Common themes, unique county problems, fire, smoke, triple-digit temperatures and warm receptions were just a few of the highlights for visits to nine eastern Washington County Courthouses last week by WSAC Executive Director Bill Vogler, WACO Deputy Director Debbie Wilke, and Farmworker Housing Coordinator Jim Potts.

It was a whirlwind trip that included Spokane, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry, Okanogan, Douglas, Chelan, Adams and Lincoln Counties but allowed association staff a valuable opportunity to sit with officials to find out what is happening in their communities. The respective agendas featured a presentation by each association outlining the member services offered and a list of the achievements for WACO and WSAC during the past year. Then it was the counties’ turn to discuss important issues they are facing. While all the counties share common challenges, it is immediately apparent each has other problems that are theirs alone due to industry, population, and geographical location.

Jim Potts reported tremendous progress in several of the counties in providing housing to migrant farm workers. A side-trip to Oroville was a dramatic demonstration of what can be accomplished in a short time when state and local interests are coordinated. The site includes all new manufactured housing for 80 with service trailers with facilities for cooking, laundry, and personal needs. The Oro-

(Continued on page 2)
Klickitat County Prosecutor Resigns to Take New Position

J

ames Hagarty, Klickitat County Prosecuting Attorney, has announced his resignation, to accept a position as Assistant United States Attorney in the Yakima office. Hagarty took the office as prosecutor on January 1, 1999 and is currently a member of the WACO Board of Trustees, representing the Prosecuting Attorneys’ Association. Congratulations and good luck to Jim on his new endeavor!

 Commissioners: Don’t Forget to Designate An “Agent” To Receive Claims Against County

A

s of July 22, there is a new procedure for all local governments to receive claims for damages. Many jurisdictions are in compliance, but according to a recent letter from the Washington Trial Lawyers Association some jurisdictions still have not complied with the new law.

Substitute House Bill 1530, codified as amended RCW 4.92.010.020, requires the governing body of each local government entity to designate an “agent” to receive claims for damages. The identity of the agent and the address where he or she may be reached during the normal business hours of the local government entity are to be recorded with the Auditor of the county in which the entity is located.

The statute defines “local government entity” to mean a county, city, town, special district, quasi-municipal corporation or public hospital district. It appears that many county Boards of Commissioners or County Councils have identified some water quality issues related to stormwater, TMDLs, etc.

Counties Invited To Water Summit

T

he Association of Washington Cities has invited county commissioners, councilmembers and staff to a one-day statewide Water Summit that will take place on September 20, at the Criminal Justice Training Center in Burien. Topics will include municipal water rights, Growing Communities Doctrine, as well as some water quality issues related to stormwater, TMDLs, etc.

The overall goal of the workshop is to educate elected officials and key staff on a range of water quantity and quality issues, build a better understanding of issues facing east/west, large/small cities and utilities, and build support for legislative action in 2002. The luncheon/keynote speaker will be Jim Waldo. Mayors, councilmembers, city managers/
The Federal Committee established to oversee implementation of PL 106-393, the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act, met this week in Portland and Pendleton to hear comments and suggestions on implementation.

Recommendations included a proposal that a website or clearinghouse be established for counties to ask questions about the new act. There also was testimony about the need to get the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) members appointed quickly so counties can get on with projects. The Committee agreed to send a letter to the Administration to streamline the RAC approval process and get things moving.

Claire Lavendel, Forest Supervisor for the Gifford Pinchot National Forest in southwest Washington, testified on how the process for RAC selection and implementing the act was working in her Forest. The Committee was very impressed and said it sounded like a model for the rest of the nation. She is not waiting for the RAC to be approved to develop projects, but will have projects ready to propose to the RAC once it is formed. In response to whether there is a need for national direction on what are eligible projects, she thought it might damper experimentation. Rather, she prefers to use the 5pm news test. How would this project look to the public if it was aired on prime-time news.

Several county officials testified, including county officials from Ferry and Okanogan Counties in Washington. Most of the Commissioners testifying said they had good working relationships with the local Forest Service or BLM Offices and recommended that authority for approving projects be delegated to the lowest field level possible.

In response to July 22 legislation, the Washington Forest Practices Board on August 8, 2001 adopted an emergency rule that improves a new state program which recognizes the contribution family forest owners make to Washington's natural resources.

The emergency rule affects the Washington Forestry Riparian Easement Program, which provides partial compensation to small forest landowners for trees they are required to leave along streams and waterways, according to new state forest practices rules.

The most significant change affects how landowners are compensated for enrolling in the easement program. Landowners can now be reimbursed for the cost of setting up and laying out streamside buffers. DNR will also pay the cost of preparing and recording easements and all business and occupation and real estate excise taxes. It also extends compensation to landowners who are unable to obtain a forest practices application because of the way new "Forest and Fish" rules affect timber harvesting near riparian areas on their property.

DNR estimates there are currently between 45,000 and 90,000 family-owned tree farms in Washington, which provide critical habitat for more than 85 percent of Washington's fish, birds, mammals, and amphibians. Approximately five percent of those landowners may have so much water on their land that the required buffers prevent them from obtaining a timber harvest permit.

A first of its kind in the nation, DNR's Forestry Riparian Easement Program provides 50 percent compensation to landowners for trees they are required to leave under the new forest practices rules. Washington's newly adopted "Forest and Fish" rules require that trees be retained to improve water quality and enhance habitat for salmon and other endangered fish. Although the new rules require landowners to leave trees near riparian areas when conducting a harvest, the compensation program is voluntary. If a landowner chooses to be compensated, the leave trees will be protected by a 50-year easement with the state. The easement covers the trees and the ecological protections they provide to sensitive aquatic areas, but does not apply to the land itself. Landowners may continue to use their land as they see fit as long as the trees are not cut or in any way jeopardized.

Forest Payments Committee Takes Input

Forest Practices Board Adopts New Rule For Small Landowners

(Continued from page 2)
administrators and public works directors from cities across the state plan to attend. The registration fee is $35 and includes lunch. To register go to www.awcnet.org/waterconf.htm or call AWC at 360-753-2842.

There were also several remarks about how each state allocated the funding differently under state law and whether the Committee should look at that and make recommendations. In both Washington and Oregon, the local schools don't get the school funding portion because under the states equalization act, the schools get paid on a student FTE basis. In some states, schools in forest counties do receive the school money on top of state school funding. The representatives from Washington State expressed asked the committee to seek better ways to get dollars directly to the rural eastern Washington counties and schools.

An environmental representative testified that she didn't want to see the funds used to support timber harvest and that future payments must be decoupled from harvest.

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(Continued from page 3)

The program is intended to minimize the economic impact of more restrictive forest practices rules on Washington’s small forest landowners. It also recognizes the economic vulnerability of most family tree farms and their contribution to natural resources and public values.

To learn more about Washington’s Forestry Riparian Easement Program, contact DNR’s Small Forest Landowner Office at 360-902-1391, e-mail sflo@wadnr.gov, or visit their Web site at www.wa.gov/dnr/sflo.

The Great Local Government Leadership Workshop Series

On Thursday, September 13, the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) is offering a one-day workshop focusing on the distinguishing hallmarks of a superb local government that responds to today’s challenges: increasing trust in government; using the “Four Pillars of Commitment” to actively involve key stakeholders; designing simple benchmarks that can be effectively measured and promoted; and changing your workplace culture to create less bureaucracy.

The workshop will be held at the SeaTac Marriott, in SeaTac, September 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. The fee is $125, which includes lunch, refreshments and workshop materials.

County officials are invited to join AWC members for this Leadership Training Session. Those interested should contact AWC at (360) 753-4137.

Good Things

Jefferson County Auditor’s Office Publication

WACO has just received a copy of the Jefferson County Auditor’s Office “2001 Election Information” publication. County Auditor Donna Eldridge and her Chief Deputy Auditor/Election Coordinator Karen Cartmel are responsible for the fine publication. Topics included in the booklet range from absentee ballot information, statutory changes to applicable election laws, PDC reporting information, census information for Jefferson county, sign regulations, history and facts about voting, general information on elections, offices up for election and a page with valuable links to other services. The publication appears to be a very comprehensive and useful tool, not only to those in Jefferson County but, to citizens outside of the county’s borders as well. A job well done, Donna, Karen and staff.

Department of Revenue Releases Tax Comparison Report

The State Department of Revenue has released a report comparing Washington’s state and local tax burdens to other states and to Washington’s historic tax burdens. Data in the report is from annual surveys of the states by the U.S. Census. Officials in border counties may find the detail comparisons to neighboring states of particular interest.

The rankings use 1998 data. They show Washington residents paying $115 of state and local taxes for every $1,000 of personal income, a reduction of $2.49 from 1997. This reduction results in Washington’s tax ranking dropping from 11th to 17th. If the impact of I-695 is factored in, the ranking drops to 26th. The average American pays $111.70 per $1,000 of personal income.

The comparative statistics also show that neighboring states rely heavily on the income tax. Oregon receives 31.8% of state and local revenue from the income tax. In Idaho the percentage is 31.3% and in California it is 33.8%.

If you are interested in the report, it can be found on the Department of revenue web site at: www.dor.wa.gov where you need to click on “Statistical Studies”.

County Projects Selected for Public Works Board Loans

The state Public Works Board (PWB) this week announced its recommended 2002 funding list of local projects that applied for Public Works Trust Fund construction loans. The board recommended $206 million in loans for 66 local projects, primarily water and sewer projects.

The Board voted to allocate its full biennial appropriation in the first year of the biennium and seek additional spending authority next year for the fund’s substantial cash balance. WSAC representatives on the Board, Commissioner Eric Johnson and Commissioner Jesse Palacios, voted with the majority on this matter.

The funding list includes seven county projects, one more than received loans for 2001. Counties receiving the low-interest construction loans are: Snohomish, $10 million for a recycling/transfer station pro-
City of Seattle Fights Conservation Ballot Initiative

Yesterday the Seattle Times reported that the city of Seattle filed a complaint against Yes For Seattle, the organization behind Initiative 63. The lawsuit, filed on Tuesday August 21st, asked the King County Superior Court to rule on an injunction keeping the water-conservation initiative off the ballot on the grounds that the initiative is illegal because it oversteps an initiative’s powers. I-63 would create incentives for increased conservation by charging higher rates for residents and businesses that use large amounts of water, give low-income families money to install devices like low-flow toilets, and require that suburban cities that contract to buy water from Seattle submit to the same conservation requirements. Will Patton, director of utilities for the City Attorney’s office, said that the initiative would take power away from the city council, which has the authority, under state law, to...
(Continued from page 5) regulate water rates and water contracts in and around Seattle. Because the city council sets rates for the city-owned and -operated water system, it would be illegal for an initiative to require one group of users to be charged at higher rates than others. Patton said it would also be illegal for an initiative to decide where city water can be used; shutting out suburban cities takes contracting authority away from the city council. But according to Knoll Lowney, co-chair of Yes For Seattle, the lawsuit misses the basic point of I-63: that Seattle residents don’t want their conservation efforts wasted on “water hogs” and suburbs that don’t necessarily use the extra water for environmental efforts. The city council cannot refuse to process the initiative, and there are plans to write an alternate version should it fail in court.

### September County Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Labor Day - Legal Holiday - may vary by local ordinance. RCW 1.16.050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>By this date, the Department of Revenue must submit to each county assessor a preliminary indicated ratio for each county. RCW 84.48.075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>County auditor is to submit the preliminary budget to the county legislative authority. RCW 36.40.050 (For alternate date on budget hearing, see RCW 36.40.071)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Up until this date, the Department of Revenue shall review the county's preliminary ratio with the county assessor, if requested by the assessor. RCW 84.48.075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>After this date, the Department of Revenue shall certify to the county assessor the real and personal property ratio for the county. RCW 84.48.075 The county assessor has fifteen days after the date of certification to file an appeal. RCW 82.03.130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Nominating primaries shall be held where required for November general election. (If the seventh Tuesday immediately preceding the general election occurs before the third Tuesday of September, the primary election shall be held on that date.) RCW 29.13.070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>By this date, the Department of Revenue certifies its assessments of public utility operating properties to each county assessor. RCW 84.12.370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>By this date, the Department of Revenue shall transmit to each county assessor a transcript specifying the amount to be levied for state purposes. RCW 84.48.110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Assessed valuations shall be certified to taxing districts, by the county assessor. RCW 84.48.130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept./Oct.</td>
<td>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 and October. RCW 84.48.080</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Employment Opportunities

WHITMAN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT is seeking to fill the position of County Engineer. This is professional engineering work, planning, administering and coordinating all engineering and associated activities related to county roads. This work involves the exercise of considerable independent judgment and discretion in the interpretation, application and enforcement of laws, regulations and county policies applicable to road design, construction and maintenance activities. Work will involve considerable contact with state inspectors and agencies, public and private officials, local governments, county departments and the general public. The County Engineer works with, and reports directly to the Director of Public Works and the Board of County Commissioners. Required: BA in Civil Engineering or related field. Licensed PE in the State of Washington. Valid Washington State driver’s license. Preferred: Three years of progressively responsible professional and supervisory engineering work experience involving a variety of assignments associated with the design, construction or maintenance of roads and bridges. Starting Salary: $4867—$5013 per month plus benefits. Closing Date: Open until filled. For an application contact Whitman County Human Resources, 402 North Main Street, Colfax, WA 99111, whitman-county.org or call (509) 397-6205. AA/EOE

WHATCOM COUNTY, IN BELLINGHAM, WA, is seeking a Service Learning Coordinator for our Juvenile Services Department. Hiring range: $14.81 - $15.99 / Hour, DOQ. This position requires a Bachelor’s degree in social science or related field and 1 year experience working directly with at-risk adolescents that included programmed or project management responsibilities. Whatcom County offers excellent employer-paid medical, dental & vision benefits for employee and family, generous vacation, sick & holiday leave, pro-rated based on part-time hours. WA State Retirement system. Optional deferred comp & Flex 125 available. Application period closes 9/5/01. For required application packet contact Whatcom County Human Resources, 311 Grand Ave., Suite 107, Bellingham, WA, or call (360) 676-6802. For detailed job announcement visit our website at www.co.whatcom.wa.us or call the jobline at (360) 738-4550. EOE.

DEPT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE is looking for a Licensing Manager (Salary $4712 - $6167 monthly) Closes August 31, 2001. Location: Headquarters located in the Natural Resources Building, Olympia, Washington. Overview: Reports to Assistant Director of Business Services. Responsible for licensing related programs, commercial license buyback, and special projects. Duties and Responsibilities: Assure optimum use of resources and effectively manage the Licensing Division with a budget in excess of $8 Million per biennium and a staff of thirteen. Manage and continue to improve the Washington Interactive Licensing Database (WILD) and Commercial Licensing Systems. Develop agency licensing policy, strategic direction, and provide support for agency legislative initiatives. Administer the Economic Assistance Adjustment Program (purchase of commercial fishing licenses). Desired Qualifications: Bachelor’s degree involving major study in business administration, public administration, business law, commerce, economics, or closely allied field. Demonstrated appreciation of and experience with providing services to customers. Demonstrated ability to effectively manage both budget and staff using comprehensive management systems, team building and quality management. Experience with automated systems and changing technology. Knowledge of Department’s policies, RCWs, WACs and Title 34.05 (the Administrative Procedures Act). Proven skill with conflict resolution and negotiation. Ability to think critically, analyze complex issues, and make sound strategic decisions. Effective use of communication strategies and skills. To Apply: Submit a letter of interest which includes a description of how you qualify for the position, a resume, and a completed applicant profile (may be obtained from personnel officer below) to: Sue Vance, Personnel Officer Department of Fish and Wildlife 600 Capitol Way North Olympia, Washington 98501-1091

LEWIS COUNTY—Information Services Manager. ($4,008.58—$4,784.42 per mo). Closes September 17, 2001, at 5:00 p.m. Must have broad knowledge of information systems, analysis and/or programming to resolve complex end-user problems and application programs. Supervises staff, works closely with personnel in county operations, coordinates large and small projects with multiple features or programs with several subordinate teams, and is a technical specialist and individual contributor in specialized area. Must be able to prepare, justify and monitor division budget and develop innovative solutions to technology issues. Must have top-line management skills and abilities along with demonstrated project management, verbal and written communication skills. BA plus five years of technical and administrative experience, or any combination of experience and training which provides the required knowledge, skills, and abilities. A complete job description and application packet are available at www.co.lewis.wa.us or may be obtained from Lewis Co. General Administration Dept, 360 NW North Street, Chehalis, WA 98532. Telephone: (360) 740-1408.

KLIKTITAT COUNTY, COUNTY ROAD ENGINEER/PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR— ($72,000 TO $77,000 DOQ Annually) Position has responsibilities for managing, directing, guiding, and controlling activities of the Public Works Department. Requirements: 8 years of professional experience of which up to 6 years of college (engineering or other appropriate field) can be substituted on a year-for-year basis. PE required. Additional experience managing a multiple division department. Application at www.klickitatcounty.org or e-mail lynnc@co.klickitat.wa.us. Klickitat County Personnel Department, 509-773-7171, 205 S. Columbus, MS-CH-15, Goldendale, WA 98620. Open until filled. EOE.
Coming Events

August 27-30
Washington State Association of County Assessors’ Annual Conference, Enzian Inn, Leavenworth

September 9-12
International Association of Assessing Officers Annual Conference, Miami, Florida

September 10-11
Washington State Assn of County Treasurers’ Legislative Meeting, Summit Inn, Snoqualmie Pass

September 11-14
Washington State Association of County and Regional Planning Directors Annual Conference, Campbell’s Resort, Chelan.

September 19-21
Washington Finance Officers Association Annual Conference, Wenatchee

September 19-21
ACHS Meeting, Ellensburg

September 27-28
WSAC Eastern District Meeting, East Wenatchee, Mickey O’Reilly Inn

October 1-5
WACO Annual Conference, Port Ludlow Resort & Conference Center

October 8-9
Cost Allocation Training, Sponsored by Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Support Enforcement Project, Red Lion Hotel, Wenatchee

October 11-12
WSAC Western District Meeting, Super 8 Motel, Long Beach

October 16-17
Cost Allocation Training, Sponsored by Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Support Enforcement Project, West Coast Tri-cities Hotel, Kennewick

October 18-19
CRABoard Meeting, CRAB Office, Olympia

October 25-26
Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials, Local Boards of Health Leadership Workshop (“Emerging Public Health Issues”), SeaTac, Radisson Hotel

November 12-13
Cost Allocation Training, Sponsored by Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Support Enforcement Project, Doubletree Hotel, Spokane City Center

November 12-15
Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chief’s Annual Fall Conference, Doubletree Hotel, Pasco

November 14-16
ACHS Meeting, Silverdale

November 14-16
WSAC Fall Legislative Conference, Silverdale Hotel on the Bay, Silverdale

November 14
WCIF Board Meeting, in conjunction with WSAC Fall Legislative Conference, 10 am - 12 pm

December 13-14
Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys’ Annual Winter Meeting, Crowne Plaza, Seattle

January 29-31, 2002
Legislative Rally & Tri-Association Legislative Reception

April 11-12, 2002
WSAC Western District Meeting, TBD

April 25-26, 2002
WSAC Eastern District Meeting, Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop

June 18-21, 2002
WSAC Summer Convention, Bellevue