WACO/WSAC Conference

Attached to this edition of the Courthouse Journal is a tentative agenda for the WACO/WSAC Joint Conference, September 30 - October 4, 2002. Last week, we reported that the hotels we would be using would be the WestCoast (where the convention center is) and the Red Lion Hotel. Unfortunately, the WestCoast is already booked. Cancellations, however, do occur every year, so county officials may want to call and get on a waiting list.

We offer our sincerest apologies to those who have not been able to book a room at the conference center.

When the WACO and WSAC Boards voted to meet jointly two years ago, WACO was set to meet in Chelan in 2002, and WSAC was to meet in Wenatchee. It was too late to secure a facility that could accommodate the number of sleeping and meeting rooms we needed for both groups. WACO and WSAC split up the rooms available at the WestCoast, a total of only 130 rooms for a conference that may need up to 300 rooms on peak nights.

For accommodations, please call the Red Lion Hotel, where we have a large block of rooms, at (509) 663-0711. There is also a shuttle service provided by both the WestCoast and the Red Lion. Another alternative is the Comfort Inn, which is a bit closer to the WestCoast. The number there is (509) 662-1700.

Change of Venue for WSAC Western District Meeting

It is time to mark your calendars for the WSAC Western District fall meeting September 5-6. In addition, take special note that we will be gathering at the Red Lion Inn at the Quay in Vancouver, not at North Bonneville as originally planned. Turns out the new resort in North Bonneville will not be completed in time to host the counties.

Highlights of the Vancouver meeting include, on September 5, an economic development forum, perspectives on housing affordability, and a review of TEA-21 reauthorization. September 6 will open with an update on the county budget roundtable discussions initiated at the spring meetings, and will feature a program on counties’ new roles in water resource management. The Legislative Steering Committee will meet from 10 a.m. to noon September 6.

Agenda details and registration information will be mailed to WSAC members soon, and will be available on the WSAC web site, www.wacounties.org/wsac. See you in Vancouver!

Online Candidate Filing Begins in Washington

The first system in America to allow candidates to file for office electronically is up and running this week. This new system enables candidates in Washington State to file for office from anywhere in the world.

*On the technology front, this is an historic (Continued on page 2)
day for Washington," said Secretary of State Sam Reed. "Washington is the first state in America to make this technology available. We are shifting toward a more efficient, digital government that is more responsive to its customers."

Online filing is available to candidates running for all federal offices, all statewide offices, joint legislative districts and joint judicial districts. (Joint districts refer to races determined by voters in more than one county.)

This new electronic method is as secure as filing through the mail or filing in-

- Candidates filing electronically must pay their filing fees with a credit card that matches either the candidate’s name or the name of the candidate’s campaign.
- The Secretary of State's website will use the highest level of security available for online transactions.
- After filing, the candidate will receive an e-mail confirmation of his or her Declaration of Candidacy.
- No Declaration of Candidacy will be posted online until it has finished a rigorous check by elections staff and is determined to be valid.

"We are moving elections administration into the 21st Century," said Secretary of State Sam Reed. "This new system will increase access to the political process while guarding against fraud."

Online candidate filing is available until Friday, July 26 at 4:00 PM at:

www.secstate.wa.gov

FMSIB Calls for New Projects in August

The Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board will issue a new call for projects in August. The board maintains a six-year list of projects to improve freight mobility or soften the impact of freight movement on local communities. The last call was made in 2000 when 19 projects were added to the existing list. The majority of the current projects on the Freight Mobility list would be funded if R-51 passes in November. The new projects are intended to be ready for construction no sooner than 2006 and will require funding from another future revenue package. The project criteria and scoring grid can be found at www.fmsib.wa.gov or you can request an application from the agency office by calling (360) 586-9695, or by email jensens@fmsib.wa.gov. Local government projects on the strategic freight corridors have competed well in the past and represent nearly two-thirds of the current projects on the FMSIB list.

Hydraulic Project Permit Review

The 2002 Legislature directed the Department of Fish and Wildlife to establish a "hydraulic project approval program technical review task force." The legislature further directed that the task force be composed of a balanced representation of hydraulic proponents and conservation interests. The purpose of the task force is to conduct a thorough review of the HPA program, including recommendations for a potential fee structure and schedule. The review and recommendations are due to the legislature by November 30, 2002. The agency has a website with background information. The website is www.wa.gov/wdfw/hab/hpa/hpatask/

The first meeting was held on July 24, 2002. Please contact Paul Parker if you are interested in serving on the task force.

Department of Ecology Water Rights Study Update

Department of Ecology (DOE) is preparing a report to the Legislature as required by 2002 legislation, SB6387, Section 302. The study has involved various user groups including WACO and their members, Patricia Costello, Thurston County Assessor and Dave Cook, Yakima County Assessor plus input from many more.

The questions posed by the Legislature include:

1. What plan, schedule, and budget would be required to improve the administration of water rights records?
2. What recommendations does DOE have for improving the administration of water rights ownership information and integrating this information with real property ownership records?

(Continued on page 3)
3. What grants are needed by counties to assist with recording the information management needs related to water rights ownership and title?

While the benefits to the public and DOE are obvious, we have worked hard to assure them there is little or no benefit to the Counties. What DOE would like from the Counties at this point, and remember the report is not close to being finalized, is a Graphic Imaging System (GIS) parcel layer and an ownership flat file including ownership information. They hope to develop a water rights GIS layer and combine it with the parcel layer to begin a process of better identifying where the water rights are physically and who owns them.

DOE has several options for how this would happen. Probably the most logical is a phased-in implementation by WRIA rather than county. They have begun projects in both Thurston and Yakima Counties. Ecology imaged the water right documents and links them to county parcel layer maps. Ecology plans to develop and maintain the linkage between their information and the county parcel information. They would also update water rights, permit records with current land ownership information from county information, and request the person shown in those updated records to verify the person owns the land to which a water right permit is appurtenant. In addition, DOE would update records when water rights transfer and notify the Department of Revenue if a taxable event occurs. Ecology also plans to update records when place of use is changed, clean and validate the water rights and develop Internet access to the information. County Assessors are not going to update any records on water rights. They are not going to tracter or monitor water rights and will not monitor changes or ownership of water rights. Assessors will not allocate any resources for any other activity associated with water rights, tracking, analysis, or record updating.

While some counties have an operable GIS system in place, we have made DOE aware that many counties are in the process of developing a usable GIS system while still others maintain paper records or have no budget to implement GIS at this time. Since these issues will create havoc for a statewide water rights map, they are looking into typical costs to implement.

First “Technology Clearinghouse” Set for August 9

In June, the State Interoperability Executive Committee organized a new “Technology Clearinghouse,” an opportunity for the user, technical and vendor communities to learn more about available communications technology.

The first Technology Clearinghouse date is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon, Friday, August 9, 2002 at the state Department of Information Services boardroom, the Forum Building, in Olympia. The Forum Building is located at 605 11th Ave. S.E. Maps are available at: www.wa.gov/dis/aboutdis/maps/orum.jpg or www.wa.gov/dis/aboutdis/maps/VISIO-Forum.PDF.

The Clearinghouse will be held on a regularly scheduled day each month to bring the communities of interests together to provide an opportunity to learn more about the available technologies from the vendor community. The setting will be informal, and open to all who wish to attend.

The August 9 meeting will be devoted to two segments of technology.

- 9-10 a.m.: Digital in-car video. The vendor Silent Witness from Vancouver B.C. will be making the presentation.

- 10:15 - 11:15: Digital Upgrading of Close Circuit Television (CCTV)

Mark Twietmeyer, President of URS Electronics, Inc. will be available to answer questions. Any vendor who wishes to participate in this process is welcome and will be scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis. In order to participate, please contact Dennis Hausman either by telephone (360) 902-3463 or by email DennisH@dis.wa.gov <mailto:dennisH@dis.wa.gov>.

**Fees for U.S. Passports to Increase**

Fees for U.S. passports will increase on August 19, 2002. The U.S. Department of State recently noted that the changes are the result of an independent fee study done to ensure that the true costs of providing consular services to Americans are recovered. This included services to Americans provided at U.S. Embassies and Consulates abroad, as well as the passport application process at home.

- The application fee for first-time adult customers will increase from $60 to $85.
- The fee for minors under age 16 will increase from $40 to $70.
- The adult renewal application fee will increase from $40 to $55.
- The additional cost for expedited service will increase from $35 to $60.

Most customers apply at Passport Application Acceptance Facilities across the US; more than 5,000 locations. In the Metropolitan Seattle area, there are 35 such facilities. With routine processing, passports are received within six weeks. Those needing expedited service pay the additional fee, plus two-way overnight delivery, and receive their passports within two weeks. Those needing their passports in less than 14 days - for travel or to obtain foreign visas - need to make an appointment at the Seattle Passport Agency by calling (206) 808-5700.

For other passport information, downloadable application forms, locations to conveniently apply, a list of all Regional Passport Agencies, and a wealth of other passport and travel information, customers may visit the Bureau of Consular Affairs’ website at www.travel.state.gov. Customers may also call the National Passport Information Center at 1-900-225-5674 or, with a major credit card, at 1-888-362-8668.
MRSC Office is Moving
July 26

The Municipal Research and Services Center will be moving over the weekend beginning Friday July 26. The office will be closed on Friday, July 26 and the MRSC Web site will be unavailable on Friday, July 26 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM while we move the servers to the new location. Our intent is to complete the move over the weekend and to be open for business Monday morning, July 29.

We have been located in the IBM building in downtown Seattle for the past seven years. Our present lease will expire at the end of July and, due to the rising cost of rent at our present site, we are “movin’ on.” After an extensive search, we have chosen an office site at Fourth & Vine, several blocks north of our present location.

Our new address will be:
2601 Fourth Ave, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98121-1280

Phone and fax numbers are the Same:
(206) 625-1300 / (800) 933-6772, (206) 625-1220 Fax

Web site address is: www.mrsc.org

We are looking forward to being in our new home. If you are ever “in the neighborhood,” drop by; we would be delighted to show you around our new quarters.

More Ramblings........
Pacific County Auditor Ida Taylor announced that she would be retiring at the end of the year. Ida has been auditor since 1992 and before that was employed by the office for 21 years.

* * * * *
Also announcing that she will not be running for office again this year is Skagit County Clerk Phyllis Coole-McKeehen. Phyllis was elected to office in 1982.

* * * * *
Whitman County Commissioners have named Naomi Daubert as acting county auditor, effective August 1. Current auditor Dave Repp has resigned. Within 60 days, the commissioners will appoint one of three individuals nominated by the Republican Central Committee to the office and in the fall election, a new auditor will be elected for a four-year term.

* * * * *
Pacific County Sheriff John Didion is reporting that they are expecting a 56 percent increase in tourism during the next four years during the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial observance, which kicks off in January across the country. Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington will need a huge increase in law enforcement and emergency service personnel in order to handle several million people. Didion and other law enforcement officers whose areas will be affected are trying to find federal grants so that they can hire additional personnel. They are also discussing how to deal with enhanced communication, jail expansion and traffic control. Unfortunately, with budget cuts in all counties as a result of state funding drying up, the challenge to provide a safe environment is looming large. According to Didion, “As much as we want to showcase the historical sites in the area, proportionate funding is necessary. Law enforcement needs to be a fully funded partner in the bicentennial.”

* * * * *
Snohomish County Auditor Bob Terwiliger reports that the Snohomish County Council has approved his request to purchase touch screen-voting devices. The new system will be implemented this year for both the primary and general elections at polling places only. It will be integrated with the existing optical scan voting system, still to be used by absentee voters.

Calendar of Events

2002 Meetings
August 22
WCIP Board/Rate Setting Session,
9–3 pm SeaTac

September 4–6
WAPA Drug Training Program
Icicle Inn, Leavenworth. 15 hrs of CLE.

September 5–6
WSAC Western District Meeting,
Red Lion Vancouver Inn at the Quay,
Vancouver

September 8–10
WAPA Juvenile Training Program
Icicle Inn, Leavenworth. 15 hrs of CLE.

September 10–13
City/County Planning Dirs., Lake Chelan

September 12
WSALPHO Meeting, Spokane

September 18–19
County Treasurers’ Legislative Conference,
Summit Inn, Snoqualmie

September 19
WCIF/WCIP Boards/Insurance Advisory Committee (All Day Meeting), SeaTac

September 26
L&I Retrospective Rating Pool, Ellensburg

September 30–October 4
WACO/WSAC Annual Conference,
WestCoast Hotel & Convention Center,

(Continued on page 5)
Calendar of Events

June 10-12
Washington State Association of County Auditors’ Annual Conference,
Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop

June 16-20
Washington State Association of County Treasurers’ Annual Conference,
Davenport Hotel, Spokane

June 23-27
Washington State Association of County Clerks’ Annual Conference,
Silverdale Hotel, Silverdale

June 24-27, 2003
WSAC Summer Convention, Spokane

July 11–15, 2003
NACo Annual Conference,
Milwaukee County, Milwaukee, WI

September 29–October 3, 2003
Joint WACO/WSAC Conference,
Doubltree Hotel Seattle Airport

November 17–20
WASPC Fall Conference,
Campbell’s Resort, Chelan

2004 MEETINGS

May 24–27
WASPC Spring Conference,
Yakima Convention Center, Yakima

June 22–25, 2004
WSAC Summer Convention,
Sheraton Tacoma, Pierce County

July 16–20, 2004
NACo Annual Conference
Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ

October 4–8, 2004
WACO/WSAC Joint Legislative Conference,
WestCoast Grand Hotel at the Park, Spokane

November 15–18
WASPC Fall Conference,
Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores

2005 MEETINGS

May 23–26
WASPC Spring Conference,
West Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee

July 15–19, 2004
NACo Annual Conference
City & County of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

Employment Opportunities

ISLAND COUNTY: Planning & Community Development - Development Services Manager. Island County (Coupeville, WA) seeks a F/T highly motivated person to manage the department customer outreach program, intake of permits, review of land-use permits, coordination between divisions and other County and State Departments. We are seeking a person with a strong customer service/management background and who possesses strong motivation skills and an ability to develop positive working relationships with the public. Land-use permits involve review of applications for development proposals, in accordance with Zoning, Critical Areas, SEPA, and all other associated land use & environment Laws. Requires a degree in business, management, planning or related field, customer service experience, knowledge of planning, zoning, subdivision, land use law, WA GMA, SEPA, five (5) year related work experience and strong analytical, communications & Customer Service skills. Closes as soon as qualified applicant is found. Island County Application required. For application and info www.islandcounty.net/hr or Call (360) 679-7372 ext. 7254, EOE

KLICKITAT COUNTY: Accountant-Auditor. Wage: $12.09 - $15.10 per hour DOQ. Requirements: Degree in accounting with 3 years governmental accounting experience or a minimum of 5 years in BARS System Accounting or double entry system. Duties: Performs complex clerical accounting/bookkeeping with responsibility for accumulating and maintaining data necessary for fiscal management departments. Application packets at Klickitat County Personnel Department, 509-773-7171, 205 S. Columbus, MS-CH 15, Goldendale, WA 98620, E-mail: lynnnc@co.klickitat.wa.us or www.klickitatcounty.org for info. Appli-

(Continued on page 6)
Employment Opportunities

(Continued from page 5)

ocation Deadline August 5, 2002 at 5:00 PM. Postmarks not accepted. An EOE.

SKAGIT COUNTY: Parks, Recreation, and Fair Dept. – Park Manager. $15.18 - $16.28 per hr. This position: manages, maintains and operates Howard Steelhead Park, as well as providing primary support for same at other up-river parks as assigned. Develops, assists, controls and accomplishes all program within assigned park areas. Supervises some staff and volunteers. Exercises limited commission law enforcement duties and enforces State and County laws, codes and ordinances. Min. Requirements: Two (2) years of college level study or training in Parks and Recreation, Forestry or natural resource management AND two (2) years experience in a related position; OR any combination of training or experience providing the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities. Certification from NRPA Maintenance Management School preferred. Submit applications to: Skagit County Personnel Dept., 700 S Second St #101, Mount Vernon WA 98273. Cover letter and resumes must be accompanied by completed Skagit County application. In order to be considered, applications must be post marked by or no later than July 31, 2002. For more details log on to www.skagit.net and click on employment opportunities.

SKAMANIA COUNTY: Assistant County Engineer/Project Engineer and Public Works. Compensation: Range 26. This position provides professional level engineering and administrative work for the Road Division of the Skamania County Public Works Department including leadership and participation in engineering design and construction, right-of-way acquisition, and project management. Work the application of professional engineering principles and techniques in the interpretation and enforcement of laws, regulations and County policies regarding road design and construction, right-of-way acquisition and project management. Provides direct supervision of subordinate staff. Requirements: High School diploma or G.E.D. Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering or closely related field and a minimum of four (4) years engineering experience, including supervisory experience; or any equivalent combination of experience and education that provides the knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the essential functions of the position. There are physical requirements also. Where to submit: Skamania County, PO Box 790, Stevenson, WA 98648-0790. For additional information, call (509) 427-9447.

THURSTON COUNTY: Assessor’s Office - Senior Appraiser. $2,694 - $3,681 monthly salary range (currently under negotiation for cost of living increase). A high school education or equivalent is required. A college degree and/or courses in economics, mathematics, real estate, finance, marketing, business, or cartography are highly desirable. Qualified applicants will have experience in one or more of the following areas: real property appraisals, real estate sales, building construction, market research and analysis, market modeling, or statistical analysis. Knowledge of cartography (mapping) and legal descriptions and skill in the use of word processing, spreadsheet, or statistical software packages is considered highly desirable. Request application from Gene Widmer, Thurston County Assessor’s Office, 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98502. Phone: 360-786-5564. Email: widmerg@co.thurston.wa.us

WHITMAN COUNTY: Assistant County Planner. Requirements: Bachelor’s degree in Planning or related field; relevant work experience or internship experience and possession of a valid Washington State Driver’s License. SALARY RANGE: $2,407 - $2,630 plus benefits DOQ. CLOSING DATE: August 7, 2002 or until filled. Applications are available at 402 North Main Street, Colfax. You can also log on to www.whitmancounty.org or call (360) 753-4107.

Washington State Home Care Quality Authority Board:

Olympia. Position: Executive Director. Max. Annual Salary: $75,000 DOQ. The Executive Director leads and manages the staff of the Authority in the implementation of the policies established by the Board. Desirable Qualifications: A Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university; Demonstrated senior-level management/leadership experience including supervision and delegation to other staff; Experience with/knowledge of social services, services to seniors and persons with physical and developmental disabilities; Experience with/knowledge of the issues facing seniors and persons with disabilities who are living independently in their own homes; Experience with knowledge of the in-home long term care system in Washington State. Demonstrated skills in building, organizing and leading an organization, building collaborative relationships and making effective decisions. Effective communication skills with stakeholders, consumers and staff. Experience in coordinating complex programs and projects. Experience with collective bargaining/labor relations. Those interested in this position may apply by submitting a current resume, a complete list of five or more personal and professional references, and a letter of interest specifically addressing the qualifications listed in the announcement. Please send all application materials to: Cathy Wiggins, Interim Executive Director, Washington State Home Care Quality Authority, PO Box 40940 Olympia, Washington 98504-0940. All materials must be received by September 6, 2002. Persons of disability needing assistance in the application process or those needing this job announcement in an alternative format may call (360) 725-2618 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf at (360) 753-4107.
Monday, September 30

Noon  
Golf Tournament - Raven Ridge Golf Course, Wenatchee

1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Certified Public Officials (CPO) Training Session (Core Course)  
“Human Resources: Understanding the Legal Issues of Managing Public Employees”  
Bruce Schroeder

Tuesday, October 1

7:00 - 8:00 a.m.  
WACO/WSAC Joint Board Meeting

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Washington State Association of County Auditors’ Legislative Issues Meeting

8:30 - Noon  
Certified Public Officials (CPO) Training Session (continued)  
“Human Resources: Understanding the Legal Issues of Managing Public Employees”

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Washington State Association of County Assessors’ Committee Meetings

1:30 - 5:00 p.m.  
Washington State Association of County Clerks’ Business Meeting

1:30 - 5:00 p.m.  
Washington State Association of County Treasurers’ Business Meeting

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.  
Election Administration and Certification Board Meeting

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
WACO Board of Trustees Meeting

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
WSAC Board of Directors Meeting

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
Ice-Breaker Reception

Wednesday, October 2

6:30 a.m.  
“Fun and Fitness” Walk/Run

8:00 a.m.  
Continental Breakfast  
WACO/WSAC General Session  
Opening Ceremonies  
Keynote Address:  
“The Class-Act County Government Official - Building Courthouse Partnerships”  
Mark Towers (CPO Credit offered)

Noon - 1:30 p.m.  
All Conference Luncheon

Noon - 5:00 p.m.  
Vendor Exhibit Fair

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.  
WACO/WSAC General Session continued

1:30 - 5:00 p.m.  
WCAA Meeting (Washington Counties Administrative Association)

(Continued on page 8)
Attachment - Cont’d

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
WACO/WSAC JOINT CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 4, 2002
WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.  WSAC Legislative Steering Committee

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.  Washington State Association of County Assessors’ Legislative Meeting
                 Washington State Association of County Auditors’ Business Meeting
                 Washington State Association of County Clerks’ Legislative Meeting
                 Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners’ Business Meeting
                 Washington State Association of County Sheriffs’ Legislative Meeting
                 Washington State Association of County Treasurers’ Legislative Meeting

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.  Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys’ Board Meeting

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.  Joint Presidents’ Reception

Thursday, October 3

7:30 - 9:00 a.m.  WACO Board of Trustees Breakfast Meeting - Presentation of Legislative
                  Recommendations from Affiliates

8:00 a.m.  Continental Breakfast

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  Vendor Exhibit Fair

9:00 - 11:45 a.m.  WACO/WSAC Joint Meeting

9:00 - 5:00 p.m.  Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners’ Training

Noon - 1:30 p.m.  Luncheon in Exhibitor Area

1:30 - 5:00 p.m.  WSAC Legislative Meeting

1:30 - 5:00 p.m.  Washington State Association of County Assessors’ Business and Committee Meetings
                 Washington State Association of County Auditors’ Meeting
                 Washington State Association of County Clerks’ Education
                 Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys’ Business Meeting
                 Washington State Association of County Sheriffs’ Business Meeting
                 Washington State Association of County Treasurers’ Business Meeting

6:00 p.m.  Social and Banquet

Friday, October 4

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.  WACO/WSAC Joint Breakfast

9:00 a.m.  WACO Business Meeting and Adoption of 2003 Legislative Package

9:00 a.m.  WSAC Business Meeting