Saeger is Serious!

WACO Executive Director Fred Saeger handed over his office keys early this morning and appears determined to retire. Most of us cannot remember a time when Fred was not at the helm of WACO. In his nearly 30 years with WACO, Fred has earned our respect and admiration for his knowledge, dedication and just plain hard work. A mere “thank you “ does not seem enough. Good luck, Fred, and enjoy yourself!

A reception will be held in the Washington Counties Building today. Fred and his wife Sandy will be guests of honor at WACO’s Annual Banquet at Port Ludlow on October 4.

Shoreline Management Guidelines Put On Hold

On Monday August 27, 2001, the Shorelines Hearings Board invalidated Chapter 173-26 WAC and remanded the November 2000 Shoreline Management Guidelines back to the Department of Ecology. This stops the time clock for local governments to update shorelines master programs consistent with the guidelines and requires Ecology to again go through formal rulemaking to revise the rules. The decision also places important substantive limits and procedural conditions on any new rules adopted by Ecology in the future.

The decision and dissenting opinions can also be found online at: http://www.eho.wa.gov/default2.asp?page=2001_Bboard_Decisions.htm

Twenty-nine counties were among the 32 local governments that joined the appeal of the rules.

The decision was broken out into 9 separate issues as follows:

1. Does the Department of Ecology have authority to implement the Endangered Species Act (ESA) under the Shorelines Management Act (SMA)? Answer: No. (4-1 vote)

2. Do the ESA Compliance Requirements in the Guidelines Violate the Administrative Procedures Act? Answer: Yes. (4-1 vote)

3. Do the Guidelines Improperly Require Preservation and Restoration of Properly Functioning Conditions? Answer: No. (4-1 vote)

4. Do the Guidelines Improperly Shift the Balance of Policies Under the SMA? Answer: No. (2-3 vote)

5. Do the Guidelines Improperly Regulate Exempt Uses under the SMA? Answer: Yes. (5-0 vote)

6. Do the Guidelines Effectively Prohibit Gravel Mining in Shorelines? Answer: Yes. (5-0 vote)

7. Did the Department Violate Requirements to Prepare a Small Business Impact? Answer: Yes. (4-1 vote)

8. Did the Department of Ecology Improperly Impose an “Unfunded Mandate” on local Governments? Answer: No. (2-3 vote)

9. Do the Guidelines Improperly Conflict with the Growth Management Act? Answer: No. (5-0 vote)
State Officials Worry About Slowing Receipts

On September 18 the State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council will meet to update the state revenue forecast for the 2001-03 Biennium. The Council reported earlier this month that collections through August 10 (that reflect business activity through June) would have been under forecast if the state hadn’t received two large, unexpected special tax payments. Without those payments the state’s revenues would have been $21 million under forecast for the two months since the June forecast update. If the current trend continues, the state’s forecast may be reduced by several hundred million dollars before the Legislature reconvenes in January. The business community is becoming increasingly aware of this issue and is urging state officials to balance the state budget without raising taxes.

WSAC Officers Select Appointees, Nominees

WSAC officers last week appointed several county commissioners to external service positions and forwarded the names of three commissioners to the governor for consideration to fill a vacancy on the state Emergency Management Council.

WSAC officers chose Ferry County Commissioner Dennis Snook to serve as the Eastern Washington alternate and Clallam County Commissioner Mike Chapman to serve as the Western Washington alternate for the state E-911 Committee. The regular county representatives are Lincoln County Commissioner Bill Graedel and Pacific County Commissioner Jon Kaino. The alternates are authorized to attend and vote when the regular representatives are unable to.

The officers also appointed Skagit County Commissioner Ted Anderson to represent counties on an Implementation Committee that will review ongoing pilot projects to improve indigent defense in child dependency and termination cases.

In addition, three commissioners were nominated to fill a county position on the state Emergency Management Council. These nominees are: Douglas County Commissioner Ken Stanton, Yakima County Commissioner Ron Garmache, and Thurston County Commissioner Diane Oberquell. Governor Gary Locke will make the final appointment to fill the seat vacated by Mary Jo Cady, who resigned as Mason County Commissioner in order to pursue other opportunities.

Stormwater Policy Advisory Committee Completes Work

After two years of work, the Department of Ecology’s stormwater policy advisory committee has completed development of stormwater management recommendations to the Legislature. The committee included representatives from the business community, environmental groups, state, local, federal, and tribal governments. Several counties and WSAC all participated on the advisory committee.

Key recommendations are (1) the need for development of a business plan identifying the cost of stormwater management and how to allocate funding responsibility among the federal, state and local governments and private businesses, and (2) improved coordination of regulatory programs and permitting for stormwater management.

To access more information on stormwater and the report, link to http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/comment_docs/index.html
Island County Engineer resigns

Lewis J. Legat recently announced his retirement from Island County as County Engineer effective September 11th. Lew has served the citizens of Island County for over 28 years as Utilities Engineer, Construction Engineer, and Assistant County Engineer prior to his appointment to County Engineer in January of 1999. During his career, Mr. Legat supervised and managed numerous road construction/maintenance projects and transportation planning projects.

Mr. Legat is a 1973 graduate of St. Martin's College with a degree in Civil engineering. He attended high school in Winlock, Washington and later served as an infantryman in Vietnam. Lew and Jeannie were married in 1967 and have two grown children, who now live in the Seattle area. Lew intends to complete some projects around the house and do some traveling before considering further employment.

Richard K. Snyder will succeed Mr. Legat as County Engineer. Mr. Snyder is a five-year employee of Island County and a US Forest Service retiree.

104th Annual Conference of the Washington State Association of County Assessors

Whatcom County Assessor Keith Willnauer presided over the 104th Annual Conference of the Washington State Association of County Assessors this week under sunny skies at Leavenworth. Chelan County Assessor Russ Griffith hosted the event and did a commendable job of combining an intense business agenda with evening events designed to make weary county officials relax.

Monday was devoted to committee meetings and specialized areas of the assessors’ offices with the official Opening Session on Tuesday. Chelan County Commissioner Ron Hunter welcomed the group to Chelan County along with Russ Griffiths and Keith Willnauer. A hayride and barbecue at the Red Tail Canyon Ranch was the highlight of Tuesday evening.

The Wednesday morning session was charged with “energy” Tom Flowers of Florida Power and Light gave the group a real education on wind-generated electricity and an overview of the wind generator project under construction in Walla Walla County. A “Natural Gas Assessment” was the topic of discussion for Dave Warren, Director of the State Energy Policy Office, who spoke of reserve levels of natural gas and the great need to develop various methods of generating power including natural gas and alternative renewable sources like wind generation. Matthew Coyle and Jim Winterstein from the Board of Tax Appeals briefly addressed the group.

Joint Speaker of the House of Representatives Clyde Ballard was luncheon speaker. Representative Ballard recounted a frustrating session of multiple sessions and forecast a gloomy future for the state revenue picture.

The afternoon agenda included Dick Davis, Washington State Research Council on “Business Competitiveness;” “Truth and Taxation” with King County Assessor Scott Noble; and Mark Maxwell, Department of Revenue, speaking on evaluation tables.

Retiring WACO Executive Director Fred Saeger was the special guest speaker for Wednesday evening’s buffet dinner. He arrived to find the banquet tables set with glorious placemats that were photos of him dating as far back as 1947. Okanogan County Assessor Scott Furman is the one responsible for collecting those “magic moments” and immortalizing Fred on every table.

The conference concluded on Thursday after installation of the Assessors’ Association officers for 2001/2002. They are: President Bob Carlton, Columbia County; Vice President Mark Leander, Sagesst County; and, Secretary-Treasurer Dave Cook, Yakima County. Jefferson County Assessor Jack Westerman was reelected WACO Representative.

I-695 Backfill – The Check’s In The Mail

The state Office of Community Development this week issued the fiscal year 2002 distribution of “county corporation assistance,” as provided for in Section 727 of the 2001-2003 state biennial budget (ESSB 6153). This distribution is commonly referred to as “I-695 backfill,” in reference to the ballot initiative that significantly limited the motor vehicle excise tax, which had been a major local funding resource.

Although the limitation is not explicit, the county funds are intended to be used during the 12 months beginning January 2002. A similar public health distribution is intended to be used during the 12 months beginning July 2001.

Several counties report already receiving their distributions. Any county that does not receive its backfill money by mid-September should contact WSAC. However, please note that receipt of any portion of I-695 backfill is (Continued on page 4)
coming Soon – Local Board of Health Leadership Workshop

A new trend in public health is the theme and is drawn from the recent completed survey. Tom Milne, Executive Director, National Association of County & City Health Officials will be here to provide a national perspective on emerging health issues (including funding) and to hear from local board of health members about issues of importance at the local level.

WSAC Seeking a Representative for the Transportation Permit Efficiency and Accountability Committee

The Environmental Streamline Permit Bill (SB 6188) was passed during the 2001 legislative year. The Transportation Permit Efficiency and Accountability Committee was established as part of this new law. The Committee is comprised of 9 voting and 8 non-voting members, made up of legislators, representatives of the departments of Ecology, Fish, and Wildlife, and Transportation, local governments, and other interest groups. WSAC’s representative will be part of the voting membership. The legislation expires March 31, 2003.

This Committee is to identify and integrate processes to streamline the permitting process for pilot transportation projects, transportation projects of statewide significance and programmatic projects. The Department of Transportation is granted authority to prepare permits, with permitting agencies retaining approval authority. Local permitting processes are addressed, and an optional interim permitting process is authorized.

We are currently seeking an individual who would be willing to represent us on this Committee. The first meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2001, in Olympia. Please contact WSAC staff-member Jackie White no later than September 7.

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

As 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 and recorded with the Auditor an agent to receive damage claims against the county. However, Auditors report that numerous other affected government entities, such as special districts, have not complied with the statute.

While the law does not require county Auditors to notify other government entities of the statutory change, they might wish to do so as a courtesy. Because of the recording requirement, Auditors also might wish to clarify any special recording needs, such as recording fees and margin requirements.

Coming Soon – Local Board of Health Leadership Workshop

Just a reminder to mark your calendars for the 4th Annual Local Board of Health Leadership Workshop scheduled for October 25-26, 2001 at the Radisson Hotel in SeaTAC. “Emerging Health Issues” is the theme and is drawn from the issues local board of health members identified as areas of high interest in the recently completed survey. Tom Milne, Executive Director, National Association of County & City Health Officials will be here to provide a national perspective on emerging health issues (including funding) and to hear from local board of health members about issues of importance at the local level.

Mary Selecky, Secretary of Health, will provide the state perspective (including funding).

We anticipate roundtables will include case studies, thoughtful discussion, and identification of next steps to be taken at home and
The three Growth Management Hearings Boards met jointly this week and listened to comments on their work from Governor Locke, the Washington State Association of Counties, the Association of Washington Cities and the Growth Management Program at the Office of Community Development.

Governor Locke thanked the members for their service and noted that many challenges remain ahead, including the future of our agricultural economy and solving our transportation needs.

Paul Parker provided comments on behalf of WSAC after receiving input from many counties around the state. He made four primary points:

1. **Deference to local decisions.** All types of counties, big and small, east and west, rural and urban emphasized the need for deference. One large Western Washington county said: “The Board fails to recognize the limits of their own authority under the GMA and thereby overprescribes what counties must do. Additionally, they show lack of respect for the authorities GMA vests in local government. Remedying these shortcomings through court is expensive for taxpayers and wastes time and energy of talented staff and elected officials.”

2. **Rural issues and differences are the major area of discontent.** The boards need to be more sensitive to rural attitudes and conditions. There needs to be an appreciation for what will really work.

3. **Continued appreciation for Boards’ emphasis and availability for mediation and consultation.** Board member Nan Henriksen was singled out for kudos by two county commissioners.

4. **A trend toward Oregon system.** Some counties believe that the Oregon system – with review and approval of local plans by a state agency – would be more fair than the current system. Which haphazardly results in review of county decisions when citizens or a city choose to appeal county actions. One county had commented, “If you are appealed, much tougher standards will likely apply. Also, experts cannot lead you through the process for approval.”

As it had in previous meetings with the Boards, the Association of Washington Cities continued to emphasize its members strong support for GMA. AWC had little comment on the Boards’ performance reflecting, perhaps, that relatively few cities have seen challenges to their GMA planning decisions.

### Coming Events

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<td><strong>International Association of Assessing Officers</strong> Annual Conference, Miami, Florida</td>
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<td>September 10-11</td>
<td><strong>Washington State Assn of County Treasurers’ Legislative Meeting</strong></td>
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<td>September 11-14</td>
<td><strong>Washington State Association of County and Regional Planning Directors Annual Conference</strong></td>
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<td>September 19-21</td>
<td><strong>Washington Finance Officers Association</strong> Annual Conference, Wenatchee</td>
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<td>September 19-21</td>
<td><strong>ACHS Meeting</strong></td>
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<td>September 27-28</td>
<td><strong>WSAC Eastern District</strong> Meeting, East Wenatchee, Mickey O’Reilly Inn</td>
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<td>October 1-5</td>
<td><strong>WACO Annual Conference</strong></td>
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<td>October 2</td>
<td>“Headaches &amp; Heartburn: A Prescription for Issues That Cause Counties Pain!”</td>
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<td>October 8-9</td>
<td>Cost Allocation Training, Sponsored by <strong>Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Support Enforcement Project</strong></td>
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<td>October 11-12</td>
<td><strong>WSAC Western District</strong> Meeting, Super 8 Motel, Long Beach</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 16-17</td>
<td>Cost Allocation Training, Sponsored by <strong>Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Support Enforcement Project</strong></td>
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<td>October 18-19</td>
<td><strong>CRABoard Meeting</strong></td>
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<td>October 25-26</td>
<td><strong>Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials</strong></td>
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Employment Opportunities

WHITMAN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT - County Engineer. This is professional engineering work, planning, administering and coordinating all engineering and associated activities related to county roads. 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, whitmancounty.org or call (509) 397-6205. AA/EOE

BUILDING INSPECTOR, CHELAN COUNTY DEPT OF BUILDING, FIRE SAFETY & PLANNING: Salary Range: $30,315 - $35,094 annually. Closing Date: September 7, 2001. Field position performing inspections on a wide variety of structures in various stages of construction including foundations, concrete, framing, fire safety requirements, mechanical, plumbing, energy conservation, accessibility and other items. Work is performed outdoors during all weather conditions and involves climbing, crawling and working in noisy environments. Building permit files need to be maintained and inspection records kept. The position requires applying and explaining laws, codes and various regulations. General Recruiting Indicators: Five (5) years of experience in building construction, inspection work or plan preparation. Course work or formal training in the building trades may substitute for two (2) years of experience. A valid Washington state driver’s license is required and an ICBO Building Inspectors Certification must be secured within six (6) months of employment. Good interpersonal skills and the ability to establish and maintain working relationships with fellow workers and the public are required. Familiarity with building tools; materials, construction methods, and workmanship are highly desirable. Application Materials: A complete application consists of a letter of introduction and a completed Che-
**EMPLOYMENT**
(Continued from page 6)

**CHELAN COUNTY** - Engineering Technician or Designer. These positions provide the primary design effort for road, hydraulic, and other projects in the engineering section of the Public Works Department. Salary range: T-9, $2,401 to $2,785/month. Minimum Qualifications: Associates Degree in engineering technology or equivalent from a two-year technical institute and two years of experience or five years of appropriate training and experience. Valid Washington State Drivers License required. For application: Chelan County Public Works Department, County Courthouse, 350 Orondo Avenue, Wenatchee, Washington, 98801. Closing Date: October 12, 2001 or until position is filled.

**ISLAND COUNTY—Prosecuting Attorney** (Coupeville, WA). Opening in October for a full-time Deputy Prosecuting Attorney to prosecute felony cases. Applications are sought from attorneys with general felony trial experience. Entry level salary is $3,723.39 per month; base salary at six months is $4,009.81 per month. Position is open until a qualified applicant is found. A resume, writing sample and an Island County Application are required.

**LEWIS COUNTY—Information Services Manager**. Salary: $4,008.58—$4,784.42 per mo. Closes September 17, 2001 at 5:00 p.m. Broad knowledge of information systems, analysis and/or programming to resolve complex end-user problems and application programs. Supervise staff, work closely with personnel in county operations, coordinate projects with multiple features or programs with several subordinate teams, and is a technical specialist and individual contributor in specialized area. Able to prepare, justify and monitor division budget and develop innovative solutions to technology issues. Must have top-line management skills & 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 St, Chehalis, WA 98532.

**KLICKITAT COUNTY—Public Health Director** (Goldendale, WA). Salary $44K to $55K DOQ Annually. Seeking an energetic person to serve as the Public Health Director for the Public Health Department in Goldendale and White Salmon. The position has responsibilities for managing, directing, guiding, and controlling activities of the Public Health Department. Duties: Supervises departments according to state/federal regulations and County policies/procedures. Requirements: BS in nursing, environmental health, public health education or related fields plus 5 years of public health experience with at least 3 years in management or supervision. Prefer Masters in public health or public administration or related fields. Responsible for managing, directing, guiding, and controlling activities of the Public Health Department. Professional licensing/certification in public health and/or professional discipline.

Application at www.klickitatcounty.org or e-mail lynnec@co.klickitat.wa.us. Klickitat County Personnel Department, (509) 773-7171, 205 S. Columbus, MS-CH 15, Goldendale, WA 98620. Position open until filled. EOE.

**Update from DNR By Judy Wilson**

It has been an extremely busy year for the Department of Natural Resources. Most recently thousands of DNR personnel and firefighters from across the state are involved in controlling numerous fires occurring on state, federal, and private land. This impacts the daily work of the organization as many staff are called to help at the fire complexes.

At the administrative level, Commissioner Sutherland has been working with the executive staff, region and division managers to identify and implement necessary budget reductions. At this point it appears around 82 positions will need to be eliminated. Some positions are vacant. Efforts are underway to assist potentially affected employees in locating different positions either in other areas of DNR or other agencies.

As mentioned in the August 10, 2001, Courthouse Journal, the deadline of December 31, 2001 for Counties and Cities to adopt ordinances or regulations for Class IV forest practices regulated by local government is fast approaching. Since it is unlikely that 29 counties and 220 cities will meet that deadline, DNR, working with WSAC, will approach the legislature with a request to extend the deadline until 2005. In the meantime, DNR will provide an “example ordinance” to the County and City Associations. Using the Clark County ordinance as the basis for the example, staff will update it to meet the current permanent rule standards. Executive Director Pat McElroy believes this should make it easier for the local governments to develop their own ordinances. Currently Snohomish, Pierce, Kitsap and Skamania Counties are in process, as well as Bainbridge Island and University Place.

DNR has heard concerns from County Commissioners on the impact of the new forest practice rules on small forest landowners. The Washington Forest Practices Board received a lot of testimony on this topic during the public hearings on the new rules. As a result, the Board established a committee to focus on small forest landowner issues and needs. In addition, House Bill 2091 established the Small Forest Landowner Office Advisory Committee. Additionally, there is Forest Practices Board Joint Policy Technical Taskforce on Small Forest Landowner Issues. The goal is that each of these committee’s work plans will compliment each other. We will keep you apprised of their progress.

If you have questions or concerns about activities of the DNR in your area please contact your Regional Manager or Judy Wilson, the DNR County Liaison at 360-902-1006.
Western District Meeting

October 11 & 12

Super 8 Motel, Long Beach

Super 8 Motel
500 Ocean Beach Boulevard
Long Beach, WA 98631

Overnight Lodging

Super 8 Motel, call (360) 642-8988 to make your room reservations. We have also reserved a block of rooms at the Ocean Lodge Motel 1 & 2 (rates from $45 - $60), call (360) 642-5400 for reservations. Be sure to make your reservations before September 12 and mention the Washington State Association of Counties to receive reduced rates.

Registration & Fees

Send in your registration form with payment before September 28 to qualify for the discounted Advance Registration Fee of $95. After September 28, the registration fee increases to $105.

Reception at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center

After a long day of pre-meeting meetings (the Board of Directors and the Legislative Steering Committee will meet Wednesday afternoon, October 10), Pacific County Commissioners welcome you to Long Beach with a reception at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.

Annual Crab Feed

The Annual Crab Feed will be held on Thursday evening at the Eagle’s Nest Resort in Ilwaco. Becky Fontana of Rebecca Inn Catering will be supplying all the fixings to go with the crab. Pacific County Commissioner Jon Kaino says she does “a really great job”, so we are all looking forward to this new twist in an old tradition!

Dinner is included with your paid registration, but you are encouraged to bring guests. Please see the registration form for more information on purchasing guest tickets.

2002 Spring Site Selection

COMMISSIONERS/COUNCILMEMBERS: If your county is interested in hosting the 2002 Spring District Meeting, you will need to provide a proposal that includes a hotel with, at minimum, 75 guest rooms, one meeting room large enough for 100 people, and another to hold 35 people. Please contact Kim Zydek if you have any questions, (360) 753-1886 or kzydek@wacounties.org.