425-453-3000, ext. 104.

Spokane County takes on Dow Chemical

The Spokesman Review reported that Spokane County Commissioners want the Dow Chemical Company to stop local distribution of an herbicide that is tainting compost produced at a publicly owned solid waste facility. Commissioners asked that a letter be sent to Dow Chemical asking that distribution be stopped until researchers determine why it isn't breaking down during the composting process.

The presence of the herbicide Confront renders the compost useless on many crops and makes it hard to sell. A Dow Chemical spokesperson indicated that it is not a problem they've seen as widespread.

Confront is used by commercial

lawn-care companies to control dandelions, clover and weeds in yards. It is not available at retail stores. It doesn't harm grass, but can damage other plants, such as tomatoes, peas and beans. Research has shown that it has a "relatively low human toxicity", according to solid waste documents.

Grass clippings and dead leaves serve as the route for the herbicide to enter the compost. Tests have shown that Confront is present in 47,000 cubic yards of compost produced at the solid waste system's facility at Colbert. The solid waste system has paid out three claims totaling \$12,000 to people whose crops were damaged by the tainted compost. Two other claims are pending.

Dow Chemical states that it is working with scientists to find a way to render the herbicide harmless during composting. They asked that the product continued use be allowed during the research; suggesting that the contaminated compost can be used to nurture grass on regional landfills during the research time. Commissioner John Roskelley indicated that isn't acceptable as the herbicide still poses a threat to gardeners who use their grass clippings in their home gardens. Commissioner Roskelley was quoted as saying: "Why should we allow this stuff to continue? Let them test it in their labs or somewhere else, not on the citizens of Spokane County."

Transportation Package

Lots of action and no progress; tempers flaring

Earlier this week the House Democrats unveiled a \$10 Billion over ten-year transportation package that would increase the gas tax by 8 cents. It includes funding for both highway construction and ferries and other multi-model transportation needs.

The Governor held a press conference on Wednesday to convey his disappointment that a transportation package had not come together. He stated after a regular session of 105 days and a special session of now 22 days the legislature has not been able to come close to finishing their work on the transportation package. He pointed fingers directly at the House Republicans for holding up the package by insisting on their efficiency plan. "They continue to move the goal post," he stated. He further stated that it was his hope that these efficiencies and accountabilities will be passed within the next nine days remaining in

the special session so there can be no excuse that a funding package can be accomplished. Later that day the House Republican Speaker, Representative Ballad held a press conference to dispute the Governor's comments. He stated that the House Republicans have said from the beginning what they wanted in their efficiency package and that they were not moving the target. Their three-tiered approach includes streamline permitting, contract out services for Department of Transportation maintenance work and adjusting the prevailing wage rates in local areas to be in line with local market.

In the meantime, the four committees representing members from both sides of the aisle and rotunda are working hard to hammer out unresolved issues in order to get a transportation package out of the legislature. The committees are still addressing the fol-

lowing issues:

- Governor authority over the Secretary of Transportation
- Statewide revenue package
- Regional revenue package
- Environmental Streamline Permit Process and other efficiency issues such as contracting out and prevailing wage

The four working committees of appointed Senate and House Transportation Committee members are: Environmental Permit & Streamlining, Revenue Committee, Regional Issues, and Accountability, Efficiencies & Governance. Even though there has been lots of activity this week, there has been little progress made towards a final transportation package. As we head towards the end of this special session many legislators believe that the operating and capital budg-

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Transportation package

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ets will pass without the transportation

package and that a second session will occur to continue the discussions on transportation. For questions or com-

ments, please contact Jackie White (WSAC staff).

Analysis shows pensions savings help, but no cigar

As counties continue to insist that the Legislature honor its commitment for continued backfill funding, some Legislators are arguing that proposed pension savings more than offset county losses. On Thursday, the WSAC began distribution of an analysis refuting this assertion.

The analysis allocates the total estimated pension savings to current expense funded employees and non-current expense funded employees. Statewide,

about half of county employment is funded through current expense funds, the county equivalent of the state general fund. That means that only half of the anticipated savings will be available to support criminal justice costs. In some counties, like King County, more than half of total county employment is in dedicated fund areas such as transit, reimbursable contracts and road fund.

The analysis compares the MVET counties would have received in 2002-

03. It then compares that loss to the combined relief provided by the House proposed backfill and the proposed pension savings. On average, counties are still missing 47% of the revenue they would have received if the Legislature had not repealed the MVET. This loss totals over \$57 million statewide. Individual county losses range from a high of 59% for Stevens County to a low of 27% in Spokane County. This analysis is attached to this Journal.

Eastern District Meeting wrap-up - better late than never

A belated wrap up of events and festivities at the successful Eastern District meeting in Colville on April 19 and 20 is better than none at all. Most agreed the highlights were the vigorous debates over a resolution introduced by Kittitas County Commissioner Perry Huston and the excellent food arranged by Stevens County. The resolution, addressing unfunded mandates and the Legislature's response to I-695 backfill funding was ultimately forwarded to the

full membership for consideration at the WSAC Summer Convention on June 13.

Presentations by DSHS Secretary Dennis Braddock, an Eastern Washington native, and by Department of Health Secretary Mary Selecky, an adopted native, were well-received.

Other activities at the Eastern District Business meeting included the announcement by WSAC President Mike Shelton that two weeks earlier the Western District had made a \$1000 donation

to the WSAC Scholarship Fund. A motion to make the same donation was made by Stevens County Commissioner Vickie Strong, and seconded, but the ante was then upped with an amendment offered by Perry Huston to raise the donation to \$1001. The Motion passed unanimously.

The District also decided to hold its Spring 2002 meeting at Sun Mountain Lodge in Okanogan County.

Please submit Resolutions to WSAC for Summer Convention

In order to plan for an efficient business meeting at the WSAC Summer Convention, WSAC members who are planning to introduce a resolution for consideration by the membership are

encouraged to provide a copy of the resolution to WSAC by June 6, so that it may be included in that week's issue of *the Courthouse Journal*. The only Resolution on the agenda at this time is that

forwarded to the Convention from the Eastern District meeting calling for county action on unfunded mandates and I-695 backfill funding.

Retirement Planning Workshop Offered At WSAC Conference

America's demographics have changed. People are retiring earlier and living longer. This good news means that long-lived folks will need to accumulate even more money than in past decades for their eventual retirement and this means an impact on counties.

As one of the nation's largest employers, county governments must acknowledge that people in the county workforce are eventual retirees. The people who make local governments hum today are the very people in need of financial planning for a secure tomorrow.

WSAC, in conjunction with the National Association of Counties, is offering a workshop at the Summer Convention on retirement planning called "Grow Your Nest Egg."

This workshop is aimed at county officials and those who administer county retirement plans, such as county human resources administrators and personnel directors. The sessions are presented by NACo and members of the International Foundation for Retirement Education (InFRE). InFRE's certified trainers are seasoned financial educators and workshop leaders with "train-the-trainer" backgrounds. Participants will

share what has and has not worked and "best practices." Customized workbooks for attendees to take back home and use as a resource are included.

Although this education program is underwritten by NACo's Deferred Compensation Program funds, the workshop does not endorse a particular plan. Instead it covers the basics of retirement and financial prep work and the role of county officials and plan administrators in helping the county workforce make sound retirement plans.

The workshop will cover the roles and responsibilities of the counties to-

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ward retirement education and the benefits of conducting it, and what employees expect from counties and many other topics, including:

- How to motivate employees, why employees don't participate: fears, misunderstandings, etc.;
- How to utilize financial service providers to help deliver education;
- Setting goals, saving, investing, pres-

ervation of assets: The retirement planning process.

- Developing and monitoring employees' own implementation plans.
- Educating employees about key concepts, including the value of pre-tax, understanding the longer term issue of inflation risk vs. short term market risk., the time value of money, etc.

As part of on-going retirement education campaign, several types of ge-

neric materials will be developed for later distribution within county workforces. These include presentations and workbooks for those within five years of retirement and for all other employees and officials; posters with educational messages; retirement education articles for use in county newsletters; statement stuffers with educational messages; and brochures on the value of planning for retirement.

Shorelines/GMA work continues

Work to address the contentious Shorelines/GMA issues continues this week. Developed by Rep. Gary Chandler (R-Grant County), it would include the following:

- An agricultural exemption;
- GMA/SMA/CAO integration;
- Clark, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snoho-

mish, and Thurston counties and their cities would move forward with implementation of the December 2000 shorelines rules as a "pilot" program; the Legislature would establish a committee to oversee implementation, including cost, before any other areas are required to proceed;

- Timelines for above counties: conditionally adopt critical areas and shorelines by December 2003, GMA updates and final CAO/SMA decisions by July 2004.
- Put CAO/SMA revision on hold for the other 32 counties.

Ecology offers shorelines workshops

Ecology is sponsoring a series of workshops for local governments on updating shoreline master programs under recently adopted state guidelines (Chapter 173-26 WAC). Workshops in Kelso and Everett in late May are now full. A Moses Lake workshop, June 6 at the Best Western Hallmark Inn and a new workshop in Seattle on June 21 have openings.

The workshops will give local governments an opportunity to shape Ecology's guidance materials, including a

new version of the Shoreline Management Guidebook. The first round of workshops will focus on the inventory and analysis steps required by the new rule. The workshops will discuss:

- The "ecological functions and ecosystem wide processes" the rule asks local governments to protect.
- The level of inventory and analysis needed to determine their condition in a given area.
- What the state can do to help coordinate this inventory and analysis.

- How shoreline analysis requirements relate to assessment work being done for salmon recovery efforts, watershed planning, and GMA critical areas updates.

At these first meetings, Ecology will solicit ideas on how to continue to involve local governments in developing guidance material.

The workshops are free, and will include refreshments and a catered lunch. Please contact Tim Gates at 360-407-7256 if you are interested in signing up.

Coming Events

May 21-24

Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) Spring Meeting, Sheraton Hotel, Tacoma

May 23-26

Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference, County of Hawaii, Hilo, HI

June 3-6

Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

June 10-14

International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners Annual Con-

ference, Toronto, Canada

June 11-13

Washington State Association of County Assessors Annual June Conference, Olympia

June 12

Beating the Budget Blues Workshop, in conjunction with WSAC Summer Convention, Yakima, 8:30 am - 4 pm

June 12-15

WSAC Summer Convention, West Coast Gateway Hotel, Yakima

June 12

Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF) Board Meeting, in conjunction with WSAC Summer Convention, West-Coast Gateway, Yakima, 4:30 pm

June 14

Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Executive Board Meeting, in conjunction with WSAC Summer Convention, Yakima, 4 pm

June 15-21

International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials and Treasurers Annual Conference, Billings, Montana

June 18-22

Washington State Association of County Treasurers Annual Conference, Red Lion Hotel, Wenatchee

June 19-20

Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners Annual Spring

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Training, Moses Lake

June 19-22

Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Annual Conference, Bellevue

June 20-22

Washington State Association of County Auditors Annual Conference, Quality Inn, Clarkston

June 20-22

Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) Summer Training Program, Campbell's Lodge, Chelan

June 23-27

National Sheriffs Association Annual Conference, Marriott Marina, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

June 24-29

Washington State Association of County Clerks Annual Conference, Howard Johnson Hotel, Everett

July 13-17

NACo Annual Conference, City & County of Philadelphia

July 18-20

Association of County Human Services (ACHS) Meeting, Port Angeles

July 19-20

CRABoard Meeting, CRAB Offices, Olympia

September 9-12

International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) Annual Conference, Miami, Florida

September 19-21

Washington Finance Officers Association (WFOA) Annual Conference, Wenatchee

September 19-21

ACHS Meeting, Ellensburg

September 27-28

WSAC Eastern District Meeting, East Wenatchee

October 1-5

WACO Annual Conference, Port Ludlow Resort & Conference Center

October 11-12

WSAC Western District Meeting, Long Beach

October 18-19

CRABoard Meeting, CRAB Office, Olympia

November 12-15

WASPC Annual Fall Conference, DoubleTree Hotel, Pasco

November 14-16

WSAC Fall Legislative Conference, Silverdale Hotel on the Bay, Silverdale

November 14-6

ACHS Meeting, LaConner

November 14

WCIF Board Meeting, in conjunction with WSAC Fall Legislative Conference, 10 am-12 pm

January 29-31, 2002

Legislative Rally and Tri-Association Reception, Olympia

June 9-11, 2002

WSAC Summer Convention, Bellevue Inn & Bellevue Hilton, Bellevue

September 30-October 4, 2002

WACO/WSAC Joint Conference, WestCoast, Wenatchee

June 24-27, 2002

WSAC Summer Convention, Spokane

July 11-15, 2002

NACo Annual Conference, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

September 29 - October 3, 2002

WSAC/WACO Joint Conference, Vancouver

July 16-20, 2004

NACo Annual Conference, Maricopa County, Phoenix, Arizona

July 15-18, 2005

NACo Annual Conference, City & County of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii

Employment Opportunities

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR/ENGINEER. Okanogan County is accepting applications for the position of Public Works Director/Engineer. This position reports directly to the Okanogan County Board of Commissioners and is expected to provide leadership and direction to a 90-person workforce with a budget of 18.9 million dollars. The Public Works Director is responsible for oversight of the design, construction and maintenance of the county's 1,376 miles of roads. The director also oversees the management

and operation of the county's sanitary landfill along with several sewer and water utility operations throughout the county. The director is expected to ensure the efficient and effective utilization of departmental personnel, funds, materials, facilities and time. Applicants must possess a Professional Civil Engineer's License from the State of Washington. A BS degree in civil engineering or a related engineering field with previous public works experience sufficient to demonstrate thorough administrative competency and

extensive knowledge of modern engineering principals and practices as applied to municipal public works design, construction, maintenance and operations, or any combination of education and experience to demonstrate competency. Demonstrated experience working with large and diverse budgets including grants and multiple funding sources. Must be in possession of a valid Washington State Driver's License. The wage will be negotiated and will be based on experience and qualifications. The successful applicant will enter into a renewable employment contract with the Board of County Commis-

sioners. Interested persons are invited to request an application packet from the Okanogan County Department of Human Resources at P.O. Box 791, Okanogan, WA. 98840. A completed application with cover letter and resume must be received by the Department of Human Resources no later than 5:00 p.m. July 16, 2001. For further information, or to request an application packet call Dan Powers, HR Director at (509) 422-7104. dpowers@co.okanogan.wa.us Okanogan County is an equal opportunity employer. www.okanogancounty.org