

the Courthouse Journal

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

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*Inside the
Courthouse Journal*

Budget, Finance & Taxes
Pages 3

Courts, Law & Justice
Pages 4-5

**Elections, Licensing
& Recording**
Page 6

Emergency Management
Page 7

**Environment, Land Use
and Resources**
Page 8-9

**Transportation &
Public Works**
Page 10-11

Association News
Page 12

**Training and Upcoming
Events**
Page 13-14

Courthouse Ramblings
Page 14

Calendar of Events
Page 15-17

**FY 2005
Transportation
Improvement
Board
Funding Program
Workshops**
See Page 14

Do You Want Participate on the WSAC Legislative Steering Committee? Let Us Know!

The WSAC Officers are working now to name the membership for the 2003-04 Legislative Steering Committee (LSC). Each year the Officers appoint co-chairs for the Legislative Committee and committee members from across the state to represent the geographic and political diversity within the Association.

This policy body will develop the Legislative Package that is proposed to the membership at the Fall Legislative Conference and will continue to meet throughout the 2004 Legislative Session to respond to legislation introduced during the

legislative session. The Legislative Steering Committee is likely to meet three times during the summer to prepare for the Legislative Conference in October. Appointments to LSC are for a one-year term.

If you want to be on the Legislative Steering Committee for the 2003-04 term, please send written notification by e-mail, fax or letter to Paul Parker, Assistant Executive Director by June 4. Names of all interested commissioners, councilmembers and county executives will be forwarded to the WSAC Executive Committee.

Scholarship Winners Announced

Many congratulations to the five winners of the 2003 Washington Counties Scholarship Fund! Each student will receive a \$1,500 scholarship to the college of their choice. One hundred forty-nine applications were received this year, and four of the five winners this year are children of Pierce County employees – one is from King County. The winners are as follows:

Anita deMahy, daughter of Lorraine Alexander-Kuhn, who works for the Fleet Administration in King County.

Anita is graduating from Holy Names Academy, in Seattle, this Spring. She is currently deciding on a college to attend this fall. She is very active in her school's Black Student Union, as well as the Multicultural Student Union and has spent much of her spare time volunteering and serving in local community organizations such as the Matt Talbot Rehabilitation Center and in an assisted living center. Anita is planning to pursue a career in social work.

Stephanie Ford, daughter of Pierce County Deputy Prosecutor Jerry Ford and his wife, Susan.

Stephanie is a senior at the University of New Mexico and is majoring in archaeology. Her graduation was delayed until next year as she spent a year in an exchange program at Flinders University, in Australia, where has co-authored a chapter of a soon-to-be-released book on indigenous peoples and archaeology. Stephanie's extracurricular activities are many, ranging from volunteer work for the homeless and tutoring to inventorying archive files and cataloging artifacts from archaeological excavations.

Leslie Sammy-Sacquitne, daughter of Anne Sacquitne, employed by the Pierce County Department of Human Services.

Leslie graduated with an Associate of Arts degree from Shoreline Community College, in Seattle, and will be a senior at Florida State University this fall working on a Bachelor of Arts in Music. Following graduation, she is

planning to enroll in a Master's Program for Opera Performance and her dream is to become a professional Opera singer. Leslie has had many notable roles in musicals and operas from junior high into college.

Christa Strehle, daughter of Pierce County Sheriff's deputy Steven Strehle, and his wife, Teresa.

Christa has been at Seattle Central Community College for the past three years earning both her general A.A. and her A.A.S. in American Sign Language

The Courthouse Journal

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

Direct inquiries and correspondence to *The Courthouse Journal*, 206 Tenth Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501-1131 or www.wacounties.org.

WACO STAFF

Phone (360) 753-7319
Fax (360) 664-2812

Debbie Wilke, Executive Director
Michelle Hagen, Deputy Director
Christina Bridston, Programs Coordinator
Brenda Bamford, Financial Operations Mgr
Kathie Houts, Administrative Assistant

WSAC STAFF

Phone (360) 753-1886
Fax (360) 753-2842

Bill Vogler, Executive Director
Paul Parker, Assistant Executive Director
Maureen Morris, Deputy Director
Sophia Byrd, Policy Director
Law & Justice, Emergency Management
Jean Wessman, Policy Director
Human Services, Juvenile Justice, Housing
Scott Merriman, Policy Director
Transportation, Land Use
Vicki Kirkpatrick, Policy Director
Public Health & WSALPHO Administrator
Tom King, Associate
Research & Telecommunications
Jim Potts, Coordinator, *Housing Outreach*
Tom Robinson, Coordinator, *Timber*
Trina Bannister, Finance Manager
Ginni Peppert, Events Planner / Secretary
Barbara Warden, Meetings / Secretary
Beth Dubey, Accounting & Business Asst.
Tom Jensen, Technology Project Staff
Nicole Simpkinson, Special Projects

interpreting. She also works as both a YMCA teacher and a private nanny. Christa volunteers extensively in the deaf community, plays water polo and is a math, reading and English tutor. She is planning to attend Central Washington University in the fall and pursue a career in interpretation for the deaf.

Lydia Yau, daughter of Christina Yau, employed with the Pierce County Department of Community Service, and her husband, Chung-Kwong.

Lydia is graduating from Curtis Senior High School in University Place this month and will begin college in the fall, training to become a pharmacist. Lydia is an accomplished cellist and has taken both 1st and 2nd in the State Solo contest. She is the principal cellist of the High School Symphonic Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra and has been a member of the Tacoma Youth Symphony for seven years. Lydia is planning to take a double major in cello performance and pre-pharmacy, expecting to graduate in six years with a Bachelor of Arts in Music and a Doctor in Pharmacy.

The two runners-up in the scholarship contest are both from Clallam County. They are **Trisha Bury**, daughter of Kay Bury, Clallam County Auditor's office, and her husband, Steven, and **Dylan Peterson**, son of Peter and Karen Peterson, employed as the Director of Juvenile Services and in Jail Medical billing in Clallam County, respectively.

CPO Budget Workshop

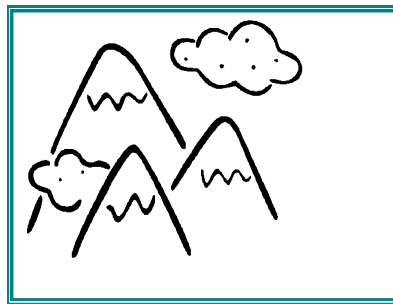
Over 60 county managers from nine counties -- including 22 elected officials -- learned and practiced new approaches

to budgeting and services delivery in a two-day budget workshop offered by the Certified Public Official program this week. The workshop, titled "Setting the Price and Priorities of Government," conducted by the Public Strategies Group, emphasized moving toward results-based budgeting.

Workshop participants worked hard as courthouse teams and learned from other counties about budget decisions and strategies that they could use at home. The focus of the workshop, however, was focused on using the budget process to buy results rather than simply fund the cost of current and newly identified activities. Participants left the workshop with priorities in mind to shape the next budget process and strategies to help them get there.

Public Strategies Group is the organization that helped Governor Locke shape his 2003-05 budget proposal. Peter Hutchinson, one of the founders of the firm, spoke at last summer's WSAC Convention and offered a short workshop there. Another principal, Connie Nelson, assisted with the 2003-05 state budget work and was one of the trainers for the workshop this week.

Workshop participants asked that WSAC and WACO continue to provide training and on-going forums for those working in developing these new approaches to budgeting. With both Peter Hutchinson and Connie Nelson on the agenda for the 2003 WSAC Summer Convention, opportunities for immediate feedback and consultation are close at hand.



Spokane County Commissioner Reaches the Top of the World

Spokane mountaineers John Roskelley (Spokane County Commissioner) and his son Jess, arrived safely at the advance base camp at 21,000 feet Thursday afternoon after reaching the summit of Mount Everest on Wednesday. Jess is the youngest American to ever reach this point

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

Budget, Finance and Taxes

Governor Locke Signs Post Retirement Employment Bill

Governor Locke signed **SHB 1829** on May 20. The bill increases the amount of time—from 30 to 90 days—that local and state government retirees must leave their jobs before being rehired. Other provisions of the bill:

- Establish a 1,900 hour limit on the cumulative hours a retiree may work beyond 867 hours (in any given year),
- Require the employer to document a justifiable need to rehire a retiree,
- Require the retention of procedural records regarding the hire, subject to audit,
- Mandate that the authority to hire a retiree rests with the highest public officer of an employer,
- Forbid both verbal and written return-to-work agreements between a member and his or her former employer, and
- Require the Department of Retirement Systems and the Employment Security Department to prepare a notice to employers about the possible unemployment compensation consequences of hiring retirees.

Governor Locke vetoed less-strict provisions for teachers and school principals, including a 45-day waiting period before returning to work and a five-year total limit on collecting both paycheck and pension. The bill becomes effective July 27, 2003.

Budget Talks Grind to a Halt

This week, one of the most controversial issues of the session brought budget talks to a halt. During the session, the House Democrats had promoted adoption of a \$100 million wage package for home care workers. The wage package had been negotiated by the Home Care Authority established by Initiative 775. Senate Republicans and many other members expressed concern about a labor contract that would transform thousands of private sector workers into state employees.

During budget negotiations, the conferees had agreed that that the health care contract would come off the table. Speaker Chopp triggered this week's controversy by sending a letter to the Home Care Authority declaring the negotiations at an impasse since the Legislature had not adopted the proposed contract. Service Employees International Union (SEIU), which represents the home care workers asked the authority to begin negotiations on a new contract. Budget negotiators agree that they can make no further progress until this issue is resolved. Resolution may stretch into June.

Work on County Funding Continues

Despite the impasse in budget talks, WSAC and single county lobbyists continue to discuss county funding options with legislators. In the last week, there have been a lot of interest in increasing support for the small counties hardest hit by the loss of the motor vehicle excise tax (MVET). Lobbyists and legislators have explored dedicated

funding streams as well as increased support in the budget. The local options revenue bill remains in dispute between the two chambers.

Federal Tax Bill Eliminates Funds for Locals

The federal tax bill includes \$20 billion of relief for states. The earlier version that would have directed about \$80 million to local governments in Washington was deleted from the Senate version in negotiations with the House. Other changes during the negotiations dropped Washington's share of the assistance from \$400 million to \$300 million. Big winners were small states, when all states were guaranteed a base grant of \$50 million without regard to population. The timing of these funds is not clear, but they should help address the state's budget problem.

Voters Picking and Choosing

This week voters passed one county tax measure and rejected another. Snohomish County made a second attempt to pass a one tenth of a cent sales tax to support the operating costs for a major expansion of its jail capacity. As the Courthouse Journal went to press the vote count showed the measure being defeated by a vote of 56 percent. On the same day, voters in King County approved a property tax measure to support county parks by 57%. Over the last year King County has had to shut some parks and transfer others to cities. A very public and emotional debate ensued that may have served to educate the public on the issue.

Justice Information Network Hires Program Director

Brian LeDuc likes to describe his new appointment as program director for the statewide Justice Information Network (JIN) as “putting a human face on this concept.” It’s quite a concept, which at the core hinges on an ability to appropriately share critical criminal justice information across organizations and jurisdictions – courts, law enforcement, detention and correction facilities, state and local government.

Building the JIN program means nothing less than (potentially) integrating the complex and diverse business objectives of five state agencies and all of Washington’s counties and cities. It’s been a work in progress for 20 years.

In his new position, LeDuc will report to the Washington Integrated Justice Information (WIJI) Board, which the Legislature this year designated to “coordinate and facilitate the governance, implementation, operation, maintenance and enhancement of sharing and integrated delivery of complete, accurate and timely justice information.” The WIJI Board replaces the current Criminal Justice Information Act (CJIA) Executive Committee and will retain essentially the same membership. King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert represents WSAC on the body.

LeDuc brings considerable legal and project management experience to his new post. He has served as counsel to the Electronic Public Access Program of the Federal Courts and has been instrumental in policy development relating to public access. LeDuc served as the Rule of Law Liaison to the Republic of Macedonia on behalf of the American Bar Association’s Central and East European Law Initiative and was the associate chief deputy clerk of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. And county officials might like to know that LeDuc began his career with a stint in county government -- as a summer intern for the Windsor/Essex County Development Commission in southern Ontario.

More information about the Washington Integrated Justice

Information Board is available on the JIN website, www.wa.gov/dis/jin/aboutJIN.html. Brian LeDuc may be contacted at brianl@dis.wa.gov.

Voters Turn Down Sales Tax to Operate Snohomish County Jail

For the second time in nine months, Snohomish County voters appear to have rebuffed a one-tenth of 1 percent sales tax that would have helped pay for operating an expanded county jail.

The early vote count on the May 20 ballot measure was 44 percent in support of and 56 percent opposed to the countywide tax. An article in the May 21 Everett Herald suggested that low voter turnout for the single-issue election may have contributed to the measure’s defeat. The same proposal failed last September, but with a final vote count of 48 percent in favor. Only a simple majority was necessary to approve the tax.

Despite failure of the new revenue proposal, Snohomish County still must run its jail. County officials have said that if the tax was defeated they would make cuts in other county functions in order to operate the jail. “We will open the jail, and we will find a way to fund the operation,” Snohomish County Councilman John Koster told the Everett Herald.

The county estimates annual operating and staffing expenses of \$15 million for the expanded jail. The proposed countywide sales tax would have contributed about \$9 million a year toward that cost. The capital costs for expanding the jail and other county facilities are being financed by bonds.

The additional jail space, to be completed in 2004, will add 640 beds for a total jail capacity of 1,040 beds. Even with more than 160 county inmates housed daily at the former state Indian Ridge prison and another 90 leasing space at the Yakima County jail, the existing Snohomish County jail often has more than 200 inmates sleeping on the floor, according to the Snohomish County website.

State law authorizes each county to levy a voter-approved one-tenth of 1 percent sales tax to support adult and juvenile detention facilities. About half the counties have placed the measure on the ballot since 1995, but only 12 counties have approved the tax.

Time to Think About Crime Prevention Awards

The National Crime Prevention Council has announced a call for nominations for the 2003 Awards of Excellence in Crime Prevention.

Nomination packets are available at <http://www.ncpc.org/ncpc/ncpc/?pg=5882-7518-4856-9972>. Nominations are due by June 15.

These Awards were established in 1997 to honor ordinary individuals doing extraordinary things to prevent crime and build safer communities. This year the program is broadened to include individuals, communities, and agencies that have made an extraordinary contribution to crime prevention and homeland security.

The information packet identifies four areas of emphasis important to all nominations: The nominee, through **innovative** programs and ideas, has demonstrated **endurance and perseverance** by creating a unique crime prevention program or establishing a policy or fundraising strategy that has endured. The **influence** of the nominee has helped spur others action, and the nominee's program has garnered **results** that have proved effective in reducing crime.

Sheriffs Meet in Spokane

Thirty-two Washington sheriffs met in Spokane at the 2003 Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) Spring Conference in Spokane this week. King County Sheriff Dave Reichert, President of the Washington State Association of County Sheriffs, presided at the sheriff’s business meeting on Tuesday.

The agenda included legislative reports from WASPC Executive Director Larry Erickson and lobbyist Tim Schellberg who shared the status of the

Courts, Law and Justice (continued)

state biennial budget, the passage of the bill for electronic mapping system of schools and public buildings, and law enforcement mobilization. Jorge Madrazo, Consul of Mexico, presented the Mexican Government Matricula Identifications card and WASPC staff demonstrated the Sex Offender Website

that WASPC is charged with developing. Other business included discussion of services provided by the Criminal Justice Training Commission, committee memberships and law enforcement-related issues. Snohomish County Sheriff Rick Bart announced that the National Association of Sheriffs will

meet in Seattle in 2004.

The balance of the WASPC Conference was devoted to joint sheriff/police chief meetings, speakers and committee meetings.

Elections, Licensing and Recording

County's Elections Chief Quits After New Mix-Up

By Neil Modie

Published in the SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER Wednesday, May 21, 2003

The third election-ballot snafu since November prompted King County's records, elections and licensing manager to resign yesterday as the County Council moved toward refusing to confirm him for the job. The division head, Bob Roegner, and his boss, County Executive Ron Sims, both insisted that Roegner resigned without being prodded to do so by the council -- an assertion contradicted by council Chairwoman Cynthia Sullivan, D-Seattle, ordinarily a Sims political ally. And, disputing what a Sims aide said, Sullivan said the executive was unaware of the problem until she -- not elections officials -- told him Monday.

Roegner said in an interview that he is leaving effective June 13 after learning Friday that 1,824 of the 460,000 absentee ballots for yesterday's countywide election hadn't been mailed to rural voters in mail-ballot precincts. They went into the mail that afternoon, 15 days late, and arrived Saturday. Roegner said he decided over the weekend to resign because "the bottom line is, the buck stops with me. ... I felt it was the honorable thing to do to ask the executive to withdraw my name," which had been sent to the council for confirmation.

Roegner, 55, became manager of the records, elections and licensing services division in January 2002. He previously was chief deputy county assessor. Sims said Jim Buck, the county's administrative services officer, will replace Roegner until a permanent successor is named.

After the latest problem, Sims agreed yesterday to a council demand that Ellen

Hansen, an elections consultant working for the council, closely monitor the elections section. In a letter to Sims drafted by Sullivan and signed by all 12 council members, they said they also want "heightened consultation and assistance from the secretary of state" and appointment of a citizen panel to monitor the fall elections.

Some council members learned of the new screw-ups in an anonymous e-mail Monday. It followed two other recent embarrassments: the tardy mailing of about 150,000 absentee ballots for the November 2002 general election and polling-place ballot shortages during a Highline School District election April 22. County Elections Superintendent Julie Anne Kempf was fired Dec. 31 after being accused of violating state election law, lying about absentee ballots that were mailed late, and other offenses. She filed a grievance over her termination. Sims vowed that such problems would never occur again.

The council voted in February to require council confirmation of the records, elections and licensing manager and the elections superintendent. Elaine Kraft, Sims' spokeswoman, said Roegner "had already told Ron before (Monday morning) about the latest snafu. Sullivan, however, said Sims knew nothing about it before she told him in a telephone conversation Monday afternoon. "In his defense, he was surprised to hear that there had been a problem in records and elections," Sullivan said. "He called me back an hour later to tell me had had checked on the issue, and he was furious that the people in records and elections had not been forthcoming in telling him there had been a problem." Kraft adamantly denied assertions by Councilmember Dow Constantine, D-Seattle, and David Irons Jr., R-Sammamish, that Roegner resigned after Sullivan decided to draft a

letter from the council advising Sims to withdraw Roegner's nomination. Kraft said the executive "told the council (Tuesday) morning that at some point Bob would be resigning." Sullivan, however, said she telephoned Sims on Monday afternoon, "out of courtesy to the executive ... to tell him that he needed to move on finding new leadership (for the records, elections and licensing services division) immediately, because if he didn't, the council was going to move fairly precipitously" to reject Roegner. Sims said in an e-mail that Roegner prepared his resignation Monday night. Even before the latest problem, "Bob had a pretty good idea that there was trouble with his nomination," Constantine said. "His nomination had been sent over (to the council) a couple of weeks ago, and no council member had seen fit to sponsor it. "There was a decision made to wait on any action (on the confirmation) to see if in this special election the promised reforms were bearing fruit, and I think we got our answer Monday." By the lack of a council sponsor for Roegner's confirmation, "we were trying to give him a hint that we had no confidence in him," added Irons.

In the wake of the previous problems, Irons said, "this is unconscionable, just beyond belief." Roegner said the problem appeared to stem from a computerized absentee mailing list that gave some absentee ballots the wrong address and ballot codes. He said the problem had never occurred before. Sims said the errors were spotted through safeguards put in place after the November 2002 problems.

Emergency Management

Position Available as WSAC Alternate on E-911 Committee

The WSAC Board of Directors is accepting nominations to fill the position of “alternate” representing Eastern Washington commissioners on the state E-911 Advisory Committee.

Following the recent retirement of Lincoln County Commissioner Bill Graedel, Ferry County Commissioner Dennis Snook, who has filled the alternate position, is moving up to become the primary Eastern Washington

representative on the Committee.

Commissioners interested in being appointed to the alternate position should submit brief letters of interest by June 15 to WSAC staff Sophia Byrd, sbyrd@wacounties.org. The WSAC Board of Directors will make the appointment at the June 25 Board meeting.

The Enhanced-911 Advisory Committee is created by RCW 38.52.530, and is directed to advise and assist the state E-911 Coordinator in implementing and operating enhanced 911 services throughout the state. The

Committee meets monthly, usually on the third Thursday, at SeaTac.

Committee members represent diverse geographical areas of the state and include representatives of various public safety entities, county and city legislative authorities, county 911 coordinators, the state Utilities and Transportation Commission, telephone companies and wireless service providers.

Flood Control Grant Applications Sought

The Department of Ecology is accepting project applications for the 2003-05 Flood Control Assistance Account Program (FCAAP) grant round. Due to a smaller legislative appropriation for FCAAP, this grant round will emphasize funding to support local planning efforts such as completion of Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plans (CFHMP); the floodplain element of an all-hazards mitigation plan; projects that implement an adopted CFHMP; floodplain acquisition projects; and limited fish habitat protection and/or enhancement projects that have a flood hazard reduction component.

Applications need to be postmarked or hand-delivered by 3:30 p.m. June 5 to county engineers. County engineers need to submit all applications to Ecology by June 19, 2003.

For an application and more information, visit the FCAAP website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/grants/fcaap/intro.html>.

Applications Accepted for Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices

The Governor's Award for Pollution Prevention and Sustainable Practices is presented each year to organizations and businesses that show leadership in preventing pollution and moving toward sustainability while accomplishing their own objectives. Any Washington business, organization, government agency, or school is eligible.

Last year's winners included the City of Seattle, Batdorf and Bronson Coffee Roasters, the Wenatchee World, Watson Furniture Group, Madison Carnolia Cleaners, and Columbia River Carbonates.

To obtain the application and other information necessary to nominate your county, or a local business, school or nonprofit organization in your

community, proceed to the website: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/sustainability/GovAward/gov_awards.htm

Applications are due by June 6, 2003. Winners will be notified in September.

State Building Codes Amended

After three long years of intense lobbying, the legislature has amended the State Building Codes to replace the Uniform Codes and standards with the International Codes and standards, including the building code, residential code, fire code, and mechanical code. The Uniform Plumbing Code and standards are not affected bill. The International Residential Code does not take precedence over existing statutory provisions regulating the electrical, plumbing and energy codes. The State Building Code Council is required to adopt these new codes through the rule making process and to solicit input on firefighter safety and housing affordability issues during the code adoption process.

Annexation Bills

The Governor signed **SHB 1755** into law this week. It creates a two-prong alternative annexation method to allow counties and cities that are planning under the GMA to annex certain unincorporated island territories: (1) a negotiated interlocal agreement between the county and the city is established; and (2) a public hearing must be held and any adopted ordinances are subject to a new referendum provision. This alternative method of annexation is only available to the following counties: Clark, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish and Thurston. WSAC and AWC staff will be working over the summer to see if an agreement can be reached on the remaining annexation issues. Those issues include: outside utility agreements; island reform for all counties; and desire to have interlocal agreements for transition issues as a result of an annexation.

He also signed **SSB 5409** into law this

week. It creates two new petition methods. The first method is for inhabited lands. The petition must be signed by a majority of owners in acreage and a majority of the registered voters in the area to be annexed. The second method is for uninhabited lands. The petition must be signed by a majority of the owners in acreage. The bill has an emergency clause and becomes effective when the bill is signed.

Shoreline Bills

The Governor signed both of the shoreline bills into law this week. The first bill, **SSB 6012**, sets up the staggered schedule for the update of shoreline master programs. It also establishes a pilot program for counties and cities that volunteered to update their master programs prior to the staggered schedule. The bill also establishes a new precedent for new mandates. If the legislature doesn't provide the full funding two years prior to the due date, the due date slips by two years. The legislature has not yet provided funding. We will have to wait and see what happens in the negotiated budget.

Governor Locke also signed **ESHB 1933** this week. This bill has been commonly referred to as the "Everett fix bill". Its genesis was from the Central Puget Sound GMHB decision about Everett's shoreline master program update. It clarifies that all the fourteen GMA goals are equal and listed without priority. Shorelines are not deemed critical areas solely because they are designated "shorelines of statewide significance." The jurisdiction over critical areas is clarified, as is the role of the Dept. of Ecology and the GMA hearing boards in the approval and review of the master programs.

Standing Before the GMA Hearing Boards is Clarified

Mason County commissioners requested this legislation because challengers continued to raise new issues at the GMA hearing boards. **SB 5507** requires a petitioner to have "participated" orally or in writing before

Environment, Land Use and Resources (continued)

the county. And, issues “reasonably related” to issues that the aggrieved person previously raised at the local level can be considered by the Board.

Industrial Land Bank Statute Clarified

SB 5651 makes a technical clarification to the GMA industrial land provisions. This correction ensures Jefferson and Clallam counties ability to use these provisions.

A New Appeal Process: Economic Development Projects

A state agency and local government permit decisions for economic development projects has been created. **ESSB 5776** creates a new uniform, expedited and coordinated permit appeal process for qualifying projects (1) located in counties designated as distressed areas and rural natural

resources impact areas as defined in statute, (2) providing at least 30 full-time jobs, and (3) designated as qualifying projects by the Office of Permit Assistance. Certain permits, including certifications by the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council and local health districts are exempt. If applicable, this appeal process is the exclusive process for review of final state agency and local government environmental and land use permit decisions on the qualifying project. All existing environmental and land use permit review processes and standards are unaffected and remain intact.

A project applicant must request designation as a qualifying project by the office within 30 days after the first permit application for the project after the effective date of the act, but no later than December 31, 2010. The office must make a determination on the request, and, if designated, must notify permit agencies and the public of the

designation.

Permit decision appeals for a qualifying project are consolidated before a single board within the Environmental Hearings Office. Board membership is constituted as the Shorelines Hearings Board. Board procedures, timelines and standards of review are set forth. If the agency permit decision included a quasi-judicial hearing, then the board review is on the agency decision record. If no hearing was included, then the board conducts a de novo review of the permit decision.

Appeals from the board decision on the qualifying project are filed in superior court for Thurston County, but the Superior Court must certify the appeal for direct review by the Court of Appeals (with jurisdiction for the county in which the project is located) if the Superior Court makes certain factual determinations as set forth in the bill.

Transportation and Public Works

Transportation Budget and Revenue Bills

With the Capitol rotunda and construction vehicles as a backdrop, Gov. Gary Locke signed into law legislation marking the start to much-needed statewide transportation improvements.

The transportation improvement plan focuses on safer roads, alleviating congestion and putting thousands of people to work. House and Senate legislators as well as business, community and labor leaders joined the governor at the bill signing ceremony.

Among the funding components of the new plan are a five-cent gas tax and a 0.3 percent sales tax surcharge on motor vehicles. Together, they will raise \$4.2 billion in transportation funding on a full slate of transportation-related projects around the state.

The complete list of transportation legislation signed this week includes:

ESHB 1163 is the 03-05 transportation budget bill. This legislation allocates funds to projects and programs for all parts of state transportation, including the state Department of Transportation and other state transportation agencies, the Washington State Patrol and the Department of Licensing. Specific transportation projects, funded by the "Nickel Account," are funded by reference to a specific project list. This bill includes both "current law" and "new revenue" transportation funding.

ESHB 2231 is the revenue bill that authorizes a five-cent increase in the state motor fuel tax, a 15-percent surcharge on gross weight fees for vehicles of 10,000 pounds or more and a 0.3 percent sales and use tax on new and used automobiles.

SSB 5248 enacts a series of recommendations by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation. These reforms and efficiencies include contracting out and process improvements for determining the state prevailing wage rates.

ESHB 2228 restores the commute trip reduction tax credit, which expired in 1999. Employers are allowed a business and occupation or public utility tax credit if they provide financial incentives to their employees. Total tax credits are limited to \$2.250 million/yr.

SSB 5748 creates a new transportation performance audit board to oversee performance audits of state transportation agencies. This legislation will focus on identifying potential areas upon which a performance audit should be conducted.

Regional Transportation Investment District

The RTID requested several changes this session. Three bills passed this year. **SHB 2033** requires revenues raised by the RTID to be allocated proportionally to the member county based upon the revenue generated and must be used for the benefit within the county which the revenue was generated. **SB 5769** clarifies bonding and tolling authorities. **ESSB 5247** creates a new local option fuel tax. The local option fuel tax cannot exceed 10% of the state fuel tax rate. If this tax is approved, then the other local option fuel tax that is available cannot be imposed.

SAFETEA Officially Released

U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Norman Y. Mineta, unveiled the Bush Administration's six-year \$247 billion surface transportation reauthorization proposal, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2003 (SAFETEA). The proposal is the Administration's successor to the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st

Century, TEA-21, which expires on September 30, 2003. The bill would provide \$201 billion for highways and \$46 billion for transit, with substantial cuts coming in FY 2004. The \$201 billion highway funding level proposed by the Administration would provide for an obligation limitation that begins at \$29.3 billion in FY 2004, increasing to

\$33.9 billion in FY 2009. That compares to the FY 2003 obligation limitation of \$31.6 billion.

Almost every core highway program would take an immediate cut next year, with a gradual climb over six years. However, the STP funds, a program which many local programs receive funding, never reaches the FY 2003 level over the life of SAFETEA. The new bill would provide authorization from FY 2004 – FY 2009 (* See table at end of this article).

SAFETEA continues the funding guarantees of TEA-21 that linked highway funding with the receipts generated by transportation excise taxes; it redirects to the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund, the 2.5 cents per gallon of the gasohol tax currently deposited in the General Fund; and dedicates an additional \$1 billion a year of Highway Trust Fund dollars over and above each year's estimated receipts into the Highway Trust Fund to improve highway infrastructure performance and maintenance.

The proposal would create a new core-funding category dedicated to safety within the federal-aid highway program to increase visibility and funding beyond the current safety set-aside provisions. SAFETEA also creates a new safety belt incentive program to strongly encourage states to enact safety belt laws and achieve substantially higher safety belt usage rates. Combining and expanding several safety programs into one consolidated grant program, the Administration's proposal also grants states broad new flexibility to transfer safety funds among the diverse safety programs administered by the department, provides increased funding for commercial vehicle safety and research programs, and expands and improves safety auditing of "New Entrant" motor carriers.

SAFETEA would also establish a new pilot program under which states, working with the department to develop and meet specific system performance measures, could manage their core program funds as a block grant,

Transportation and Public Works (continued)

excluding the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) and the Transportation Enhancements programs, as well as the new Infrastructure Performance and Maintenance Program.

SAFETEA would enhance the delivery of transportation projects and streamline the environmental review process by improving the linkage between the transportation planning and project development processes, strengthening the provisions of current law that establish time frames for resource agencies to conduct environmental reviews and make decisions on permits, and simplify the processing of Categorical Exclusion approvals. It would also provide for timely resolution of outstanding legal disputes by establishing a six-month statute of limitations for appeals on the adequacy of projects' environmental impact statements and other environmental documents.

In all, environmental programs total \$58.7 billion, one quarter of the \$247 billion SAFETEA proposal. SAFETEA

would protect and enhance the environment by revising the CMAQ program, which it funds at \$8.8 billion compared to \$8.1 billion for TEA-21, to better address the new air quality standards; revise the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane provisions to encourage the use of cleaner and more fuel-efficient vehicles; encourage the active consideration and implementation of context-sensitive design principles and practices in all federally aided transportation projects; and establish a new Transportation, Energy, and Environment program to carry out a multi-modal energy and climate change research program.

In Research while the bill overall did not increase, the administration's proposal does reflect an increased emphasis on research and development throughout the bill. For example the bill proposes:

- A significant increase in the FHWA Surface Transportation Research Program from about \$150 to \$200 million per year;

- An increase in Training and Education programs;
- A small increase in ITS research; and
- A significant increase in safety research for NHTSA and FMCSA

The proposal, however, would also:

- Flat line the University Transportation Center program;
- Not include targeted funding for Transportation Safety Information Management System, the Freight Cooperative Research Program and the Environmental Cooperative Research Program.

Finally the bill does not include funding for the Future Strategic Highway Research Program.

A copy of the Administration's proposal, section-by-section analysis and funding tables are available at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/reauthorization/>

SAFETEA Officially Released *

<i>(Dollars in Millions)</i>	<u><i>FY 2003</i></u>	<u><i>FY2004</i></u>	<u><i>FY2009</i></u>
Interstate Maintenance	\$4,218	\$4,100	\$4,700
National Highway System	\$5,061	\$5,000	\$5,500
Highway Bridges	\$3,619	\$3,400	\$4,000
Surface Transp. Program	\$5,905	\$5,102	\$5,807
CMAQ	\$1,434	\$1,100	\$1,600

Association News

Commissioner Hamilton Changes Political Parties

Pacific County Commissioner Pat Hamilton announced last week that she was changing political parties from Democratic to Republican.

Commissioner Hamilton was elected to her fourth term last year. She announced in *The Daily News*, Longview, that she may challenge 19th District Representative Brian Blake or Senator Mark Doumit this fall.

In a letter sent to Paul Berendt, Democratic Chairman for the State of Washington, Hamilton said, "The old Democratic Party was a voice for the unemployed and a strong voice for both rural and urban working families. Today's Green Democratic Party is more concerned with wetlands and animal rights than it is with the human equation."

Commissioner Hamilton will remain on the Board of County Commissioners.

Register for WSAC Summer Convention and Register On-Line!

Each day of the 97th Annual WSAC Summer Convention is full of helpful and strategic information. The convention will focus on new approaches to budgeting and results-oriented county programs.

Wednesday, June 25 begins with Carl Neu, of the Center for the Future of Local Governance, sharing perspectives on the opportunities for leadership as county elected officials in these rough and challenging times. We next will look at budgeting through setting priorities of government with Peter Hutchinson, who spoke at our convention last year and helped to design Governor Locke's 2003-05 budget proposal.

Most of the remainder of the meeting on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday morning will be an opportunity to learn from others in county government -- county engineers, human services, planning, emergency management,

parks, local public health and county administrators. All will share their successes about how they are changing to provide traditional services to the public at a lower cost, or how better services are being provided within existing fiscal constraints.

As an example, the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials will present "*Public Health Threats in the Face of Fiscal Constraints.*" Dr. Karen Steingart, Health Officer of the Clark County Health Department and Dr. Scott Lindquist, Health Officer for the Kitsap County Health District will use SARS as an example of public health response in the face of fiscal constraint.

The public health system not only has to deal with a new disease without even the benefit of a diagnostic test, but also it must respond to the public's concern and fears surrounding the disease. Unfortunately, when new diseases strike, "old" infectious diseases don't go away and the public health system strains under the additional demands. But, respond it does! SARS is just the latest example. Hear about the SARS experience in China from Dr. Steingart, who recently traveled there. Then hear Dr. Lindquist talk about how a local public health department responds to the disease and to his community.

The annual barbecue will take place Thursday evening out at the Rockin B Ranch -- great grub and Hollywood-calibre old West entertainment.

Finally, as part of our growing commitment to member education, two CPO training sessions are being offered on Tuesday: an all-day Risk Management workshop which is a CPO Core Course and a CPO elective Tuesday afternoon.

You can register on-line for the first time at <http://www.wacounties.org/wsac/Calendar/SummerConvention/SummerConvention.htm>

Don't miss the 2003 WSAC Summer Convention in Spokane County!

WSAC Seeks Bids for 2006 Summer Convention

Meetings don't happen -- they are planned! And, believe it or not, it is time to start planning the 2006 WSAC Summer Convention. The convention alternates between east and west according to the Association bylaws. The Convention will last three or four days and should take place as close to the last week in June as possible.

Conference location requirements are: 175 - 200 sleeping rooms / 9 meeting rooms, minimum; capacity 25 to 300. For more detailed information please contact Ginni Peppert at (360) 753-1886 or gpeppert@wacounties.org.

Year -- Site (History)

1972 - Olympia
1973 - Spokane
1974 - Seattle
1975 - Yakima
1976 - Vancouver
1977 - Wenatchee
1978 - Olympia
1979 - Spokane
1980 - Ocean Shores
1981 - Pasco
1982 - Kelso
1983 - Yakima
1984 - Everett
1985 - Spokane
1986 - Ocean Shores
1987 - Richland
1988 - Vancouver
1989 - Yakima
1990 - Tacoma
1991 - Wenatchee
1992 - Ocean Shores
1993 - Yakima
1994 - Bellevue
1995 - Kennewick
1996 - Kelso
1997 - Spokane
1998 - Tacoma
1999 - Lake Chelan
2000 - Ocean Shores
2001 - Yakima
2002 - Bellevue
2003 - Spokane

Year -- Site (Future)

2004 - Tacoma
2005 - Kennewick
2006 - (Now taking bids for Westside)

Training and Upcoming Events

<i>Training or Workshop</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Information</i>
Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys - District Court Training	SeaTac	May 29 - 30	(360) 753-2175
JUNE 2003			
CPO Training - Risk Management: Striking a Balance Between Control and Chaos	Allmendinger Campus, Puyallup	June 5	(360) 753-1886
Conservancy Board Workshop	Ellensburg Inn, Ellensburg	June 12	(360) 753-1886
Association of Coroners & Medical Examiners' Conference and Training	Spokane	June 18 - 19	www.wacme.org
CPO Training - Risk Management: Striking a Balance Between Control and Chaos	DoubleTree Valley Hotel, Spokane	June 24	(360) 753-1886
CPO Training - Building County MUSCLEPOWER in These Challenging and Frustrating Times	DoubleTree Valley Hotel, Spokane	June 24	(360) 753-1886
WAPA Spring Training Program	Spokane		(360) 753-2175
JULY 2003			
CPO Training - RESOLVE Conflicts and Build Relationships (WCRP Sponsored Elective Course)	Spokane	July 29	(360) 753-1886
SEPTEMBER 2003			
WAPA Special Assault Training Program	Leavenworth	September 3 - 5	(360) 753-2175
WAPA Juvenile Training Program	Leavenworth	September 7 - 9	(360) 753-2175
CPO Training - Ethical Dilemmas: Integrity as a Tool for Successful Public Officials	SeaTac	September 30	(360) 753-1886
NOVEMBER 2003			
CPO Training - Making a Difference in County Communications: Speak and Write More Confidently	TBD	November 6	(360) 753-1886

Counties, Ecology and Water Conservancy Boards Workshop

Since the Legislature first authorized counties to establish conservancy boards in 1997, questions have come up from time to time regarding the relationship between conservancy boards and county government. Conservancy board members are interested in how boards operate in other counties. And, as a result of increased engagement of county government in water resources

management, counties have a growing interest in how conservancy boards and counties interact with each other, too.

The Washington State Association of Counties and the Department of Ecology are jointly sponsoring an opportunity to explore and discuss issues of mutual interest to counties and conservancy boards in a workshop format on June 12, 2003. The workshop will take place at the Ellensburg Inn from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00.

There is no charge for the workshop;

morning coffee and lunch will be provided compliments of the Department of Ecology and the Washington State Association of Counties. But, in order to have adequate seating and enough food, we must know in advance if you plan to attend. There is room for 75 participants.

Please respond to Barbara Warden, Washington State Association of Counties at 360-753-1886 or bwarden@wacounties.org by no later than 8:00am, June 9.

Training and Upcoming Events (continued)

FY 2005 TIB Funding Program Workshops Transportation Improvement Board

The Transportation Improvement Board has scheduled 28 funding workshops across the state between June 9th and June 26th. Fifteen of the workshops will focus on the Small City

Program and the Small City Pedestrian Safety and Mobility Program, available to cities with a population under 5,000. The other 13 workshops will describe the application process for TIB's Arterial Improvement Program, Transportation Partnership Program, and Urban Pedestrian Safety and Mobility Program, which are available to cities with a population of 5,000 and more, and the urban areas of counties.

Workshop Schedules

<http://www.tib.wa.gov/Applications/applications.htm>

On-Line Workshop Registration

<http://www.tib.wa.gov/Applications/WorkshopRegistration.htm>

Courthouse Ramblings

The Washington State Boundary Review Board for King County has moved to a new location. They have moved from their old location at 810 Third Avenue, Seattle. Their new address is 400 Yesler Way, Room 220, Seattle, WA 98104.

* * * * *

The Pierce County Council is meeting on June 4 to discuss a proposal to change the county sheriff to an elected position. It would take five of seven council

members to agree to ask voters to change the county's home rule charter with regard to an elected sheriff. The original charter was approved in 1980. Currently, Pierce County is the only county in the state with an appointed sheriff. King County voters approved a charter amendment in the 1996 general election to change from an appointed to an elected sheriff.

* * * * *

Skamania County is moving to all-mail voting beginning with the September 16

primary election, according to auditor Mike Garvison. Commissioners decided April 21 to split one of the county's 25 precincts. The county now has 26 precincts with none having more than 200 active voters. Under state law, precincts with less than 200 voters can be converted to all-mail balloting. Skamania County previously has had only seven all-mail voting precincts. Four counties in the state have now moved totally to vote-by-mail: Clallam, Ferry, Pend Oreille and Skamania.

Calendar of Events

	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Information</i>
2003 MEETINGS			
Western Interstate Region (WIR) Annual Conference	Reno-Sparks, NV	May 28 - 31	www.naco.org
Washington State Association of County Auditors' Annual Conference	Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop	June 11 - 13	(360) 249-4232
Washington State Association of County Assessors' Conference	Okanogan	June 16 - 18	(360) 336-9370
Washington State Association of County Treasurers' Annual Conference	Davenport Hotel, Spokane	June 16 - 20	(360) 378-2171
WAPA Summer Conference	Chelan	June 18- 20	(360) 753-2175
Association of Washington Cities Annual Conference	Red Lion Grand Hotel at the Park, Spokane	June 18- 20	(360) 753-4137
Washington State Association of County Clerks' Annual Conference	Silverdale Hotel, Silverdale	June 23 - 27	(509) 427-9431
WCIF Board of Trustees	DoubleTree Valley Hotel, Spokane	June 24	(360) 586-0466
WSAC 97 th Annual Summer Convention	DoubleTree Valley Hotel, Spokane	June 24 - 27	(360) 753-1886
NACo Annual Conference	Milwaukee, WI	July 11 - 15	www.naco.org
Association of County Human Services (ACHS)	Vancouver	July 16 - 18	(360) 786-5585
IACREOT Conference	Denver, CO	July 29 - August 3	www.iacreot.com
WCIP Board of Directors Rate Setting	Wyndham Gardens, SeaTac	August 21	(360) 586-0466
Washington State Association of County Assessors' Fall Conference	Red Lion, Kennewick	September 8 - 11	(360) 336-9370
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 9 - 12	www.geocities.com/wsacrp
WSAC Fall Eastern District Meeting	Marcus Whitman Center, Walla Walla	September 11 - 12	(360) 753-1886
Association of County Human Services (ACHS)	Moses Lake	September 17 - 19	(360) 786-5585
WCIF/WCIP Insurance Advisory Committee 2004 Renewal Meeting, WCIP and WCIF Board of Directors	WestCoast Hotel, SeaTac	September 18	(360) 586-0466
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac	September 29 - October 3	(360) 753-7319
WCIF Board of Trustees	DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac	October 1	(360) 586-0466

Calendar of Events (continued)

WSAC Fall Western District Meeting	DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac	October 2	(360) 753-1886
WCIF/WCIP A.C.E. Committee Meeting	Yakima	October 15	(360) 586-0466
L & I Retro Fall Meeting	TBD	October 16	(360) 753-1886
WASPC Fall Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	November 17 - 20	(360) 486-2380
Association of County Human Services (ACHS)	Seattle	November 19 - 21	(360) 786-5585
2004 MEETINGS			
NACo Legislative Conference	Hilton Washington & Towers, Washington, DC	February 27 - March 2	www.naco.org
WSAC Spring Eastern District Meeting	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	April 8 - 9	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Spring Western District Meeting	Heathman Lodge, Vancouver	April 22 - 23	(360) 753-1886
WASPC Spring Conference	Yakima Convention Center, Yakima	May 24 - 27	(360) 486-2380
National Sheriffs' Association	Seattle	June (TBD)	www.sheriffs.org
WSAC 98 th Annual Summer Convention	Pierce County, Sheraton, Tacoma	June 22 - 25	(360) 753-1886
WAPA Summer Conference	Chelan	June 23 - 25	(360) 753-2175
NACo Annual Conference	Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ	July 16 - 20	www.naco.org
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 14 - 17	www.geocities.com/wsacrpdc
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	Spokane	October 4 - 8	(360) 753-7319
WASPC Fall Conference	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	November 15 - 18	(360) 486-2380
2005 MEETINGS			
NACo Legislative Conference	Marriot Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC	March 3 - 4	www.naco.org
WASPC Spring Conference	WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee	May 23 - 26	(360) 486-2380
WSAC 99 th Annual Summer Convention	WestCoast Hotel at Columbia Center, Kennewick	June 13 - 16	(360) 753-1886
WAPA Summer Conference	Chelan	June 22 - 24	(360) 753-2175
NACo Annual Conference (City & County of Hawaii)	Honolulu, HI	July 15 - 19	www.naco.org
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 13 - 16	www.geocities.com/wsacrpdc

Calendar of Events (continued)

WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	Ocean Shores	October 3 - 7	(360) 753-7319
2006 MEETINGS			
WSAC 100 th Annual Summer Convention	TBD	June TBD	(360) 753-1886
NACo Annual Conference	Denver, CO	July 21 - 26	www.naco.org
2007 MEETINGS			
NACo Annual Conference (Sponsored by the counties in the Metropolitan Richmond Area)	Richmond, VA	TBD	www.naco.org