

the Courthouse Journal

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Courthouse Journal*

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**Have a Safe
and Happy
Summer!**

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

Ecology Director to Meet with Counties Regarding Future of Columbia River

Over the last year, counties have engaged in discussions with the Department of Ecology regarding the future of the Columbia River -- and in other meetings, watershed planning. Discussions with Linda Hoffman, the previous Director of the Department, yielded useful results in resolving difficulties in watershed planning. A number of Commissioners from Eastern Washington then expressed concerns about the Columbia River Initiative but agreed to continue to engage in discussions with Ecology.

The Governor temporarily ceased discussions of the Columbia River Initiative when she took office last winter. Now, she is again exploring the future of Columbia River water with

legislators and other interested groups.

Ecology Director Jay Manning and WSAC Eastern District leadership have agreed to continue the tradition of direct engagement with county elected officials on this topic and others of joint interest next Tuesday, July 12, 2005, in Yakima. **All Eastern Washington Commissioners are invited to join in the discussion of the process and options at this point in time.**

The meeting will take place at 2:15 p.m. in the 2d Floor Conference Room at Ecology's Central Washington Regional Office, 15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200. Visitor parking is available across the street.

County Clerks Lead 2005 Scholarship Challenge

If you read the conference news closely, you will see that the County Clerks weren't joking when they issued Challenge 2005 to the Prosecuting Attorneys! They think they can raise more money for the Washington Counties Scholarship than the prosecutors can. The clerks set a goal of \$1500 - armed with whistles and assisted by a few dozen rubber duckies; they have donated to date a grand total of \$1155.00! The

prosecutors responded with a transmittal of \$215.00 and that amount is followed by the coroners with \$170.00.

King County Clerk Barb Miner Named Clerk of the Year

A highlight of every conference of the Washington State Association of

County Clerks (WSACC) is always the announcement of the clerk who has made outstanding contributions to the association, the public and the court system in Washington State. This year's award goes to Barb Miner, King County Clerk.

"Barb has been a leader in the association. She has been a tireless worker on committees addressing electronic access, court rules, legislation, collections, and anything else she is asked to do. She is intelligent, articulate and uses her resources to benefit every clerk's office in the state." "She is... a team player and a dedicated clerk."

Barb was chosen by a secret ballot of the clerks' association. She is the 22nd clerk to be honored since 1984. Congratulations, Barb!

The Courthouse Journal

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

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

Environment, Land Use and Resources

Commissioners in Counties Receiving Title 1 and 111 Funds

The time for completing your decision process and election of the distributions percentages for the 2005 federal fiscal year P.L. 106-393 funding is approaching quickly. You need to complete the election by the end of August and no later than end of the first week in September. Please forward your decisions to Paul Parker or Tom Robinson prior to September 9, 2005.

Please remember that the decision must be percentage based, not in dollars. Title I 80-85%; Title II-III 15-20% split anyway you choose. The total funding your county will receive will be the same as last year plus 1/2 of the consumer price index (CPI) percentage increase. For those new to this process, if a county fails to make an election decision the federal government will make it for you as follows: 85% to Title I, and 15% returned to the federal treasury with no funds in Title II or III. So

let's make sure we keep these important funds in the county, please put this decision process on your calendar now.

Tom will be out of the office on vacation until July 25. If you have questions before that time, please contact Paul Parker.

Public Health and Human Services

State Board of Health to Hear Onsite System Rule Revision

Wednesday, July 13, 2005 at the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia, the State Board of Health will hold a public hearing on revisions to Chapter 246-272A WAC, Small Onsite Sewage System Rule. Public testimony will

be taken and the Board may take action on the Rule. Materials for the July 13 2005 meeting will be available on the State Board of Health Web Site on July 8, 2005. The web address is: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/sboh>. The 2005 Legislative Session focused on onsite sewage systems and their

contribution to the pollution of Puget Sound and more specifically Hood Canal. At that time the State Board of Health was in the process of revising the rule, but it had not had a chance to go into effect.

Association News

Coroners & Medical Examiners Meet in Chelan County

On the beautiful shores of Lake Chelan the Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (WACME) met June 19-21. President Greg Sandstrom, Kitsap County Coroner presided over the meetings.

The gathering started with the Legislative Committee Meeting on Sunday. Dan Blasdel, Franklin County Coroner and chair of the WACME Legislative Committee lead the discussion regarding legislative priorities for the 2006 Legislative Session. The first order of business was a discussion of **SSB 5035** passed by the 2005 Legislature and how it revised the forensic pathology program. After much discussion on possible new priorities including fees, certifying reports electronically, presumption of death, two issues were approved to take before the WACO Board at their October Conference. Those priorities included 1) enhancing Washington State law to allow WACME to better identify missing persons and deceased remains; and 2) an update of their statutes within RCW 68.50. The Committee decided to ask the entire body to form a group to work on the rewrite at the general business meeting on Monday night.

Monday morning started a day long training session on inquests. The class was presented by William J. Lucas, M.D., C.C.F.P. a regional supervising coroner for Ontario Canada's Central Region. Tim Davidson, Cowlitz County Chief Deputy Coroner handled the various details of the training. Dr. Lucas gave an interesting and informative session that included Ontario's

experience, planning and conducting an inquest and culminating with a mock inquest. Fred Johnson, Wahkiakum County Prosecuting Attorney/Coroner presented various Washington State RCW's regarding inquests, inquest juries and other applicable legislation.

That evening WACME held a business meeting brought to order by President Sandstrom. The meeting included approval of minutes, the Association's financial report, committee reports and general discussion. New business included accreditation of coroner offices, organ procurement, and forensic anthropology. They also adopted the legislative priorities as recommended by the Legislative Committee and appointed a group to work on the rewrite of RCW 68.50.

On Tuesday, training continued with a death notification class by Chaplain Lyle Praither, PhD followed by information from the Washington State Toxicology Laboratory presented by Ann Marie Gordon. After lunch several individuals stayed to take the ABMDI testing proctored by Joseph Frisino from the King County Medical Examiner's Office.

Walla Walla County Hosts County Auditors

County Auditors from over 30 counties gathered under the sunny skies of Walla Walla, June 14-16, and just kept on working after a long legislative session and the most historical election in Washington State history. Walla Walla County Auditor Karen Martin hosted the 99th Annual Conference of the Washington State Association of

County Auditors (WSACA). Jefferson County Auditor Donna Eldridge, vice-president of the group, presided over the meeting. President Corky Mattingly of Yakima County obviously enjoyed her role as honored guest!

On the opening day of the conference, the auditors had an early morning tour of the Washington State Penitentiary and observed the production of license plates. A background check and dress code play a major role in any tour of the facility.

WSACA members wasted little time in selecting their leadership for the coming year as they cast a unanimous ballot for Jefferson County Auditor Donna Eldridge, President; Walla Walla County Auditor Karen Martin, Vice President; Secretary, Thad Duvall, Douglas County; Treasurer, Norma Brummett, Skagit County; WACO Representative, Mike Garvison, Skamania County; Eastern District, Shelly Johnston, Lincoln County; Southwest, Diane Tischer, Wahkiakum County; Northwest, Shirley Forslof, Whatcom County; Central, Diana Housden, Klickitat County.

Snohomish County Auditor Bob Terwilliger reported on behalf of the Recording Committee. The consensus is that all recording fee increases should become effective on August 1 to make it easier on customers. **HB 1386** gives \$1.00 to county commissioners for historical projects and requires a new BARS code. The homelessness bill exempts the Office of Support Enforcement from payment of the additional \$2.00 but not the original \$3.00 surcharge

Association News (continued)

for historical documents. With the fee increases, a one page document will cost \$32.00 to record and a marriage license can cost \$64.00. There was also discussion about which documents coming from the treasurer would require a real estate excise tax stamp (**HB 1158**).

Kyle Mussman, owner of the Marcus Whitman Hotel, site of the WSACA Conference, gave an historical "walk" through the hotel and recounted the details of the \$30 million restoration. The Marcus Whitman was built in 1927, has welcomed guests including Shirley Temple, Al Jolson and President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Initial investors gathered up \$300,000 in 90 days to start the project. The building is off of square by 1/8" north to south and 1/16" east to west. It has 95 rooms.

Douglas County Auditor Thad Duvall and Pacific County Auditor Pat Gardner, chairs of the Licensing Committee reported back to the group on a proposal to train and certify licensing personnel and include it in the contracts with the Department of Licensing. The subject was tabled until later in the conference but the proposal was later approved. The 2006 WAVS Conference will be held at Sun Mountain Lodge at Winthrop.

Following a report by Legislative Chairs, Pierce County Auditor Pat McCarthy and Thurston County Auditor Kim Wyman, the county auditors unanimously endorsed the WACO proposal to move up the legislative process and adopted their #1 legislative priority which will be considered for inclusion in the WACO package which is moving up

the primary date to the third Tuesday in August, as outlined in **HB 2027** this session.

Nick Handy, State Director of Elections, and Lura Sheahan, Voter Outreach Manager, addressed the top priorities of the Secretary of State: Voter Outreach and the Elections Certification Program. Their objective is to engage and educate the voting public by restoring voter confidence and informing the public about the "Top Two" Primary and the changes due to election reform. Nick was definitely the "man of the hour" as auditors cheered "he's our man" for his efforts in the election contest.

Wednesday lunch was a highlight of the conference as Secretary of State Sam Reed awarded Kim Wyman for Voter Outreach of 2005 and Pat McCarthy for "Auditor of the Year." Reed also noted that the lawsuit in Federal District Court involving the Republican Party suing nine counties over the upcoming primary election will be heard on July 13 and the judge who is presiding has promised a decision on July 15.

The educational segment of the conference was devoted to "Winning Communications" with Michael Buschmohle. His presentation ran the gamut from e-mails that get the job done to writing with emphasis, great meetings, taking complaints with composure to perking up your presentations. Michael's other clients have appeared on Oprah, Good Morning America and the Today Show.

Following the oath of office to new officers on Thursday by Corky Mattingly, the following committee

assignments were made for the coming year:

Elections: Carla Heckford and Shelly Johnston
Legislative: Bob Terwilliger and Suzanne Sinclair
Finance: Evelyn Arnold and Mike Garvison
Licensing: Thad Duvall and Pat Gardner
Recording: TBD
Memorials: Donna Deal
Nominations: Sharon Richter and Eunice Coker

Plans were also made for the 2006 Conference in Pierce County in May, which will be the 100th anniversary of the association. Auditors are encouraged to invite previous auditors from their respective counties.

WSACA also voted to support voter education and provide association funding if necessary. WSACA will also apply for HAVA funding through the Secretary of State's Office to enable the association to hire a consultant to assist them. Corky Mattingly will chair a task force manned by Bob Terwilliger, Kris Swanson, Evelyn Arnold, and Carla Heckford.

"Did the auditors have any fun?" you ask! The pictures in this issue are worth much more than a million words!

County Clerks Convene in Silverdale

The Washington State Association of County Clerks (WSACC) met in beautiful Silverdale June 20-24 for the association's 99th Annual Conference. Early arrivals enjoyed a tour of the Keyport Undersea

Association News (continued)

Warfare Museum arranged by their host Kitsap County Clerk Dave Peterson.

President Betty Gould, Thurston County Clerk, presided over the conference. Following opening ceremonies including the presentation of colors and a stirring rendition of the National Anthem by Pacific County Clerk Virginia Leach, County Administrator Cris Gears welcomed the clerks to Kitsap County.

Guest speakers for the conference included the Honorable Brian Sonntag, State Auditor; his Chief of Staff Ted Rutt; and, State Administrator of the Courts Janet McLane. Educational offerings throughout the week included a session on "Ethics" given by Pierce County Deputy Prosecutor Denise Greer; "Auditing, Fraud and Budgeting" by Joe Dervaes and Christopher Cortines; "LFO and Crime Victims' Updates" by Linda Carmen and Paula Derr from State Labor and Industries; "Access to Court Records" by Thomas Kuffel, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for King County. Chelan County Clerk Siri Woods and President Betty Gould prepared a New County Clerk's Manual full of valuable and readily available information.

The clerks rounded off the week with business meeting, committee work, roundtable discussions and panels. Their legislative priorities for 2006 are to pursue passage of **HB 1471**, authentication of documents, and a cleanup bill.

Fun and games for the week included a barbecue at the home of Dave Peterson and several hilarious and successful efforts to raise money

for the Washington Counties' Scholarship Fund. Each attendee was given a whistle and the use of acronyms was strictly outlawed. Whenever one was used and a whistle blew, a fine was levied. In addition to watching the whistle, each person received a rubber ducky for which they were responsible. If the ducky was kidnapped, they had to bail it out of a facility designed for the incarceration of rubber duckies. The grand event required everyone to design and build a boat to race in a drain gutter. Chelan County Clerk Siri Woods stole the show with her prize winning pirate ship the "Rumbucket." Racers showed great ingenuity and creativity in fueling their vessels and in sail design. Only a real sailor would think of using canned air and credit cards! All this fun netted over \$900 for the Scholarship Fund. WSACC has issued a challenge of \$1500 to the prosecutors for 2005.

Judge Daniel J. Berschauer, retired from Thurston County Superior Court, acted as Master of Ceremonies at the Thursday evening banquet and swore in the Clerks' Board of Directors: President Pam Daniels, Snohomish County; Director of Committees Fawn Opp, Pend Oreille County; Director of Communications Nancy Scott, Skagit County; Director of Legislation Barbara Miner; Director of Education and Conferences Kathy Martin, Walla Walla County; Treasurer Patty Chester, Stevens County; and, WACO Representative Siri Woods, Chelan County. They will serve until June 2007.

Special guests at the conference were retired county clerks who included Winona Hammonds who

retired from Grays Harbor in 1977; Jackie Busse, who succeeded Ms. Hammond in Grays Harbor from 1977 to 2000; Phyllis Wika, Wahkiakum County (1977 to 1994); Gail Hatfield, Pacific County (1979 to 1998); Donna Karvia, Lewis County (1984 to 1998); Marianne Walters, Jefferson County (1977 to 1994). Teri Neilsen, who resigned as Cowlitz County Clerk early this year, was a guest and a speaker for the Administrator for the Courts Office.

The WSACC 100th Annual Conference will be held in Pasco June 19-23, 2006. All former county clerks will be invited. WSACC members are asking help from every county to locate all of them.

Prosecuting Attorneys Train at Chelan

Thirty-four Prosecuting Attorneys attended the Summer Training Conference from June 22 to June 24. The elected Prosecutors met on June 22 to discuss various issues such as: contract liability provisions between counties and the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS); changes to the felony prosecution forms; and allocation of federal victim funds. Ron Shepherd of Lincoln County was elected President of the Association, taking office on January 1, 2006.

During the elected prosecutor meeting, it was decided to request a meeting with the Washington Supreme Court for December of 2005. They also met with the new Chief of the Washington State Patrol, John Batiste, and with the new Executive Director of WASPC, Don Pierce.

Starting on the afternoon of June 22 and continuing through

Association News (continued)

noon of June 24, sixteen hours of accredited continuing legal education was provided. WAPA trained over 200 criminal division attorneys and over 100 civil division attorneys during the conference. This training meets the yearly requirements for individual attorneys to practice law, as set by the Washington Supreme Court.

Boards and Commissions

Legislature Creates Capital Projects Advisory Review Board

County representation is sought for a new advisory board on capital projects created by **ESHB 1830** in the 2005 legislative session. The Capital Projects Advisory Review Board is tasked with evaluating public capital projects construction processes, including the use of contracting methods on project outcomes, and to advise the legislature on alternative public works delivery methods.

Two members of the Board will represent local public owners (counties, cities, and ports) on a rotating basis. In discussion with AWC and the Washington Public Ports Association, we have determined that the organization without a seat shall supply the first alternate.

Any county commissioner, councilmember, administrator or public works director interested in representing counties on this board should contact Paul Parker at WSAC staff with a brief letter or e-mail indicating interest, commitment and qualification by July 22, 2005.

Off-Road Vehicle Noise Management Task Force Gets Ready to Rumble

The Legislature has created an ORV Noise Management Task Force to investigate issues relating to ORV noise and relating to ORV access to public and private lands. **ESB 5089** calls for:

(a) Three county commissioners, one representing counties with a population of two hundred thousand or more people and two representing counties with populations of fewer than two hundred thousand people

Other Task Force representatives will come from port districts; the department of natural resources, the department of ecology, the interagency committee for outdoor recreation, the parks and recreation commission, off-road vehicle manufacturers, the United States forest service, recreational users and interested citizens.

The committee shall review the following issues:

- (a) The appropriateness and enforceability of current decibel requirements for off-road vehicles;
- (b) The appropriateness of any

off-road vehicle usage requirements that would minimize nuisance noise impacts on those not operating the off-road vehicle;

(c) The applicability and consistency of local ordinances concerning noise and off-road vehicle usage; and

(d) The availability of, and barriers to, using public lands or other large ownerships to create areas where off-road vehicles can be operated with minimum noise disturbance of neighbors.

Any county commissioner, councilmember, or staff appointee representing county officials should contact Paul Parker, WSAC staff with a brief letter or e-mail indicating interest, commitment and qualification by July 22, 2005.

Calendar of Events

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Information</i>
For your convenience training and workshops are bolded.			
<u>JULY 2005</u>			
2 nd Annual Pend Oreille Valley Lavender Festival	Pend Oreille County	July 9-10	http://www.co.pend-oreille.wa.us/
Property Records Industry Association (PRIA) Annual Conference	Honolulu, Hawaii	July 13-14	www.pria.us
National Association of Clerks, Recorders and Elections Officials (NACRC) Annual Conference (with NACo)	Honolulu, Hawaii	July 15-17	www.nacrc.org
National Association of Counties' (NACo) Annual Conference	Honolulu, Hawaii	July 15-19	www.naco.org
National District Attorneys' Association (NDAA) Annual Summer Conference	Portland, Maine	July 17-20	(360) 753-7319
Assn of County Human Services	Wenatchee	July 20-22	(360) 753-1886
Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Training, 1 pm	Red Lion Hanford House, Richland	July 26	(360) 586-7447
Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Annual Board Workshop, 1 - 5 pm	Red Lion Hanford House, Richland	July 27	(360) 586-7447
Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Annual Board Meeting, 9 am	Red Lion Hanford House, Richland	July 28	(360) 586-7447
<u>AUGUST 2005</u>			
Washington State Association of County Assessors' Annual Conference	Davenport Hotel, Spokane	August 8-11	(360) 753-7319
Washington Counties Insurance Pool (WCIP) Board Only 2006 Rate Setting	Prime Hotel at SeaTac (formerly Wyndham Gardens)	August 18	(360) 586-0466
Ethics – CPO Program	Spokane	August 24	http://www.cpoprogram.org/
Meet the Media – CPO Program	Spokane	August 25	http://www.cpoprogram.org/
<u>SEPTEMBER 2005</u>			
LABOR DAY	WA Counties Bldg CLOSED	September 5	(360) 753-1886
Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) Juvenile Training Program	Icicle Inn, Leavenworth	Sept. 11-13	(360) 753-2175
WA Finance Officers' Association (WFOA) Annual Conference	SeaTac	Sept. 13 -16	(360) 753-7319
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	Sept. 13 - 16	www.geocities.com/wsacrpdc
Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) Special Assault Training Program	Icicle Inn, Leavenworth	Sept. 14 -16	(360) 753-2175
Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF)/Washington Counties Insurance Pool (WCIP) Boards & Insurance Advisory Committee	Radisson Hotel, SeaTac	Sept. 15	(360) 586-0466

Calendar of Events (continued)

International Association of Assessing Officers' (IAAO) Annual Conference	Anchorage, Alaska	Sept. 16-21	(360) 753-7319
13 th NW Onsite Wastewater Treatment Short Course & Equipment Exhibition	Seattle, WA - hosted by University of Washington	Sept. 19 - 20	Christy Roop Pack (206) 543-5539
WA State Assn of Local Public Health Officials	Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, Vancouver	Sept. 19 - 20	(360) 753-1886
WSAC 99 th Annual Conference & Fall Western District	Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, Vancouver	Sept. 20 - 23	www.wacounties.org/wsac
Assn of County Human Services	Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, Vancouver, WA	Sept. 21 - 23	(360) 753-1886
Course TBD – CPO Program	Hilton Hotel & Conference Center, Vancouver, WA	Sept. 23	http://www.cpoprogram.org/