

the Courthouse Journal

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

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Legislature Leaves Budgets and Local Government Revenue for Special Session

The Legislature was unable to resolve the operating and capital budget before adjourning on April 27. The Governor called them back to complete their work for a special session starting on May 12. There was progress made on the next to the last day of session when the House managed to pass a budget. From the county perspective, that budget was an improvement over earlier House budgets, in that it provided the Senate level of funding for small counties and improved on the previous House proposal for local mental health funding. Unfortunately, the budget still provides only one year of funding for local public health and neither legislative budget contains enough funding to keep small counties operating at an acceptable level of service.

The local option revenue bill was still in dispute between the two houses as the Legislature adjourned. For the most part, the disputes were about issues not related to the revenue components of the bill. Adjournment also found a number of legislators still looking

for dedicated revenue sources to address small county financial issues.

Earlier this week the Tri-Association sent a letter to county elected officials reminding them of three high priorities they should share with Legislators. Those are a full two years of public health funding, direct funding for small counties with limited tax bases and local revenue options for all counties. We urge county officials to discuss these issues with legislators when they are home in the break before the special session. A number of you have called us and discussed the service reductions that will result if the Legislature doesn't act on these three priorities. We hope you will share that information with your legislators. We also appreciate that many of the large counties are reminding their legislators of the needs of small counties and many small counties are reminding their legislators that the larger counties also need help. To pass our priorities, we need votes from both parties and every region of the state.

WACO Legislative Committee a Success

WACO Legislative Committee Chair Tom Fallquist, Spokane County Clerk, considers the reactivation of the WACO Legislative Committee a tremendous step toward better communication among WACO members during the Legislative Session.

Fallquist says, "The Legislative Committee has been a valuable tool during the session, not only for keeping the membership informed, but was critical to WACO as an association. Through regular discussions, we were able to increase the base of support for our priorities and lend assistance to proposals of importance to individual counties. Most

important was the ability to evaluate the overall potential impacts to counties of legislation other than our own."

The WACO Legislative Committee is a standing committee outlined in the Bylaws but has not been as active in recent years. The group is comprised of the legislative chairs of each of WACO's seven affiliates and met every two weeks by conference call. At the top of every agenda was an update of the Tri-Association efforts to secure assistance to extremely distressed counties and local revenue options for all thirty-nine. The balance of each call was devoted to discussion

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of the progress of WACO priority bills; any amendments requiring a policy change or new strategy; and, other legislation.

The Committee will meet by conference call again on May 9, prior to the Special Session.

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

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97th Annual WSAC Convention Takes Place June 25-27 in Spokane County

Registration begins next week for the 97th Annual WSAC Convention. This year's event takes place June 25-27 at the Valley Doubletree in Spokane County and promises to be informative, innovative and fun.

With the incredible challenges our state and local governments continue to face, this convention will again focus on intergovernmental cooperation, and how to more effectively and collaboratively use our limited resources.

Governor Locke joins us on Wednesday, June 25 to share his priorities for state government and then discuss with us the fiscal problems shared by counties and the state.

Peter Hutchinson, who spoke at our convention last year and helped to design Governor Locke's 2003-05 budget proposal, will return to focus our discussion on setting local priorities of government.

While we spend much time and focus within WSAC on funding county government – a discussion we will continue at this convention -- we know that there are many excellent examples within the county family that demonstrate our success. Each WSAC

affiliate will share their success stories about how necessary services are provided to the public at a lower cost, or how better services are being provided within existing fiscal constraints.

In addition, Commissioner of Public Lands Doug Sutherland will be joining us to provide his perspective on how these tough economic times are affecting state natural resources management – and what he plans to do about it.

We have invited Secretary of Health and Human Resources Tommy G. Thompson from the Bush Administration. He is an early innovator in restructuring state services. We hope that Secretary Thompson will share his views on the future of government, particularly the provision of health and human services programs and benefits at the federal level.

Finally, because we all need to eat and we really need to laugh, don't miss the annual barbecue on Thursday evening at the Rockin B' Ranch; great grub and Hollywood caliber old west entertainment.

Don't miss the 97th Annual WSAC Convention!

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

Budget, Finance, and Taxes

Tax Bill Would Give Needed Help to Local Governments

(Published 12:30AM, April 28th, 2003 – The News Tribune)

Washington legislators should not fail to throw a lifeline to cities and counties reeling from the effects of property tax limitations.

Two years ago, Washington voters blew gaping holes in local government budgets when they approved Initiative 747. The initiative limits the growth of property taxes to 1 percent a year, unless voters approve a higher amount every year. The reductions in revenue have forced painful cutbacks in the services provided by law enforcement, public libraries and other local agencies. But much-needed relief from the damage caused by I-747 could soon be on the way. The state House of Representatives has followed the Senate's lead and approved **SB 5659**, which would allow counties to seek voter approval of a sales tax boost of up to 0.3 percent. Counties would keep 60 percent of the money and divide the remaining 40 percent among cities.

Both versions would also allow taxing districts to ask voters to raise their property taxes for up to six years, instead of annually as required under I-747. The longer time period between elections would eliminate the need for costly annual elections and allow local government more financial stability and better planning. But there's still some work to be done. Lawmakers should redouble their efforts to resolve differences in the two versions. A provision in the House version requiring the state auditor to conduct performance audits of jurisdictions that persuade voters to raise taxes is overreaching and unnecessary. Many jurisdictions, including Tacoma and Pierce County, already conduct performance audits.

The House version also appears to give an unwarranted break to auto dealers and their customers who would be exempt from any retail sales tax increase in the sale or lease of new motor vehicles. But appearances can sometimes be deceiving. According to Rep. Tom Campbell (R-Roy), the exemption makes sense because the Regional Transit Investment District's proposed regional transportation plan

already contains a new motor vehicle excise tax of 0.2 percent.

Noteworthy in the legislative journey of **SB 5659** is the political sideshow put on by I-747's sponsor, Tim Eyman. Amazingly, Eyman opposed the measure because voter-approved tax increases could extend the recession - a message directly at odds with his populist, trust-the-voters image. But Eyman's real target seems to be the ability of local governments to raise any taxes at all - even when voters are willing to preserve valuable services. To require annual votes, as Eyman would prefer, is unworkable. That's why school districts are already allowed to seek special levies of up to four years.

When Eyman talks, the Legislature usually listens - but not this time, when many Republicans joined Democrats in both chambers to craft a pragmatic bipartisan lifeline for local governments. Unlike Eyman, legislative supporters of **SB 5659** trust voters to make the right decisions.

There May be Another Chance for Military and Overseas Voting on the Internet

SB 5463, the pilot project for military and overseas voting on the Internet, may have another chance at passing the legislature when the special session convenes. Governor Locke is supporting Secretary of State Sam Reed by including the measure on a list of issues he wants legislators to address when they come back to town on May 12. The state military department asked the Governor to help, as well. **SB 5463** was passed by the Senate, but died on the House floor calendar when the regular session ended last Sunday. The measure would apply to 2004 elections, including the presidential primary, state primary and general election. The pilot project, which would be overseen by the U.S. Department of Defense, would allow counties to participate in the Internet voting over secure Internet lines. Overseas ballots would be cast online at US embassies or military bases abroad, not on personal computers. In 2000, one-third of eligible overseas voters were either unable to vote, or their ballots arrived after the deadline.

Saving a Paper Trail of State's History

By Cecilia Nguyen (Published 12:30AM, April 28th, 2003, The News Tribune)

Electronic court documents soon will replace the dusty, timeworn leather bound records stacked in the Thurston County Clerk's Office.

Thurston County Clerk Betty Gould recently began a yearlong task of digitally copying about 15 million pages of court papers that date as far back as 1847, 42 years before Washington became a state.

The electronic imaging project will preserve important state and county documents still valued by attorneys, historians, legislators and those intrigued with Washington's past, Gould said.

Court rulings, wills, civil and criminal

cases and other documents offer insight into what life was like on the Washington frontier.

For instance, people were once fined \$1 for selling "spiritous" liquor to the American Indians in the 1800s. And Civil War and other history buffs have used old court documents to learn what past soldiers or local militia members wore, state archivist Jerry Handfield said.

Arthur Denny, who founded the City of Seattle in 1852 with a party of immigrants, was a former Thurston County commissioner, when the county's borders reached as far north as the U.S.-Canadian border. "It's been like finding buried treasure," Gould said.

The \$450,000 electronic imaging project will free up much-needed storage space within the clerk's 1,000-square-foot records vault and save the county money, Gould said. The bulky, oversized books and folders take up about \$98,000 worth of storage costs a year.

Digitally scanning all of the documents also will allow more people to review the court records hundreds of years from now, she added. Once the pages have been copied, the clerk's office will send all of the bound records and loose paper documents dated before 1931 to the state auditor's archives department, where they'll be preserved with the state constitution and legislative bills. The county will shred all paper files with little historical significance dated after 1930. "It's really hard to give these up," Gould said. "We've learned to really love them."

Several of the books have begun to deteriorate and the ink has faded in many of the manuscripts. The warm, well-lit archives vault - and time - have contributed much of the wear, Gould said. The ideal condition for storing paper documents is a cool, dry and low-lighted room, Handfield said. Unstable humidity and temperature causes paper to expand and contract, making the fibers more likely to break, he added.

It's important to protect the court documents because the old records still

have legal importance, Gould said. For example, attorneys and people still request the old court records for genealogy, probate files, adoptions and real estate issues.

The aesthetics of the books bound in rich leather and lined with gilded paisley paper are just as alluring as what's written inside. Back then, court manuscripts were written in a floral, artistic calligraphy now seen only on fancy invitations. In one 1895 court book, a clerk wrote a memoriam of Elisha P. Ferry, the state's first governor, that included a flawless headstone-like illustration. Clerks most likely were hired for their penmanship, Gould quipped.

The next step, Gould said, is to find and preserve recent landmark court rulings at the state archives, so they won't get shredded along with the less historically significant papers. Gould has asked former judges and past elected officials to list cases that have influenced state and local history in the past 50 to 60 years. The clerk's office also has asked if citizens know of any court cases that may have importance to the state or county. There are many great nuggets of facts and information to be found, said State Sen. Karen Fraser (D-Olympia), a former Thurston County commissioner. Many lawsuits that affected the entire state were filed in the county because Olympia is the state capital, Fraser added. For instance, a court ruling in the 1961 preserved Olympia as the state capital. Before that, several state agencies moved their headquarters north to Seattle and some wanted the state's largest city to be the capital. In 1975, a Thurston County Superior Court case ruled that the state had a duty to define basic education and fund it. That case later was upheld in the State Supreme Court.

"The clerk's files have got to be a huge repository of local and state history that should not be lost," Fraser said. "And a lot of it isn't written up anywhere else."

Emergency Management

State Releases Guide for Implementing Homeland Security Advisory System

Do you know what it means, and what to do, when the federal government announces a "Condition Orange" terrorist threat? Guidelines are now available to help local elected officials and their emergency managers plan and execute appropriate responses to the color-coded threat levels.

The Washington state Military Department is distributing a guidebook for local response to the federal and state Homeland Security Threat Condition Advisory System. It provides a framework for developing local security response and deployment plans, and can serve as a checklist when changes in the Advisory are issued.

The guidelines and recommendations were developed with input from local stakeholders, and are presented in a generic format that allows each local government to adopt specific procedures appropriate for the size and complexity of the jurisdiction.

In addition to guidelines for local government, the Department also has prepared guidelines for industry and private citizens. All these documents are available on-line at <http://emd.wa.gov/site-general/wahsas/wa-hsas-idx.htm>, or through a link on the WSAC website. Further assistance is available from the Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division, and important contact information is provided in several appendices to the various guides.

The Military Department is encouraging counties and cities to get the word out about the industry and citizen guides through government offices, links on local websites, and existing volunteer programs.

Update on Homeland Security Funding

The Washington State Military Department this week identified proposed program allocations for more than \$11 million in federal fiscal year 2003 funding for the State Homeland Security Grant Program.

The grants are to be used for equipment, training, exercises, planning and administration. The Department will administer the funding, and will distribute the local share based primarily on population. Following is the program allocation for \$11,294,000:

- Equipment -- \$7,926,000. Eighty percent (\$6,340,800) will be allocated to local jurisdictions by the governor's Committee on Terrorism equipment subcommittee. The remainder will fund interoperable communications equipment for the Washington State Patrol.
- Training -- \$594,000 will be distributed among existing law enforcement and fire academies, community and technical colleges, the state Emergency Management Division (EMD), and the state hospital association to institutionalize Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) Awareness Level training throughout the state, and to establish an on-line-CBRNE training package.
- Exercise -- \$1,981,000. Each of the nine Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Districts, which include multiple local emergency management programs, will receive \$29,000 for tabletop exercises, \$100,000 for functional exercises, and \$75,000 for a regional

coordinator to support the planning and exercises. EMD will retain the remainder to support the regional exercise programs and include state agencies in exercises.

- Planning and administration -- \$793,000. \$300,000 will be distributed to counties (\$6,000 each plus proportion based on population) for assessment purposes. \$100,000 will pay for a statewide critical infrastructure study, and \$393,000 will fund the EMD terrorism/homeland security program.

In addition to the \$11 million above, the recently approved federal fiscal year 2003 supplemental budget includes another \$29.9 million for Washington State and its local governments. These funds will be available for the same program categories; however, the exact dollar amount per category is not yet known. Approximately 80 percent will be passed through to local governments.

Washington state is ranked 15th in the nation in population, and, according to EMD, will receive a proportionate share of FFY 2003 supplemental federal homeland security grant funds. Among Northwest states, Washington will receive the largest allocation followed by Oregon (\$22.8 million), Idaho (\$15.3 million), and Montana (\$14.4 million).

Environment, Land Use and Resources

Water Law Reform on the Special Session Agenda

With a five corners agreement on three key pieces of water legislation, 2003 may be a breakthrough year for water legislation. Last week the Governor's office helped to find a compromise acceptable to the Senate and the House water leads on **SSB 5028** (prohibiting use of water quality laws from limiting water rights decisions). Although intense opposition to **SSB 5028** is expected from tribal and environmental groups, Ecology has agreed to bill language that acknowledges and does not alter the existing case law regarding water quality permits and federal hydropower licenses, while prohibiting future use of water quality laws to limit use of water rights. **SSB 5028** also includes increased penalties for water rights violations.

The agreement on **SSB 5028** sets the stage for passage of two other water bills – and possibly more. **ESHB 1336**, the legislation designed to provide financial assistance and policy guidance for watershed planning implementation, and **ESHB 1338**, municipal water law reform also are primed for passage in the special session.

ESHB 1336 includes up to \$100,000 funding per year for three years for implementation with a ten percent matching contribution (which may be provided by in-kind goods and services

directly related to coordination and oversight by the planning unit or any local, tribal or federal governments participating) and allows for up to \$50,000 per year for an additional two years. The measure requires completion of a detailed implementation plan within one year as a condition of receiving grants for the second and subsequent years.

The implementation plan must include strategies to provide sufficient water for (a) production agriculture; (b) commercial, industrial and residential use; and (c) instream flows. The plan also must include timelines to achieve the strategies and milestones to measure progress.

Other provisions in **HB 1336** establish a procedure for a county to opt out of watershed planning – either on its own if its affected territory is less than five percent of the total territory within the management area, or with the consent of all other initiating governments if its territory is greater than five percent of the management area. The bill also will allow for state implementation through means other than rulemaking, if the planning unit consents, and requires that plan amendment can occur only through the same type of negotiated process that resulted in the initial plan.

Another key requirement to aid plan implementation requires the Department of Ecology to report to the Legislature

each year regarding statutory changes necessary to enable state agency approval or decision-making needed to implement approved plans. **HB 1336** states that Ecology “shall use the plan as the framework for making future water resource decisions for the planned watershed or watersheds ... [and] rely on the plan as a primary consideration in determining the public interest related to such decisions.”

The municipal water rights bill, **ESHB 1338**, allows cities, water districts and public utility districts greater ability to grow into water rights not currently being used. The measure requires new conservation efforts and compliance with conservation standards to be written by the Department of Health. Water utility service is more closely tied to land use and watershed planning requirements, and a duty to serve in utility service areas is established.

It remains possible that bills addressing well replacement and addition (**SB 5023**), and trust water rights clarification (**HB 1337**) also could be taken up during the special session.

General Government Issues

STATE OF WASHINGTON - Request for Proposal

The Employment Security Department - Corrections Clearinghouse is requesting proposals for its *Ex-Offender Work Orientation Program - 03-009-RFP*.

- The amount is \$330,000.00 for 6-7 projects for one year.
- The expected result: Employment Security Department (ESD) is interested in investing in job services to assist ex-offenders in making the transition from entry-level to higher wages, with more likelihood of staying employed and advancing after initial employment.
- The response due date is from April 30, 2003 through June 6, 2003. All responses, whether mailed or hand delivered, must

be to the following address by 4:00 p.m., June 6, 2003 (Fax'd or electronically mailed responses will not be accepted).

- Submit Request to Receive Proposal: Rich Coleman, Employment Security Department/Corrections Clearinghouse, PO Box 9046, Olympia, WA 98507-9046
- Contractor Eligibility: Applicants must be licensed to do business in the State of Washington or be a unit of local government.

Please Note: The Department reserves the right at its sole discretion to reject any and all proposals for any reason whatsoever prior to the execution of a contract, if any, with no penalty to the Department or the State. This RFP does not obligate the Department or the State

of Washington to contract for the services specified herein. The Department will not be liable for any costs associated with the preparation of a proposal submitted in response to the RFP. Bidders mailing proposals should allow normal mail delivery to ensure timely receipt of their proposals. Bidders assume the risk for the method of delivery chosen. The Department assumes no responsibility for the delays caused by any delivery service.

For further information: (360) 407-5156 or ricoleman@esd.wa.gov

Pacific County Board of Health Awarded Grant

Governor Gary Locke has awarded a grant to the Pacific County Board of Health, creating a low-interest loan program to fund shellfish protection. The Puget Sound Action Team awarded the \$60,750 grant to the board on behalf of the Governor.

“These funds are a winning solution for the people of Pacific County and for Willapa Bay,” Locke said in announcing the grant.

The loans will enable homeowners to repair failing septic systems, a leading pollution problem for shellfish. Sewage leaking from poorly maintained septic systems is extremely dangerous and carries bacteria that make shellfish unhealthy for people to eat.

The grant money originates from the Oyster Reserve Account, a fund that shellfish growers in Pacific County and Puget Sound worked with the Legislature to establish in 2001. The county will deposit the grant with Shorebank Enterprise Pacific. The bank will manage the loan program.

An advisory committee made up of state and local government representatives and shellfish growers established criteria to issue loans to Pacific County, the state’s pilot area. The criteria are as follows:

- First-tier eligibility: Families of four, whose income is below \$24,350, can get 0 percent loans, no payment until home is sold.
- Second-tier eligibility: Families of four, whose income is below \$48,700, can get 3 percent interest loans.
- Third-tier eligibility: All other homeowners can get 5 percent interest loans.

The Puget Sound Action Team plans to work with communities in other counties to offer similar low-interest

loan programs that address septic system repair.

Annual Housing Conference Announced

Washington State’s largest affordable housing conference, “Housing Washington 2003”, will take place September 8 – 10 at the Spokane Conference Center.

Top speakers at this year’s conference will include Stacey D. Stewart, Fannie Mae Foundation who will present “Predatory Lending and Discrimination in Housing”; Kalima Rose, Policy Link who will present “Building Sustainable Communities by Uniting People and Place”; and William H. Kreager, FAIA, Mithun+Architects+Designers+Planners who will present “Innovative Housing and Why You Can’t Build It Here”. In addition, Norm Rice, Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle will present “National Housing Policy: Urging the Bush Administration to Take Action”, Lance George, Housing Assistance Council will present “Taking Stock of Rural People, Poverty and Housing for the 21st Century”; Vada Hill, Fannie Mae will present “Reaching America’s Newest Americans”; Michael Pyatok, Pyatok Architects and Heather Ballash, CTED will present “Downtown Revitalization: Affordable Mixed Use Developments”; Roy O’Shaughnessy, The Cohousing Network, will present “Making Cohousing Affordable to Build Strong Communities”; and John K. McIlwain, Urban Land Institute, will present “The Crisis in Workforce Housing: Best Practices for Local Solutions”.

The conference is presented by the Washington State Housing Finance Commission and the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development in partnership with the Washington Low Income Housing Network.

For more information, visit www.wshfc.org/conf, e-mail conf@wshfc.org or call the conference

hotline at

1- 800-767-HOME (4663) ext. 773.

Annual Mental Health Conference Scheduled for June 25 – 27

The Washington Behavioral Healthcare Conference, “Promoting Stability”, is scheduled for June 25 – 27 at the Yakima Convention Center in Yakima, Washington. Keynote speakers will include Nancy Speck, PhD, Member of the President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health; Stuart Perry, International Mental Health Advocate; Ann Poindexter, MD; and Arthur Evans, PhD, Assistant Clinical Professor, Yale University School of Medicine, “Promoting a Recovery Oriented System of Care in Times on Fiscal Difficulty”. Pre-conference activities include training from 9 – 5 on Wednesday, June 25 on “Law and Ethics: Professional Ethics” taught by Judy Roberts, MA, LMHC. In the afternoon of the 25th, there will be an education session for Washington Community Mental Health council members and invited guests (RSNs and others) by Charles Curie, Administrator, Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) entitled: “The Prevention and Treatment of Today’s Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders: A National Perspective”.

Workshops during Thursday and Friday will cover a wide-ranging variety of topics and include such areas as multi-modal treatment, co-occurring disorders, youth suicide, elder male caregivers, peer-to-peer support, psychiatric rehabilitation, rural mental health, crisis stabilization, deaf and hard of hearing access, ITA evaluations for adolescents, early memory loss, consumer leadership, housing, homophobia, aging, evidence-based programs, expanded community services (ECS), CIT for law enforcement, and art therapy.

Public Health and Human Services (continued)

Registration can be done over the internet at www.regweb.com/csnw/wcmhc, by fax at 206-292-0559, or mail to WBHC c/o CSNW, 1809 7th Ave, Suite 1414, Seattle, WA 98101. For information contact Nikki Plaid at Convention Service Northwest, 206-292-9198 ext.27 or email wcmhc@csnwseattle.com.

Counties Opt Out of Food Plan

Per an article, April 20 in The Seattle Times picked up from The Olympian's article on April 19, seven counties have declined to participate this year in a state plan to make it easier for unemployed workers to get federal food aid.

"Philosophically, we didn't like the idea of food stamps being given to able-bodied adults with no dependents for nothing," Chelan County Commissioner Buell Hawkins said.

The Department of Social and Health Services on April 1 waived work requirements to obtain federal food assistance, citing the state's unemployment rate, the second-highest in the nation at 7 percent. Counties, however, have the option of blocking the yearlong waiver and seven have so far done so. The counties include Chelan, Klickitat, Ferry, Spokane, Kittitas, Benton, and Pend Oreille. Commissioner Hawkins continued, "These people ought to be required to do some work. This may sound callous, but there really is no such thing as a free lunch." Chelan County's unemployment rate is typically higher than the state overall, varying between a summer low of 6 percent and a winter high of more than 10 percent. Commissioner Ron Walter noted that "there are plenty of jobs available in our county."

The work requirement is only part-time for 20 hours per week, work training for 20 hours per week or 16

hours of volunteer service per month and several commissioners noted, at an earlier Washington State Association of Counties District Meeting, that there are a myriad of volunteer tasks that could be accomplished to help the local community.

DSHS staff commented in a letter to Chelan County commissioners that the decision could put more pressure on area food banks and other service areas as some may not be able to meet the work requirements. About 2,500 households in Chelan receive federal food assistance but the state couldn't say how many adults without dependents were among the 2500.

Housing Planned for Farmworkers

Per the Daily Columbian of April 22, construction could begin as early as June on a \$3.5 million farmworker housing project in Woodland, immediately south of the Hulda Klager Lilac Gardens. The 51-unit townhouse apartment complex has been planned since last year. As many as 150 – 200 people could live in the complex, once it is fully rented. Bids could be sought next month from a selected list of general contractors. Timing will hinge on the city's review process which is underway. Planned is a group of eight wood-frame buildings and a separate 1,200 square foot community center that would also house offices for the on-site manager. The two-story units would be designed to accommodate low-income farmworker families. The Catholic Church's Archdiocesan Housing Authority of Seattle will own and operate the complex. Included will be a playground and parking for 90 vehicles.

Kitsap Opens Crisis Triage Center

The Bremerton Sun reports Kitsap

County's Harrison Hospital has opened a small crisis triage center in the Kitsap Recovery Center. The triage center is multi-disciplinary serving mentally ill, substance abusing, domestic violence, co-occurring mentally ill and substance abusing. The cost to keep someone in the Center is \$153 per day compared to about \$1000 per day at Harrison. Harrison kicked in \$200,000 for the initial two-year pilot project. In early April, the Kitsap County Commissioners approved the other \$200,000. The triage center allow medical, mental health, substance abuse, and social workers to have a way to talk to one another and coordinate care for clients so confused that they are unable to think clearly or care for themselves. So far about 20 people have passed through. New clients first go to Harrison for medical evaluation if needed, then to the triage center for evaluation, detoxification if needed, and assessment for appropriate care. The two battered women who have passed through were moved on to safe houses. Substance abusers get plugged into recovery programs. Kitsap Mental Health Services is located directly across the street where mental health professionals are available twenty-four hours around the clock. Staff has been surprised at the number of new, unknown clients who have come in.

Police are prepared to assess and send people to the triage center instead of Harrison, and there's money in the budget for cab fares so law enforcement doesn't get pulled off its primary job.

The two-year pilot program will allow officials to compile data about the need for it and apply for state and federal grant money to build a permanent 14-bed facility. With improved communication and coordination among programs, officials are convinced the center can become permanent.

Transportation and Public Works

New Transportation Revenues are Agreed to By the House and Senate

After thirteen long years of waiting and a pajama party in the Governor's office, new transportation revenues are agreed to. The Legislature finally adopted a revenue package that does not require voter approval. A final push by a few key leaders in the state encouraged the House and the Senate to reach a deal. Late Saturday evening, April 26, the Legislature sent the (10 year) revenue package **ESHB 2231** to the Governor.

- A five-cent motor vehicle fuel tax increase starting July 1 this year;
- A 0.3% vehicle transfer fee to generate flexible dollars to be used for multi-modal transportation needs; and
- A 15% gross weight fee for trucks.

The spending plan, **ESHB 1163**, includes the following:

- \$3,396 million for highway construction projects.
- \$144 million for track improvements, a train set, and operating costs to fund rail.
- \$67 million for a new auto ferry
- \$231 million for the Mukilteo, Anacortes, and Edmonds ferry terminals.
- 2 years of operating money for the Vashon Island passenger only ferry, and 6 months operating for the Bremerton passenger only ferry.
- \$100 million for local transit services for the elderly and disabled.
- \$30 million for commute trip reduction.
- \$30 million for vanpools.
- Funding to finish the backlog of county and city collision data.

For greater detail, including the project lists, please log on to go on-line: <http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/budget/detail/2003/st0305P.asp>

County Road Administration Board Remains Independent

The Legislature decided not to consolidate the County Road Administration Board (CRAB) and the Transportation Improvement Board into a combined agency. A special thanks to Senator Sheahan and Representative Murray insisting that the two agencies remain separate. Another round of thanks to all of you that worked so hard with your legislators to help them understand the importance of CRAB as an independent agency.

Accountability, Efficiency & Governance Measures

The final transportation package also included a series of bills to ensure that every dollar will be spent wisely.

SSB 5248 requires performance audits of state transportation agencies, including CRAB, and requires local governments to report on pavement management systems. CRAB will be working with county engineers to develop the management system. The bill also includes some minor modifications to the prevailing wage program; creates additional contracting out opportunities within DOT, and new apprenticeship opportunities.

ESB 5279 reauthorizes the Transportation Permit Efficiency and Accountability Committee (TEPAC). The TPEAC is extended to March 31, 2006. The TPEAC's annual report is to detail its performance and progress in implementing its work plan. Goals for specific outcomes are established and detailed work plans and dates are set forth as follows:

One stop permitting for projects of statewide significance: By June 30, 2003, the TPEAC is to develop a detailed work plan including a process enabling the DOT to propose permit terms and conditions for permitting agency review and approval. A status report is required by December 31, 2003, identifying barriers and opportunities for

concurrent public review processes and hearings and a unified appeals process.

Programmatic permits: A goal is set for 70 percent of DOT construction projects or activities to be addressed with programmatic agreements. The TPEAC is also to identify opportunities to integrate local government requirements in those agreements.

Pilot projects: The TPEAC is to conduct one or more projects to implement the collaborative review process to coordinate state and local permits set forth in the Growth Management Act.

Local government permits: The TPEAC is to identify permits for which uniform standards can be developed for local governments. It is to identify strategies to adapt these standards and best practices for those permits. A progress report is required by December 31, 2003, with final recommendations due by December 31, 2004.

Watershed based mitigation: The TPEAC is to develop a detailed work plan by June 30, 2003 including activities and resources needed to: complete a mitigation policy by December 31, 2003; develop decision making tools by June 30, 2004; test of technical and policy methods by December 31, 2004; and integrate policies and procedures for projects by June 30, 2005.

Regional Transportation Investment District

The RTID requested two bills that passed the legislature this session. **SB 5769** clarifies the RTID's bonding authority and **SSB 5247** gives the RTID a local option gas tax as an additional revenue stream.

Courthouse Ramblings

Lincoln County Commissioner Bill Graedel Resigns Due to Health

Late last week Bill Graedel submitted his resignation as Lincoln County Commissioner. According to the Davenport Times Commissioner Graedel suffers from a neuromuscular disease that causes him to stumble and fall frequently. He had planned on resigning

at the end of this year, but moved up his decision when he realized he could no longer serve. The remaining commissioners, Deral Boleneus and Ted Hopkins will name a replacement from a list of three nominees submitted by the Lincoln County Republican central committee. He or she will then have to run for election this year and again in 2005, the normal time the position would have been on the ballot.

Commissioner Graedel would have been in office eleven years at the end of this year. He has been the WSAC representative on the state Enhanced 911 Advisory Committee for the past two years. All of us at WSAC wish him the best.

Training and Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendars – Certified Public Official Courses 2003

Have you registered for next week's CPO Class? ***There is still space available*** – Sign up today for “Effective & Responsible Decision-Making” (4 Elective Course Credits). This full day class is available in Moses Lake on Thursday - May 8, or in Puyallup on Thursday - May 15.

2003 Certified Public Official Scheduled Courses

<u>May</u>	Effective & Responsible Decision-Making in the Workplace (Full day Elective course – 4 credits)	May 8, Moses Lake May 15, Puyallup
	Setting the Price of Government – Smarter Spending to Balance Your Budgets (Two day Elective course – 8 credits)	May 21, 22
<u>June</u>	Risk Management (Full day Core course – 4 credits)	June 5, Puyallup June 24, Spokane
	Leadership Workshop –Building county MUSCLEPOWER for success in these challenging and frustrating times (Half day Elective course – 2 credits)	June 24, Spokane
<u>July</u>	RESOLVE Conflicts and Build Relationships (Full day Elective course – 4 credits)	July 29, Spokane
<u>September</u>	Ethical Dilemmas: Integrity as a Tool for Successful Public Officials (Full day Core course – 4 credits)	September 30, SeaTac
<u>November</u>	Making a Difference in County Communication: Speak and Write More Confidently (Full day Elective course – 4 credits)	November 6 Location TBD

* Additional training workshops and courses are in development and may be added later this year.

CPO Credit Update:

Your CPO Transcripts have been updated with the 2003 course credits. If you would like to check your credit totals or request your transcript you may contact Dema Harris at dharris@wacounties.org.

Several county officials will receive their CPO designation at the Joint Fall Conference this year.

Will you be one of them? For more information – Contact: dharris@wacounties.org

or Web Page: www.wacounties.org .

WSAC, Department of Ecology and Conservancy Boards are Co-hosting a Workshop

On June 12, WSAC is co-hosting with the Department of Ecology and Conservancy Boards a workshop on **Conservancy Board Operations**. This workshop will take place in Central Washington at a location to be determined. The agenda will include funding of conservancy board operations, liability, and other topics of joint interest to counties and the conservancy boards. Save the date for this informative seminar and workshop and watch for update information in the *Courthouse Journal*.

Calendar of Events

2003 MEETINGS

May 5 - 8

County Auditors' Elections Conference,
Yakima

May 5 - 9

WAPA-Support Enforcement, 2003
Annual Training, DoubleTree Hotel
Spokane City Center, Spokane

May 8

CPO Training, Effective & Responsible
Decision-Making, Moses Lake

May 14 - 16

WAPA Support Staff Training Program,
Sun Mountain

May 15

CPO Training, Effective & Responsible
Decision-Making, Puyallup

May 19 - 22

WASPC Spring Conference, WestCoast
Grand Hotel, Spokane

May 21 - 23

Association of County Human Services
meeting, Tri-Cities

May 24

Washington Association of Coroners and
Medical Examiners' (WACME)
Training, Olympia

May 28 - 31

Western Interstate Region (WIR) Annual
Conference, Reno-Sparks, Nevada

May 29 - 30

WAPA District Court Training Program,
SeaTac

June 5

CPO Training, Risk Management,
Puyallup

June 11 - 13

Washington State Association of County
Auditors' Annual Conference, Sun
Mountain Lodge, Winthrop

June 16 - 18

Washington State Association of County
Assessors Conference, Okanogan

June 16 - 20

Washington State Association of County
Treasurers' Annual Conference,
Davenport Hotel, Spokane

June 18 - 19

Washington State Association of
Coroners and Medical Examiners
Conference Training, Spokane

June 18 - 20

WAPA Summer Conference, Chelan

June 18 - 20

Association of Washington Cities
(AWC) Annual Conference, Red Lion
Grand Hotel at the Park, Spokane

June 23 - 27

Washington State Association of County
Clerks' Annual Conference, Silverdale
Hotel, Silverdale

June 24

CPO Training, Navigating Through
Change and Risk Management, (in
conjunction w/WSAC Annual Summer
Convention), DoubleTree Valley Hotel,
Spokane

June 24

WCIF Board of Trustees - WSAC
Summer Conference/Spokane

June 24 - 27

WSAC Annual Summer Convention,
Doubletree Valley Hotel, Spokane

July 11 - 15

NACo Annual Conference, Milwaukee
County, Milwaukee, WI

July 16 - 18

Association of County Human Services
(ACHS) Meeting, Vancouver

July 29-August 23

IACREOT Conference, Denver CO

July 30

CPO Training, WCRP Sponsored
Elective Course Title (TBD), Spokane

August 21

WCIP Board of Directors Rate Setting -
Wyndham Gardens at SeaTac

September 3-5

WAPA Special Assault Training
Program, Leavenworth

September 7-9

WAPA Juvenile Training Program
Leavenworth

September 8-11

Washington State Association of County
Assessors Fall Conference, Red Lion,
Kennewick

September 9-12

County & Regional Planning
Directors/City Planning Directors Joint
Conference, Campbell's, Chelan

September 11-12

WSAC Fall Eastern District Meeting,
Marcus Whitman Center, Walla Walla

September 17-19

Association of County Human Services
(ACHS) Meeting, Moses Lake

September 18

WCIF/WCIP Insurance Advisory
Committee 2004 Renewal Meeting,
WCIP Board of Directors, WCIF Board
of Trustees --- West Coast Hotel at
SeaTac

September 29-October 3

WACO/WSAC Joint Conference,
Doubletree Hotel, SeaTac

September 30

CPO Training, Ethical Dilemmas:
Integrity as a Tool for Successful Public
Officials, SeaTac

October 1

WCIF Board of Trustees (Conjunction
with the WACO/WSAC Joint
Conference)

October 2

WSAC Fall Western District Meeting
(Conjunction with the WACO/WSAC
Joint Conference)

October 15

WCIF/WCIP A.C.E. Committee
Meeting, Yakima

Calendar of Events (continued)

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

November 19-21
Association of County Human Services
(ACHS) Meeting, Seattle

2004 MEETINGS

February 27 – March 2
NACo Legislative Conference, Hilton
Washington & Towers, Washington
D.C.

April 21-23
WAPA Spring Training Program,
Spokane

April 8-9
WSAC Spring Eastern District Meeting,
Campbell's Resort, Chelan

April 22-23
WSAC Spring Western District Meeting,
Heathman Lodge, Vancouver

May 12-14
WAPA Support Staff Training Program,
Chelan

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

June (Date TBD)
National Sheriffs' Association meeting,
Seattle

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

June 23-25
WAPA Summer Conference, Chelan

July 16-18
Association of County Human Services
(ACHS) Meeting, Vancouver

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

September 14-17
County & Regional Planning
Directors/City Planning Directors Joint
Conference, Campbell's, Chelan

October 4–8
WACO/WSAC Joint Conference,
Spokane

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

2005 MEETINGS

March 3-4
NACo Legislative Conference, Marriott
Wardman Park Hotel, Washington D.C.

May 11-13
WAPA Support Staff Training Program,
Spokane

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

June 13-16
WSAC Summer Convention, Kennewick

June 22-24
WAPA Summer Conference, Chelan

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

September 13-16
County & Regional Planning
Directors/City Planning Directors Joint
Conference, Campbell's, Chelan

October 3-7
WACO/WSAC Joint Conference, Ocean
Shores

2006 MEETINGS

July 21-26
NACo Annual Conference, Denver, CO

2007 MEETINGS

TBD
NACo Annual Conference, Richmond,
VA (Sponsored by the Counties in the
Metropolitan Richmond Area)