

the Courthouse Journal

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*Washington Association of County Officials
Washington State Association of Counties*

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2nd Annual Joint Conference Brings County Family Together To Celebrate Successes and Plan for More

Over 300 county officials and others gathered last week at the Sea-Tac Doubletree Hotel during the 2nd Annual Joint Conference of the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC). Presiding over the conference was WACO President Greg Zempel, Kittitas County Prosecutor, and WSAC President Harold Moss, Pierce County Council. Not only did the attendees celebrate the successes of the past year, they got a head start on new achievements by adopting a new Joint Legislative Package and a resolution calling for elimination of the 2004 Presidential Primary (see story on page 2).

Celebrations included the graduation of the first class of WACO and WSAC members as Certified Public Officials and the election of new officers for the two associations. Twenty-five vendors displayed products of interest to counties and made valuable contacts with elected officials and staff around the state.

From the buzz in the halls, the hit of the conference was Cam Marston, a nationally-known speaker reflecting on how intergenerational differences affect the workplace, from productivity to recruiting. Although most county officials are “matures” or “baby boomers” everyone could relate to the communication issues and attitudes of “Generation Xers” and the “Millennium” Generation – also known as the “Me Generation.” Like Mars and Venus, the keynote session helped everyone to see that generational workplace differences aren’t a matter of right and wrong, but of real communication styles that need to be grappled with seriously and thoughtfully.

The other most-talked-about event was the sunset dinner cruise on Elliott Bay in honor of the presidents. The fog from earlier in the day had lifted, the sunset was brilliant

and a good time was had by all.

Other highlights of the meeting included a wonderful photographic journey to the summit of Mt. Everest presented by Spokane County Commissioner John Roskelley, who climbed the mountain last May with his son, Jess, 20. NACo 1st Vice President Bill Hansell, Umatilla County (Oregon) Commissioner was on hand to address the group and everyone enjoyed a talk by Neal Sofian about humor in the workplace.

Next year’s Joint Conference will take place in Spokane, followed in 2005 at Ocean Shores and 2006 in Wenatchee.



(WACO President Greg Zempel and WSAC President Harold Moss on the bus enroute to the Presidents’ Cruise)

WACO and WSAC Officers Elected for the Ensuing Year

Douglas County Treasurer Mary Dodge was elected President of WACO during the annual fall conference in SeaTac, last week. The WACO membership also voted for the following officers and trustees: Tom Fallquist, Spokane County Clerk, President-Elect; Dan Blasdel, Franklin County Coroner, Vice President; Rick Bart, Snohomish County Sheriff, Secretary-Treasurer; Bob

Terwillger, Snohomish County Auditor, Trustee-at-large Position 1; Dean Takko, Cowlitz County Assessor, Trustee-at-large Position 3; and Rena Hollis, Skamania County Clerk, Trustee-at-large Position 5.

WSAC elected Walla Walla County Commissioner David Carey as its President. During the next year Carey will serve with newly elected WSAC vice-president Clark County Commissioner Betty Sue Morris and secretary-treasurer Garfield County Commissioner Dean Burton.

One of the first official acts for Dodge and Carey as presidents of WACO and WSAC, respectively, was to oversee the adoption of a resolution asking Governor Gary Locke to call a special session of the Legislature to eliminate the 2004 Presidential Primary Election (see story below).

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

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WACO/WSAC Seek to Obviate 2004 Presidential Primary

During the WACO/WSAC Annual Conference last week, the groups adopted a joint resolution asking Governor Gary Locke to call a special session of the Legislature, in December, to address the cancellation of the 2004 Presidential Primary.

County officials contend that the Primary, which is slated to be held on March 2, is nothing more than a beauty contest with little or no meaning. Secretary of State Sam Reed agrees. Ballots cast for Democratic candidates simply will not count. The Democratic Party will be choosing delegates at neighborhood caucuses. The Republican Party says that only one-third of the state's Republican delegates will be chosen through the primary, and the rest will be chosen from caucuses and the state convention.

"This election would cost the taxpayers of Washington \$6.2 million and serve little purpose," said David Carey, WSAC President.

WACO President Mary Dodge stated "The parties have chosen to select most or all of their delegates using party caucuses. In this time of tight budgets, when counties and state government are pinching pennies and stretching every dollar, it makes sense to forgo this expenditure and save millions of taxpayer dollars."

County auditors, who brought the resolution forward to the joint WACO/WSAC memberships, say that a December special session is necessary because the costs of holding the election begin to accrue before the Legislature convenes the second week of January. Auditors around the state estimate that \$2.5 million would be spent prior to the start of session in preparation for the scheduled March 2, 2004 primary.

NOTE: Legislative Committee schedules and agendas can be found at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm>

More Conference News

Valuable CPO Training Offered at Joint Convention

Over 70 county officials took advantage of two opportunities to participate in CPO training at last week's Joint WACO/WSAC Legislative Conference. Fifty-two officials took part in a full day core course *Ethical Dilemmas: Integrity as a Tool for Successful Public Officials*. The course was led by a team of Washington State University staff; Mike Gaffney, Assistant Director for the Division of Governmental Studies and Services, Kelsey Gray, Organizational Development Specialist, and Lessie Tompkins, Training Coordinator with Pierce County Cooperative Extension. Greg Zempel, Kittitas County Prosecuting Attorney who walked the participants through a section on Washington State Ethics statutes, joined them.

The morning session focused on establishing the Foundation for Ethics, which included definitions, styles, approaches and rationalizations. After lunch, the participants utilized different models to work through case studies. While some in attendance voiced concern that the course content did not provide clear black and white, right or wrong answers to their questions about ethical decisions, those who attended went home with information and material to help them in their daily work as they face the challenges and issues presented by their citizens. With continued hard work and ethical decision-making, we can change negative perceptions about local government.

Another 20 officials participated in a half-day elective course on *Conducting and Managing Effective meetings*. While we may think we can conduct a meeting and produce the desired outcome, many things can and do go wrong. Stephany Bruell, Stephany Bruell Management Consulting, walked the participants through steps to improve the productivity of our meetings. The program content focused on management of people and time and the use of techniques to ensure that meetings produce real, measurable results. The

workshop was fast paced, fun and packed with good ideas and checklists to improve our effectiveness in meetings.

13 County Officials from nine counties complete CPO Certification

On October 1, thirteen county officials from nine counties were honored for completing the Certified Public Officials (CPO) Training Program. Co-sponsored by the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO), Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC), Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP), County Road Administration Board (CRAB) and Washington State University (WSU), the program enhances local government's ability to provide public services responsibly, efficiently and cost-effectively. The program was developed as a collaborative partnership by those agencies committed to strengthening and promoting the leadership capacity of elected and appointed officials in Washington State.

Dr. Linda Fox, Associate Dean/Director, of Washington State University Cooperative Extension; WACO President, Greg Zempel, Kittitas County Prosecutor; and WSAC President, Harold Moss, Pierce County Councilmember; distributed pins, ribbons and certificates to the program graduates. Those officials who have completed the program are:

Phil Bakke, Island County Director of Planning & Community Development
Jan Angel, Kitsap County Commissioner
David Peterson, Kitsap County Clerk
Gene Seiber, Lewis County Chief Civil Deputy Sheriff
Al Brotche, Mason County Auditor
Karen Herr, Mason County Chief Deputy Auditor
Darcie Nielsen, San Juan County Commissioner
Laura Caster, Snohomish County Executive Management Analyst
Charla Hattendorf, Snohomish County Executive Management Analyst
Kim Eaton, Yakima County Clerk

Ron Gamache, Yakima County Commissioner
Cathy Mulhall, Chelan County Administrator
Shelly Johnston, Lincoln County Auditor

To receive certification, officials must complete 48 hours of instruction. Since its inception in 2001, 600 county officials have enrolled in the program and have attended courses. These 13 county officials have the distinction of being in the first class of officials to complete the new certification program. The program is ongoing and officials may enroll at any time.

Conference Panel Discusses Local Government Tort Issues

Although they offered different perspectives on the details, both state Senator Dale Brandland and Representative Pat Lantz told the WSAC/WACO conference that they believed civil liability issues present real problems for counties. They also both agreed that tort reform for local government will be an important issue in the 2004 legislative session.

The WSAC and Tri-Association legislative packages identify local government tort reform as a priority issue for counties and cities in the upcoming legislative session.

Brandland, a Whatcom County Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Lantz, a Pierce County Democrat who chairs the House Judiciary Committee, shared the podium October 3 with other prominent policymakers offering a variety of views on tort reform and the civil liability issues affecting local government. These included Yakima County Prosecutor Ron Zirkle, Washington Counties Risk Pool Director John Crawford, and Larry Shannon, lobbyist for the Washington Trial Lawyers Association. Marty Brown, director of the state Office of Financial Management, moderated the discussion.

Zirkle and Crawford highlighted several tort issues of concern to counties, including erosion of the "public duty doctrine" that historically limited

More Conference News (continued)

government liability, joint and several liability, and the statute that precludes introduction of evidence of seatbelt usage in civil claims.

Shannon responded that two recent state Supreme Court cases move in a more protective direction for government limiting the application of joint liability in intentional tort actions, and limiting governmental liability for the actions of criminals who are supervised only for financial obligations.

Brandland, former Whatcom County Sheriff, described his approach as one based on "common sense." He said he is particularly concerned about the broad liability counties face for probation supervision.

Lantz also expressed empathy for counties, which she described as suffering the indignity of liability for the bad acts of third parties who are beyond government's control. She said she would like the Legislature to arrive at a solution that doesn't destroy civil justice but fine-tunes the system.

WSAC Adopts Legislative Package For 2004

The Washington State Association of Counties last week adopted a Legislative Package for the 2004 legislative session. The WSAC Legislative Package complements the Joint Local Government package agreed to by WSAC, WACO and the Association of Washington Cities and includes many items of specific importance to counties. The 2004 Legislative Package was developed over the course of the summer and fall by the WSAC Legislative Steering Committee, which is co-chaired by San Juan County Commissioner Darcie Nielsen and Benton County Commissioner Leo Bowman.

Adoption of the package last Thursday followed a morning of legislative briefing by former legislative leaders and long-time Olympia hands from the press and political worlds. Former Senate Majority Leader Jeannette Hayner and Former Speaker of the House Joe King emphasized how important it is for Olympia leadership to

work together across the aisle and be ready to compromise to make progress. Experienced lobbyists from business, labor, environmental and local government perspectives continued with them by stressing the need to develop coalitions and work with both parties to succeed in Olympia.

Reporters from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, the Tacoma News-Tribune and KUOW-FM outlined perspectives for the 2004 legislative session: continued emphasis on improving the business climate (with or without the Boeing 7E7), lots of effort to fix the state primary system, and lots of politicking in preparation for fall 2004 elections. The group warned to expect no additional funding assistance for local government.

The 2004 package and priorities build from the 2003 agenda and include the following priorities:

New Revenue Sources

1. State assistance for core county functions. This could take the form of state grants or an equalized revenue stream adequate to ensure that basic governmental services can be provided in all 39 counties.
2. New revenue for Public Health. The state must continue existing assistance to assure stable public health programs and provide additional help to meet growing needs and improve public health response.

Reducing County Costs, Mandates and Restrictions

3. Tort reform for governmental activities and services.
4. Flexibility for existing revenue streams. Provide counties the flexibility to more broadly use existing revenue streams, such as REET, conservation futures, and the county road fund and expand the purposes for state grant and loan programs such as the public works trust fund.

Redefining Governmental (County/City/State) Relationships

5. Allow counties to downsize

automatically when annexations or incorporations occur, including transfer of assets, employees and debt.

6. Require interlocal agreements as a condition of annexation and incorporation.
7. Limit state land acquisition for habitat. Require a comprehensive analysis of all existing state and federal public lands prior to new state land acquisition and require public hearings in a county prior to agency purchases for habitat.

The entire WSAC Legislative Package will be posted on the website soon and mailed out to all WSAC members. Further refinement by the Legislative Steering Committee will take place as the session draws near and as issues develop through the legislative session.

At the Legislative Conference, the Rural Issues Subcommittee of the Legislative Steering Committee selected Ferry County Commissioner Mike Blankenship and Lewis County Commissioner Eric Johnson to take the place of Douglas County Commissioner Mary Hunt and Kittitas County Commissioner Perry Huston as Chair and Vice-Chair of that committee.

The Urban County Caucus also met and selected Kitsap County Commissioner Chris Endresen as Chair. Snohomish County Councilman Gary Nelson will continue as Vice-Chair.

Planning Directors Donate to Scholarship Fund, Hold Annual Meeting

The Washington State Association of County and Regional Planning Directors (WSACRPD) have donated \$1,000 to the Washington Counties Scholarship Fund. The planning directors answered the call of WSAC Executive Director Bill Vogler asking for donations to the scholarship fund of \$25 or more for each member and affiliate member of WSAC.

WSACRPD approved the donation during their recently concluded annual conference in Chelan. The conference is jointly held each year with the City Planning Directors Association of

More Conference News (continued)

Washington. The theme for this year's conference was "Tools for Planning Directors" and it included a wide range of interesting seminars.

A daylong professional development seminar featured Michael Buschmohle, a communications consultant from Sammamish. Mr. Buschmohle addressed a variety of ways to improve presentations including speaking to groups of various sizes, the media and making effective PowerPoint presentations.

The directors also participated in sessions on various planning and community development related topics. Long range planning, current planning, annexations and legislation were included in the discussion. The state association of hearing examiners was holding its annual conference at the same time and some joint seminars were arranged to share perspectives among the participants.

Considerable focus was directed to the "Livable Washington" report released by the Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association. This nine-page report points to areas of the Growth Management Act that need attention. The wrap-up to the conference was a session on improving communications between county and city staff and how to best understand the positions of each.

In evening recreation activities, the county directors once again prevailed over their city counterparts in both the annual volleyball and softball challenges.

WSACRPD, as an affiliate of WSAC, will next meet during the upcoming joint WSAC/WACO conference at SeaTac. The meeting will be on Thursday, October 2 from 8:30 AM to Noon. More information is available from President Andy Meyer, AICP, Clallam County Planning Director.

Budget, Finance & Taxes

Congress Poised to Eliminate Local Revenues

The US Senate is poised to act on HR 49 or S 150. These bills move beyond a simple re-enactment of the internet taxation moratorium to permanently prohibit taxing a range of services related to the internet and cable. These bills could result in the elimination of cable franchise fees (and associated public access broadcasting) and utility taxes imposed by cities and the state.

These bills are opposed by NACo, the National Governors' Association, the National League of Cities and many other groups. In addition to their immediate impact, they fly in the face of efforts to allow local governments to impose sales taxes on internet sales.

- **What You Need to Do:** First priority is to contact Senator Cantwell (202) 224-3441 and Senator Murray (202) 224-2621. County representatives working this issue in Washington D.C. are particularly concerned about Senator Cantwell's position on this Legislation. The second priority is to contact House members, since the House has already passed its version of the bill – but will have a chance to change its position in conference.
- **What You Need to Tell Them:** Your message from home should include the following types of information:
 - The amount you stand to lose and what it would mean to your budget. Tell them about the other cuts you have made or are facing. Current estimates are that the legislation would cost local and state governments billions of dollars.
 - Examples of the health and expansion of cable in your area, without this tax break. This is not an industry in need of subsidy by local

government.

- Remind them that you are already losing tax revenue to the Internet and that state and local governments are working hard to streamline the sales tax process so that Congress will authorize tax collection of remote sales. Remind them that this tax break is not fair to your local retailers, who collect local sales tax.

As a result of new procedures resulting from the 2001 anthrax attacks on Congress, **traditional mail is the worst way to communicate with U.S. Senators and Representatives.** Please use e-mail, fax, or phone. Don't forget to communicate with the district office about specifics. We have included the latest contact list from Secretary of State Sam Reed's web site. If you send an e-mail or fax, please send us a copy.

State and Local Governments Push to Allow Tax on Catalog and Internet Sales

At the same time Congress seems to be heading south on state and local government finance, an alliance of state and associations is working introduce and pass the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Act. So far, twenty states, including Washington have joined the interstate agreement to reform and simplify their sales tax systems. All of these changes are intended to eliminate administrative barriers to collecting state and local sales tax on catalog and internet sales. This legislation would also help create a more level playing field for your local businesses that currently collect sales tax, but must compete with big firms that do not.

Please contact your member of the U.S. House of Representatives and urge them to contact Representatives Bill Duncan or Mark Agrast and become a co-sponsor. Again, as we noted above, don't use traditional mail, because of the

anthrax issue. Use e-mail, phone or fax.

Emergency Management

Feds Award \$5.7 Million to Clallam County for Interoperability Project

Clallam County is among 17 local jurisdictions nationwide – and the only in Washington state – to receive a homeland security grant to help develop interoperable emergency communications systems.

The Department of Homeland Security last week announced interoperability grants totaling \$79.6 million. Clallam County will receive \$5.7 million. The maximum federal share is \$6 million, with a non-federal match of 25 percent.

The grant program, run by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), provides funding through a competitive process to selected jurisdictions for demonstration projects that will explore uses of equipment and technologies to improve interoperability among the fire service, law enforcement, and emergency medical services. Applicants were encouraged to submit proposals that reflect a multi-jurisdictional and/or multi-disciplinary approach to addressing interoperability.

NACo President Named to Federal Homeland Security Advisory Committee

The federal Department of Homeland Security this week announced the appointment of Karen Miller, president of the National Association of Counties (NACo), to serve on the State and Local Officials Committee to the Homeland Security Advisory Council. Miller, a commissioner in Boone County, Missouri, became NACo president in July 2003 after holding several prominent positions in the Association.

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge established the State and Local Officials Committee to ensure that the Homeland Security Advisory Council received advice on improving America's security from experts representing state and local governments.

Other recently appointed members of the Committee are: Martin Stephens, president of the National Conference of State Legislatures and speaker of the Utah House of Representatives; and James Garner, president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Mayor of Hempstead, New York.

Pasco Hosts Successful Emergency Management Conference

The Washington State Emergency Management Association (WSEMA), the newest WSAC affiliate, held its annual conference September 22-24 in Pasco.

While the focus of the conference was on homeland security planning and coordination, other aspects of emergency management also were prominently featured. Conference sessions addressed the roles and responsibilities of the new homeland security regional planning groups, cyber-terrorism, the role of the military and Civil Air Patrol in homeland security, fire and law enforcement mobilization, how to help local small businesses survive a disaster, and a status report on the activities of the EMC Task Force on Local Program Assessment.

EFSEC Announces Initial Draft Rules for Large Energy Plants

The Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) has released a package of proposed rules aimed at setting standards for siting large electrical generation facilities. EFSEC Chair Jim Luce said "These draft rules respond to Governor Locke's directive to develop clear quantifiable standards for siting energy facilities to avoid the uncertainty that can complicate the permitting process, and to expedite decision-making." Standards included in the initial draft rules cover water and air quality, CO₂ mitigation, wetlands, fish and wildlife, noise, site restoration, and other revisions or updates to existing EFSEC rules.

For the most part, the standards that EFSEC is proposing already exist in rules or guidance form of other state agencies. By formally adopting these rules and guidelines, EFSEC is saying that here are the standards that need to be met and only when there are significant environmental impacts would other protections or mitigation be required. EFSEC's goal is to adopt rules that help to achieve the legislature's statutory policy objective of assuring abundant power at reasonable cost while protecting the public interest and the environment.

The Council has included CO₂ mitigation requirements in all recent siting approvals. EFSEC asserts that putting the CO₂ requirement in rule creates certainty and eliminates the need for debate over what level of possible mitigation to require. The initial draft CO₂ mitigation rule would require new fossil fuel-fired (usually natural gas or coal) generation plants to mitigate 20% of the calculated CO₂ that would be emitted during 30 years of operation at a rate of \$0.87 per metric ton. A typical 650 megawatt natural gas-fired energy facility would emit nearly 12 million metric tons of CO₂ over 30 years. Currently Oregon is the only other state that has a CO₂ mitigation requirement for energy facilities. Oregon currently requires new power projects to mitigate

17% of the CO₂ and at \$0.85 per ton.

The CO₂ mitigation rule would require that a new project owner make a one-time up front payment or to make payments over a 5 year period to a for a qualified organization similar to the WSU Energy Program's Climate and Rural Energy Development Center or the Climate Trust that are devoted to investing in or securing CO₂ mitigation projects. As an alternative a project owner could directly invest in or conduct the CO₂ mitigation projects themselves.

In late October EFSEC will hold public meetings in Seattle and Spokane to hear public comments on the initial rules. These meetings will give EFSEC an opportunity to hear what the public thinks of the initial rules and the ability to consider the comments and either formally issue a notice to adopt the proposed rules, or to continue with more discussions.

EFSEC is the State's "one-stop" permitting agency for the siting of large energy plants. Its rules govern the power plant approval process for facilities 350 megawatts or larger and its siting recommendations, if approved by the Governor, bind all State and local agencies. A 350 megawatt plant is large enough to meet approximately twenty-five percent of Seattle's annual power needs.

EFSEC is an independent state board with a chair appointed by the Governor, and members appointed by five state agencies. Information regarding EFSEC, rules and standards development, and projects under review can be found on its Web site at www.efsec.wa.gov. Copies of specific rules being considered for adoption are also available for review at the EFSEC office in Olympia.

State Water Quality Funding Programs to Take New Approach

Communities seeking state and federal water quality funds will be facing new challenges and a new funding cycle in the near future.

The 2004 funding was allocated as follows:

1. FY2004 Centennial Clean Water Funds Distribution - \$28,723,522
2. Section 319 Competitive - \$2,217,077
3. Water Pollution Control SRF Competitive - \$84,390,187

The full list of projects and fund distribution is available at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding/2004/index.html>

The funding challenges for water quality funds are:

- Less funding for the Centennial Clean Water Fund in future years.
- Competing needs – water quality and water conveyance programs are both high priorities for the Governor and Ecology.
- More people looking at water quality program to fund other programs
- Special provisos may ruin the competitive process

In addition, the Water Quality Financial Assistance Advisory Committee will start thinking about how to address new mandates and programs in ranking or rating applications. Future considerations may include the following:

- TMDL (Clean up and monitoring plan)
- NPDES (Stormwater management program)
- Relationship of water quality program to watershed plan

The funding cycle will change starting in FY 2005. FY 2005 cycle is the transition year. Proposed dates are as follows:

- December 2003 – **FY 2005** Opens, Application Workshops (instead of January)
- February 2004 – Applications Due
- May 2004 – Draft List Published, Public Comment
- July 2004 – Final Offer List Published
- September 2004 – **FY 2006** Opens,

Environment, Land Use and Resources (continued)

Application Workshops

- November 2004 – Applications Due
- February 2005 – Draft List Published, Public Comment
- May 2006 – Final Offer List Published

Schedule for FY2005 Funding Application Workshops:

- Spokane - December 4, 2003
- Yakima – December 5, 2003
- Everett – December 9, 2003
- Tacoma – December 10, 2003

Stormwater Infiltration Course Offered

The Department of Ecology and American Public Works Association

(APWA) are co-sponsoring a 2-day course on stormwater infiltration based on Ecology's 2001 Stormwater Manual for Western WA (SWMM). It will be conducted Oct. 28-29 in the Seattle area at the Clarion Hotel in SeaTac and repeated October 30-31, 2003 at Ecology headquarters in Lacey.

The purpose of the course is to provide design scientists, engineers, and other professionals with hydrology/soil fundamentals and suggestions for conducting site characterization and applying the design criteria in Ecology's SWMM for site selection and sizing stormwater infiltration systems. The lecturers will also present new approaches that will augment the SWMM and provide an overview of

their field experience with infiltration facilities. A panel of scientists and engineers, including the lecturers, will be available at the end of the second day for a Q & A session.

The course fee of \$200 includes instruction, lecture notes, lunch, morning & afternoon refreshments. Registration fee must be paid in advance and received by October 17, 2003.

For further information contact:
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Stan Ciuba, Dept. of Ecology, (360) 407-6435, sciu461@ECY.WA.GOV

General Government Issues

King County Council Sends Downsizing Measure to 2004 Ballot

On Monday September 29th, the King County Council voted 12 to 1 to send a charter amendment to the ballot to reduce the size of the Council from 13 to 9. This extraordinary measure came on the heels of a stunning unanimous State Supreme Court ruling that seemed, in essence, to say that the people could amend the county charter by initiative. An earlier Superior Court Ruling had held the opposite position.

As the Courthouse Journal reported earlier, the initiative campaign was launched by jail employees who were angered by the council's decision to cut jail employment as a result of reduced jail census. At various times the employees were joined in their efforts by a candidate for Governor and a professional anti-tax consultant.

If the measure sent to the ballot by the Council passes, a bi-partisan redistricting committee would reconfigure district lines. All nine seats would be up for election in 2005, even though some council members elected this fall have terms that last until 2007.

The jail guards' organization and its supporters reportedly are talking about further initiatives.

Workshop focuses on protecting essential records

Secretary of State Sam Reed has announced a series of workshops to help local governments prepare for natural disasters and other emergencies. Through the sessions, employees will learn to better protect essential public records.

The Essential Records Protection and Disaster Preparedness workshop will be held in 11 cities statewide from September 9, 2003 to December 17, 2003. View the registration brochure at the State Archives website: <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/> or for more information call 360.650.7930.

Reporting Unclaimed Property

The Department of Revenue has recently updated their Unclaimed Property Guide (UCP) for Local Governments. The guide is provided to help cities, towns, counties, municipal

and quasi-municipal corporations understand their obligations for reporting and remitting Unclaimed Property. The link to the reporting information is http://ucp.dor.wa.gov/ucp_holderInfo.asp. The new UCP Guide will be posted next month and will carry the date September, 2003. The Department will also be offering reporting workshops in 2004, which we will publish as soon as they are scheduled. If you have questions concerning reporting requirements, please call Patrick Tate at (360) 753-5531.

Association News

106th Annual Assessors' Conference meets

The Washington State Association of County Assessors (WSACA) met for its 106th Annual Conference in Kennewick last month. Skagit County Assessor Mark Leander, WSACA President, presided over the four-day conference where over 30 counties were represented. Benton County Assessor Barb Wagner hosted the event.

The weightier parts of the program revolved around topics ranging from the state of the Washington Economy and integrated mass appraisal to reports from the Department of Revenue and the State Board of Tax Appeals. Matt Coyle, retired from the Board of Tax Appeals, presented "Uniformity in Taxation" and attorney Bruce Spanner addressed contaminated property. The remainder of the business meetings was devoted to election of officers and development of the WSACA legislative agenda for 2004.

State Representative Jerome Delvin was a luncheon speaker who took the group far beyond his own 8th Legislative District when he presented a video show of his summer mountain climb in the Himalayas. The assessors did find time for some golf and a river cruise when the work was done.

The WSACA officers for the coming year are: President, Yakima County Assessor Dave Cook; Vice-President, Lewis County Assessor Diane Dorey; Secretary-Treasurer, Okanogan County Assessor Scott Furman; and, WACO Representative, Skagit County Assessor Mark Leander.

WSAC Eastern District Chooses New Officers and Weighs in with State and Federal Officials

Thanks to Walla Walla County for hosting a wonderful WSAC Eastern District meeting on September 11 and 12. The 39 commissioners who attended engaged in a roundtable discussion on issues of importance including binding arbitration, funding for counties and tort reform. State Senate Ways and Means Chair Dino Rossi (R-King County) shared budget perspectives

from the 2003 session and his view on the state budget for 2004. State Parks Director Rex Derr spoke about the future of state parks and everyone engaged in lively discussion with state officials on public lands acquisition and maintenance and with state and federal officials on watershed planning and salmon recovery.

The Eastern District members also elevated Douglas County Commissioner Mary Hunt and Whitman County Commissioner Greg Partch to President and Vice-President respectively, and elected Walla Walla County Commissioner Greg Tompkins as Secretary-Treasurer of the Eastern District. In addition to overseeing the affairs of the Eastern District, the three will represent Eastern Washington on the WSAC Board of Directors. Benton County Commissioner Leo Bowman was elected to the Eastern District at-large representative to the WSAC Board. The new Board alternates for the Eastern District are Asotin County Commissioner Don Scheibe and Okanogan County Commissioner Mary Lou Peterson.

Commissioner of Public Lands Doug Sutherland led off Friday's Roundtable Discussion on State Agency Land Acquisition and Maintenance. Also participating were Rep. Dave Mastin, (R- Walla Walla County) Member, House Capital Budget Committee and Rep. Sam Hunt (D – Thurston County), Vice Chair, House Capital Budget Committee, Fish and Wildlife Commissioners John Hunter and Lisa Pelly, Kirk Thomson, President of the Washington Wildlife Recreation Coalition and Mark Quinn, Lands Division Manager, Department of Fish & Wildlife. The discussion revealed an unusual amount of agreement that the legislature needs to provide more funding for proper land management by state agencies.

On Thursday afternoon, Rob Walton, Assistant Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries shed refreshing new light on the current approach of the federal agencies on salmon recovery. Joining in the discussion and hearing continued

concern about redundant planning efforts in the Columbia Basin were Bob Nichols, Senior Policy Assistant to Governor Locke and Tony Grover, Northwest Power and Conservation Council.

Events outside the magnificent Marcus Whitman Hotel included a dusty, but energizing trip to the Stateline Energy Center – the largest wind farm in the nation, followed by dinner at Three Rivers Winery.

Training and Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendars for CPO 2003.....

2003 CPO Remaining Scheduled Course

<u>October</u>	Making a Difference in County Communication: Speak and Write More Confidently (Full day Elective course – 4 credits)	October 30, Yakima
<u>November</u>	Making a Difference in County Communication: Speak and Write More Confidently (Full day Elective course – 4 credits)	November 6, Fort Worden

Making a Difference in County Communication: Speak and Write more Confidently. *Sign up now for the last CPO course for 2003.* As a county official, you want to communicate in ways that make a difference. As a visible leader in your community, you are in the public eye and how you communicate is always under scrutiny. The image the public forms of you depends on what you say, write and do. In this workshop, you will receive dozens of practical, immediately usable tips for communicating more effectively with each other, with the public and with the media. **You do not want to miss this course.**

CPO Credit Update: Your transcripts are up-to-date with the 2003 course credits for all classes held to date. If you would like to check your credit totals, request your transcript. Later this fall we will be sending out a new training needs assessment. This assessment will be very important as we plan the 2004/2005 training calendar. Always, if you have suggestions or comments about the program, please share them with us.

Courthouse Ramblings

Congratulations to Sheriff Brasfield! Governor Locke announced the appointment of **Michael Brasfield**, Jefferson County Sheriff, to the Sentencing Guidelines Commission. Now living in Port Ludlow, Sheriff Brasfield previously served as chief of police of Fort Lauderdale and assistant chief of the Seattle Police Department. He received his bachelor's degree in society and justice from the University of Washington.

The Sentencing Commission evaluates and monitors adult and juvenile sentencing policies and practices and recommends modifications to the governor and the Legislature. Sheriff Brasfield was appointed for a term ending August 2, 2006.

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Our deepest sympathies to the family and colleagues of Dean Reem, 56, a Mason County corrections officer who died last week after his gun accidentally fired and shot him in the abdomen.

Reem was a 24-year veteran at the Mason County Jail.

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Clallam County Commissioners have named **Joe Martin** as the new Clallam County Sheriff to fill the vacancy left by long-time sheriff Joe Hawe, who took a new position with the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. Martin has been Undersheriff for the Jail Division in Clallam County.

Good Things

2003 Membership Survey – Drawing Winners!

Congratulations to **Lorna Delaney**, Clerk of the Board for the Jefferson County Commissioners. She is the lucky winner of our drawing for a weekend in beautiful La Conner, including overnight accommodations and dinner for two.

And, congratulations to **Donna**

Deal, Garfield County Auditor. She is the winner of our early bird drawing for a \$50 gift certificate to Target.

Thank you to everyone who helped to coordinate the membership survey. We received 76 surveys from county commissioners, councilmembers and county executives. We look forward to translating these survey responses into

real enhancements in how we deliver services to you—our members. The results of the survey were shared at the Joint Conference in Sea-Tac last week, and will be published in future issues of the Courthouse Journal.

The drawing prizes are funded from non-government sources.

County Calendar

October

- 1 Property owners desiring special valuation for improvements to eligible historic property must apply for classification, with the county assessor, by this date. The assessor shall refer each application for classification to the local review board within ten days after they are filed. RCW 84.26.040, .050
 - 6 The county engineer is to file with the county legislative authority a recommended plan for county road construction and maintenance during the ensuing fiscal year. RCW 36.81.130
 - 6 The county legislative authority shall begin a hearing on the county budget, not to exceed five days in length. Upon conclusion, they shall adopt a budget and fix the necessary levies. RCW 36.40.070, .080, .090 (For alternate date on budget hearing, see RCW 36.40.071)
 - 15 The county assessor shall report to the Department of Revenue progress in the revaluation of property in the county. RCW 84.41.130
 - 30 Every county official must report to the Public Disclosure Commission, on an L-5 form, their lobbying activities for the previous quarter (July - September). It is recommended that these forms be accumulated in the county commissioners' office and forwarded on behalf of the entire county. RCW 42.17.190 NOTE: "in-person lobbying by any elected official of such agency on behalf of such agency or in connection with the powers, duties, or compensation of such official," need not be reported.
 - 31 Second half taxes are due and payable at the office of the county treasurer.
- During October The Department of Revenue shall equalize the value of all property in the state and levy the state taxes authorized by law, sometime during the months of September or October. RCW 84.48.080

Calendar of Events

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Information</i>
2003			
Washington State Association of County Assessors' Fall Conference	Red Lion, Kennewick	September 8 - 11	(360) 336-9370
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 9 - 12	www.geocities.com/wsacrp
WSAC Fall Eastern District Meeting	Marcus Whitman Center, Walla Walla	September 11 - 12	(360) 753-1886
Association of County Human Services (ACHS)	Moses Lake	September 17 - 19	(360) 786-5585
WCIF/WCIP Insurance Advisory Committee 2004 Renewal Meeting, WCIP and WCIF Board of Directors	WestCoast Hotel, SeaTac	September 18	(360) 586-0466
Washington Association of County Treasurers' Legislative Meeting	Summit Inn, Snoqualmie Pass	September 22 - 23	(360) 753-7319
Washington State Emergency Management Association (WSEMA) Fall Conference	Red Lion Hotel, Pasco	September 23 - 24	John Scheer at jscheer@co.franklin.wa.us
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	DoubleTree Hotel Seattle Airport	September 30 - October 3	(360) 753-7319
WCIF Board of Trustees	DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac	October 1	(360) 586-0466
WCIF/WCIP A.C.E. Committee Meeting	Yakima	October 15	(360) 586-0466
L & I Retro Fall Meeting	TBD	October 16	(360) 753-1886
WCRP Autumn Board Meeting	Heathman Lodge, Vancouver	November 6, 2003	Kitty at (360) 586-7447
WSAC Fall Western District Meeting	Fort Worden State Park	November 7	(360) 753-1886
WASPC Fall Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	November 17 - 20	(360) 486-2380
Association of County Human Services (ACHS)	Seattle	November 19 - 21	(360) 786-5585
2004			
WSAC Legislative Rally	Olympia	February 5	(360) 753-1886
NACo Legislative Conference	Hilton Washington & Towers, Washington, DC	February 27 - March 2	www.naco.org
WSAC Spring Eastern District Meeting	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	April 8 - 9	(360) 753-1886
WCRP Spring Board Meeting	Icicle Inn, Leavenworth	April 15	Kitty at (360) 586-7447
WSAC Spring Western District Meeting	Heathman Lodge, Vancouver	April 22 - 23	(360) 753-1886

Calendar of Events (continued)

WASPC Spring Conference	Yakima Convention Center, Yakima	May 24 - 27	(360) 486-2380
National Sheriffs' Association	Seattle	June (TBD)	www.sheriffs.org
County Clerk's Association 2004 Summer Conference	Bonneville Hot Springs Resort, Skamania County	June 22 - 25	(360) 753-7319
WSAC 98 th Annual Summer Convention	Pierce County, Sheraton, Tacoma	June 22 - 25	(360) 753-1886
WAPA Summer Conference	Chelan	June 23 - 25	(360) 753-2175
NACo Annual Conference	Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ	July 16 - 20	www.naco.org
WCRP Summer Workshop & Annual Board Meeting	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	July 21 - 22	Kitty @ WCRP (360) 586-7447
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 14 - 17	www.geocities.com/wsacrp
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	Spokane	October 4 - 8	(360) 753-7319
WASPC Fall Conference	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	November 15 - 18	(360) 486-2380
2005			
NACo Legislative Conference	Marriot Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC	March 3 - 4	www.naco.org
WASPC Spring Conference	WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee	May 23 - 26	(360) 486-2380
WSAC 99 th Annual Summer Convention	WestCoast Hotel at Columbia Center, Kennewick	June 13 - 16	(360) 753-1886
WAPA Summer Conference	Chelan	June 22 - 24	(360) 753-2175
NACo Annual Conference (City & County of Hawaii)	Honolulu, HI	July 15 - 19	www.naco.org
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 13 - 16	www.geocities.com/wsacrp
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	Ocean Shores	October 3 - 7	(360) 753-7319
2006			
WSAC 100 th Annual Summer Convention	TBD	June TBD	(360) 753-1886
NACo Annual Conference	Denver, CO	July 21 - 26	www.naco.org
2007			
NACo Annual Conference (Sponsored by the counties in the Metropolitan Richmond Area)	Richmond, VA	TBD	www.naco.org