WACO/WSAC Conference Rapidly Approaching

The 1st Annual Conference of the Washington Association of County Officials and the Washington State Association of Counties is less than one month away and staff is working diligently to put together a program that is educational, stimulating and enjoyable! If you have not yet registered, please do so as soon as possible to help facilitate our planning. If you need another registration form, please call us and we can fax or e-mail you a copy. We will be meeting in the “heart” of Washington -- Wenatchee -- at the WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel, September 30 - October 4.

NACo Executive Director Larry Naake will be attending the meeting this year and will address the membership during the opening general session on Wednesday, October 2 with a thumbnail sketch of “The Condition of the Nation’s Counties.” Conference business will take its cue from Naake and concentrate on the funding crisis in the counties of our state with several work sessions, speakers and panels, hopefully culminating in a legislative package to bring forth to the 2003 Legislature. Although a lot of work will be done, we are trying to balance those sessions with some excellent training, affiliate meetings, and social activities.

This year we will be holding a vendor exhibit fair in conjunction with the conference. The vendors will be set up in the wide halls of the convention center so that they will be easily accessible to officials who are going to and from meetings and taking breaks between sessions.

We hope to see you all there!

Tri-Association Meets

The officers of the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO), the Association of Washington Cities (AWC), and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) met in Olympia on September 4. Barbara Cory, Chuck Mosher, and LeRoy Allison, their respective presidents presided. The purpose of the meeting was to reactivate the partnership that successfully secured local government funding in the late 1980’s and seek a joint proposal that can provide relief to troubled jurisdictions in 2003.

Each president presented positions and proposals of their own associations and polled the group to determine what common ground could be explored in anticipation of the 2003 Legislative Session. One priority that emerged immediately was the need for revenue enhancement to support public health, law and justice, and basic government services. The objective is to reach agreement on a joint proposal before the WACO/WSAC Annual Conference in Wenatchee. The group will meet again in the SeaTac area on September 27 with specific proposals in hand and supporting documentation.
WSAC’s Eastern District to Meet on Economic Development, Elect New Officers

WSAC’s Eastern District will convene on the afternoon of October 1, prior to the start of the WACO/WSAC Joint Legislative Conference the following day. Though an abbreviated meeting to accommodate the Joint Legislative Conference (a full six weeks sooner than the WSAC Legislative Conference had been), WSAC Eastern District President Joan Frey has developed a full agenda.

Featured is an Economic Development Workshop that zeroes in on Eastern Washington needs and realities.

Valoria Loveland, Director of Agriculture, plans to discuss the economic development work her agency is undertaking, if scheduling allows. Dana Peck, Klickitat County Director of Economic Development is helping to arrange to other key presenters.

In addition, new officers for the WSAC Eastern District will be selected. Traditionally, officers move up the ladder over a three-year period. The current Eastern District Vice-President is Kittitas County Bill Hinkle and the current Secretary-Treasurer is Stevens County Commissioner Vickie Strong. Since Commissioner Hinkle appears headed to the Legislature, it appears there will be two officer vacancies for the Eastern District.

An At-Large Representative and two alternates to the Board of Directors also need to be selected. The current Western District At-Large Representative is Douglas County Commissioner Mary Hunt. The alternates are Benton County Commissioner Max Benitz, Jr. and Franklin County Commissioner Neva Corkrum.

Eastern District County Commissioners interested in any of these positions should contact WSAC Staff member Paul Parker, who will forward the information to the chair of the Eastern District nominating committee.

When a Black Bear Crosses the Road………..

If a black cat crosses your path, some say it means bad luck. When a black bear crossed the path of the WSAC and WACO Executive Directors a few weeks ago, it meant that courthouse visits are in full swing again. The bear in question and a herd of deer gave a warm welcome to Ferry County.

Bill Vogler and Debbie Wilke spent the week of August 19 visiting ten county courthouses in Adams, Spokane, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry, Okanogan, Douglas, Chelan, Lincoln and Grant counties and since then have been to Mason and Grays Harbor.

The annual visits were initiated many years ago to increase the communication between the thirty-nine counties and the associations charged with supporting their interests. This year is even more important in light of the worsening fiscal condition in the counties and the concentrated effort to develop a joint legislative package for local governments before the upcoming session. Bill and Debbie presented the positions and proposals developed by various WACO and WSAC committees during the summer and collected comments and suggestions.

Visits to Pacific and Wahkiakum Counties are set for September 10. Visits to the southern tier of eastern Washington Counties will be completed the week of September 16.
Court of Appeals clarifies notice requirements for zoning changes

On June 28 the Court of Appeals decided Holbrook, Inc. v. Clark County. The court found that public notice of zoning changes is sufficient: counties are not required to provide individual notice to landowners.

The proposed plan was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners just after the purchase, and during the following two years there were a number of public meetings at which the owners of several nearby parcels objected to the resource designation, and had their property removed. Public notice of these meetings was provided by numerous methods, including television advertisements, publication in newspapers, a telephone hotline, and announcements mailed to all Clark County residents. Holbrook, however, was not aware of the proposed change until ten months after its final adoption. On discovering the change, Holbrook asked the county to re-designate the land as rural estate, and when the request was denied, sued.

At issue in the lawsuit was the adequacy of the notice Clark County provided. Holbrook maintained that, in addition to the means that the county did use, it ought to have mailed individual announcements to non-resident landowners (specifically, to the addresses on file with the county assessor). The trial court held that this was not legally required, and the Court of Appeals upheld that ruling.

It should be noted that this decision depends on the court’s finding that Clark County, in making the change, acted to establish an area-wide policy. Notice requirements are more stringent in a situation where one person, or relatively few people, are exceptionally affected by a zoning change.

Timber Counties intervene on behalf of DNR in the WEC v. DNR-Board of Natural Resources lawsuit.

The Washington Environmental Council (WEC) has filed a lawsuit against the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Board of Natural Resources (BNR) alleging violations of SEPA and breach of trust duties. The lawsuit indicates that WEC may seek an injunction that could stop timber sales and halt work on the sustainable yield project, which is essentially to the proper management of trust forests. In testimony to the BNR at their September 3 board meeting Becky Kelly, WEC representative, indicated that WEC did not currently intend to seek an injunction. Ms. Kelly indicated that WEC was willing to discuss settlement of the lawsuit.

To date, eleven timber counties, six school districts, two hospital districts and the city of Forks have elected to intervene in the lawsuit in support of the DNR and the BNR. The counties include Skamania, Mason, Klickitat, Skagit, Cowlitz, Clark, Jefferson, Pacific, Wahkiakum, Clallam, and Grays Harbor. The counties have joined forces with the American Forest Resource Council in the intervention. Jim Johnston and Galen Schuler, attorneys with Perkins Coie law firm in Seattle, will represent the coalition in the intervention.

The agenda for this lawsuit goes beyond the technical issues raised in the complaint. WEC, through this suit, seeks to force DNR to reduce timber harvests and ultimately the financial benefits that flow to local governments and to school districts in Washington State. DNR prudently manages trust forests to balance timber and revenue production with environmental protection.

Trust land revenue is critical to school districts and county government, providing up to 60% of the total revenue to one county. Timber harvest also provides employment and tax benefits for rural communities.

DNR Marina Rent Study Continues

After receiving feedback on the draft proposal of the Marina Rent Study Committee, DNR is trying to finalize their proposal to the Legislature. There are still concerns on both sides over a few lingering issues. As stated in the Journal Article, August 15, only water dependent rents of qualifying marinas would be impacted.

Courthouse Ramblings

Our deepest sympathies to Mason County Assessor Dixie Smith, whose husband, Alex passed away last weekend. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dixie and her family. Cards can be sent in care of the Mason County Assessor’s office, P.O. Box J, Shelton, WA 98584.

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We were sorry to learn of the death of former Chelan County Coroner Dr. Robert Bonifaci, 79, who passed away on August 25, in Bellevue. Bonifaci served as Chelan County coroner from 1956 until his retirement in 1990. During part of those years, he also served as a deputy coroner for Douglas County and operated a private practice as a pathologist. Bonifaci and his wife, Barbara, moved to Redmond following his retirement to be near their four children and seven grandchildren.
Calendar of Events

November 20–22
ACHS, Seattle

December 3–4
WAPA Newly Elected Prosecutor Course
WAPA Conference Room, Olympia

December 5
WSALPHO Meeting, SeaTac

December 10–13
CPO Newly Elected Officials Training—Understanding Your New Job at the Courthouse, Olympia—Cost: TBD, CPO Credits: All newly elected officials must attend to become certified.

December 12–13
WAPA Winter Meeting & Banquet Crowne Plaza Hotel, Seattle.

2003 MEETINGS
May 5–8
County Auditors’ Elections Conference Yakima

May 19–22
WASPC Spring Conference, WestCoast Grand Hotel, Spokane

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

November 14
WCIF Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.–noon, Eastern Washington Location

November 18–21
WASPC Annual Fall Conference, Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, Vancouver

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, 2005
NACo Annual Conference, City & County of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI
In our effort to hold down costs and save timber, we are asking for your help. You may submit a job opening to us for publication in the CHJ using MS Word. When submitting an article for the Courthouse Journal’s Employment Opportunities section we ask that you use the following format and thank you for your help.

- County or Agency Name
- Position Title
- Compensation – Salary/Hourly and Amount
- A brief description of duties and responsibilities (4-6 lines)
- Minimum requirements (2-3 lines)
- Application requirements (Resume, Cover Letter, Application, Etc.)
- Where to submit application and submission deadline
- Where to go for more information (Web page, phone, etc)

**PIERCE COUNTY:** Commercial Appraiser 2, Assessor-Treasurer’s Office.

Salary: $21.48 to $27.22 per hour. Closes September 6, 2002. Technical Appraisal work of real and/or personal property, establish fair and equitable market value using Mass Appraisal modeling. Two plus years experience as real or personal property appraiser. Accredited by Department of Revenue. Additional education or experience may substitute. Valid Washington State Driver’s license. Union membership required within 30 days of employment. Pierce County Government Personnel, 615 S Ninth St – Suite 200, Tacoma WA 98405, www.co.pierce.wa.us/jobs or (253) 798-7480 or TDD (253) 798-3965. EOE

**PIERCE COUNTY:** Civil Engineer 2

(Two vacancies: A) Consultant Engineering/Environmental Section and B) Program Development Section. (Job #2557) $53,352 - $68,348 Annually. Closes: September 13, 2002. Public Works & Utilities Department. A) Perform advanced engineering duties associated with corridor studies, transportation infrastructure improvements, environmental documentation, and selecting and managing consulting engineering firms. B) Perform project scoping and cost estimating; project prioritization; grant application preparation; establishing traffic impact fees, preparing inter-agency agreements, and other related civil engineering work pertaining to transportation issues and capital improvement projects. Requires three years of progressive responsible experience related to the position and either a four year degree with major course work in civil engineering or closely related field or substituting for the degree, registration as an Engineering-In-Training with the State of Washington. Experience using AASHTO and Washington Design manual or similar publication/manual is highly desired. Experience with AutoCAD, Land Development Desktop 2000, Stormshred, GIS or other related engineering software program is desired. Union membership is required within 30 days of employment. Apply to or for more information: Pierce County Personnel Dept., www.co.pierce.wa.us/jobs, or (253)798-7480 or TDD (253)798-3965. EOE

**PUGET SOUND REGIONAL COUNCIL:** Transportation Planning Director. Seeking an experienced Transportation Planning Director to help plan and implement the region’s growth management and transportation strategy. The ideal candidate will be a proven manager, with at least ten years of experience dealing with complex urban transportation and growth management planning issues. We are seeking a leader who can address the issues of the region and has the ability to bring all parties together on sensitive and controversial issues. The Puget Sound Regional Council serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Regional Transportation Planning Organization for the central Puget Sound region. Located in downtown Seattle, it is an association of cities, towns, counties, ports, and state agencies, with a mission to preserve and enhance the quality of life in the central Puget Sound region. Candidates are encouraged to apply before October 1, 2002. For more information and an application packet, please see www.psrc.org, e-mail gforter@psrc.org, phone 206-464-7090, fax 206-587-4825, or contact us at: Puget Sound Regional Council, 1011 Western Avenue, Suite 500, Seattle, WA 98104. The Puget Sound Regional Council is an equal opportunity employer.

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**Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington—Celebrate With Us!**

Board of Directors and Staff extend to you a cordial invitation to attend our Open House in celebration of our new Seattle facility Thursday, September 12, 2002 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Located at 2601 4th Avenue, Suite 800

Please RSV P by September 9, (206) 625-1300

**Directions:**

**From I-5 Northbound**
- Take Seneca Street Exit (Exit 165)
- Merge onto Seneca Street
- Turn right on 4th Avenue
- Proceed north to 2601 4th Avenue

**From I-5 Southbound**
- Take the Union Street exit
- Stay straight to go onto Union Street
- Turn right on 4th Avenue
- Proceed north to 2601 4th Avenue

**From I-90 Westbound**
- Take I-5 North Exit (Exit 2C toward Vancouver, B.C.)
- Take Madison Street Exit
- Take Madison Street to 4th Avenue
- Turn right on 4th Avenue
- Proceed north to 2601 4th Avenue

There is metered street parking around the building.