

the Courthouse Journal

W A C O U N T I E S . O R G

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

Washington State Association of Counties' Centennial Conference a Resounding Success

Held under crystal blue skies and mild 75 degree temperatures, the 100th Annual Conference of the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) was held the week of September 25 – 29th in Spokane at the Doubletree Hotel Spokane City Center. In fitting commemoration of the original conference held in 1906 in Bellingham, the conference was joint with the Washington State Association of County Engineers (WSACE). A separate article will cover the events held by the Engineers in Spokane, but the two groups mixed and got together in a variety of formats over the full week concluding with the Joint Centennial Reception and Banquet held Thursday evening, September 28.



WSAC kicked off the week on Monday, September 25, with a broad-ranging discussion on growth management attended by some 20 County Commissioners, Councilmembers, staff and citizen planning commission members. The discussion was led by Sandy Mackie, an Olympia-based attorney with Perkins Coie. Mr. Mackie provided an overview of the Growth Management Act, current rulings from the Hearings Boards and the Courts, and the implications of these rulings on future county decisions establishing Urban Growth Area Boundaries, activities in rural areas, protecting critical areas and integrating shoreline management planning and resource land zoning. During the evening the Timber Counties met for dinner and were joined by Paul Beddoe, the National Association of County Officials' (NACo) Associate Legislative Director for Public Lands.



At dawn on Tuesday, September 26, some 30 county elected officials accompanied by WSAC staff met with 23 members of the Washington State Senate for an early breakfast and informal exchange of information at the historic Davenport Hotel where the State Senate was holding their September Committee Assembly Days. The event was chaired

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We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly / bi-weekly deadline is noon Wednesdays.

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by Sen. Jim Kastama, Chair, Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee. Senators in attendance were Sens. Kastama, Regala, Pridemore, Hargrove, Fraser, Mullikan, Sheldon, Brandland, Rockefeller, Morton, Schoesler, Parlette, Honeyford, Franklin, Rasmussen, Swecker, Doumit, Berkey, McCaslin, Spanel, Hewitt, Brown, and Haugen. Our apologies if we missed anyone.

The agenda was a presentation by WSAC members: Commissioner Leo Bowman, Benton – County Government 101; Commissioner Todd Mielke, Spokane – Growing our Local Economies; Commissioner Mary Hunt, Douglas – Assisting County Government Deliver Effective and Efficient Programs and Services; Commissioner LeRoy Allison, Grant – Direct Financial Assistance for County Services; and Commissioner Dean Burton, Garfield – County-State Partnership. This was followed by questions and answers from both the Senators and many county elected officials present.

The rest of Tuesday almost seemed anticlimactic, but the business of the Association got underway with both a Western and Eastern District Meeting, a meeting of the Financial Services Corporation quickly followed by the Legislative Steering Committee (LSC), the Urban County Caucus, Rural Issues Subcommittee and Board of Directors meetings. The two districts confirmed officers for the upcoming year. The Western District will be led by President Kenneth Dahlstedt, Skagit; Vice-President Lynda Ring-Erickson, Mason; Secretary-Treasurer, John Koster, Snohomish; At-Large, Bill Byrd, Island; and Board of Directors alternates Mark Linquist, Wahkiakum and Don Munks, Skagit. The Eastern District will be led by President Mary Lou Peterson, Okanogan; Vice-President Joan Frey, Klickitat; Secretary-Treasurer Keith Goehner, Chelan; At-Large, Merrill Ott, Stevens; and Board alternates Buck Lane, Asotin and Ted Hopkins, Lincoln.

Both the Urban County Caucus and the Rural Issues Subcommittee met for working lunches. The Urban County Caucus met and unanimously re-elected Gary Nelson, Snohomish County Councilmember, as Chair and Todd Mielke, Spokane County Commissioner, Vice-Chair of the caucus. The caucus reviewed its priorities for consideration by the LSC as the LSC sets WSAC legislative priorities for the 2007 session to be considered by the full membership. The Caucus membership also unanimously approved a change to the WSAC Bylaws to reduce the population threshold from 210,000 to 180,000 for membership in the Urban County Caucus. This change will enable Whatcom County to join the caucus.

The Rural Issues Subcommittee elected Ken Oliver, Pend Oreille and Lynda Ring-Erickson, Mason as co-chairs for the upcoming year. The group thanked their departing co-chairs Mark Linquist, Wahkiakum and Mary Lou Peterson, Okanogan for all their hard work. Two main topics for discussion were Skagit County's establishment of instream flow requirements and their settlement with the state Department of Ecology. The group also discussed potential septic system maintenance requirements being imposed by the state as a result of last year's legislation.

In the afternoon, the LSC met and adopted several revised policy statements and additional policy positions in the Environment, Land Use and Resources

area as well as adopted the Agriculture Study Group memo and took a first review of the group's draft policy statement materials. After a lengthy and lively discussion about the size and number of the legislative priorities package, a motion was made and seconded to table their final adoption pending a narrowing of focus for discussion and adoption at the December 8 LSC meeting to be held at the Olympia Red Lion from 10:30 – 2:30 in conjunction with the WSAC New Officials Training. WSAC staff also briefed the Committee on what appears to be a very poor and unjustified decision by DSHS' Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse to contract outside of counties for outpatient chemical dependency services. This issue will continue to be tracked.

The final meeting of the day was the Board of Directors' meeting. The vast majority of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the merits of an amicus curiae brief in the Whitman County I-747 case. The motion to author such a brief was adopted by a vote of 13 – 7. In other business, it was noted that a special Board meeting has been called for December 8 in Olympia, Executive Director Vogler was approved to bring forth legislation authorizing pension benefits for associations next year, Yakima was set as the site for the November 2008 Annual Conference site, a proposed amendment was adopted to the Association of County Human Services bylaws, the Agriculture Study Committee recommendations were adopted, and the position to staff the County Engineers Association was withdrawn.

On Wednesday, the formal opening ceremonies began the conference events for everyone. The attendees were greeted by the two association presidents for WSAC and WSACE respectively, Dean Burton, Garfield, and Ross Dunfee, Benton County Public Works Director/County Engineer. Mayor Dennis Hession, City of Spokane and Board of Commissioners Chair, Todd Mielke, Spokane County welcomed everyone. They were joined by Eric Coleman, NACo President-Elect, Oakland County, Michigan who greeted the assemblage on behalf of NACo. A brief business meeting was held which included nominations for WSAC Secretary-Treasurer and accompanying voting procedures, a report on proposed bylaws changes and the introduction of the 2007 legislative package by the two co-chairs of the LSC, Mary Hunt, Douglas, and Don Munks, Skagit. The two nominees for Secretary-Treasurer were Mary Hunt, Douglas and Todd Mielke, Spokane.

The next event was one of the highlights of the conference as the audience was graced with the presence of our country's third president, President Thomas Jefferson. President Jefferson spoke most eloquently and wisely about a number of important matters and affairs of state including slavery, church and state, diplomacy and common sense in politics.

Wednesday afternoon included the first of the "cracker-barrel sessions" where three of our Gold – level sponsors were given the opportunity to present information about their products and services. These were US Communities, the Washington Counties Risk Pool and Interlocking Software. We want to thank them again for being our partners. The cracker barrel was followed by two concurrent interactive workshops.

The Tribal Tax workshop transformed into a roundtable discussion with several commissioners on a wide range of topics. Craig Bill, Director, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, and Kelly Croman, Legal Affairs Director for the Squaxin Island Tribe, fielded questions related to treaty rights, water law, building relationships with Tribes, how to include local government in state agency discussions with Tribes, and lastly, taxes. WSAC will be working with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs to provide more educational opportunities to WSAC members on Indian law and to improve communication with the state on common Tribal issues. The other workshop was on integrating and coordinating permitting activities. This was moderated by Mark Kulaas, Douglas County Director of Land Services. He was joined by Faith Lumsden, Director, Governor's Office of Regulatory Assistance, Lisa Parks, Alliance Consulting Group with the Department of Transportation's Environmental Services Office and Carrie Berry, the Liaison Branch Manager, also with DOT's Environmental Services Office and the manager of the Transportation Permitting Efficiency and Accountability Committee (TPEAC). It brought the audience up to date on the successes of TPEAC and its future.

To celebrate our exhibitors (some 40 different vendors participated), the Centennial Reception was held among their colorful and informative booths on Wednesday evening. See the list of all our exhibitors in a separate article. The Reception was accompanied by the annual Clerk's Silent and Live Auction which was very successful due in no small part to the energy and commentary provided by guest auctioneer, Commissioner Perry Huston, Kittitas.

Thursday, September 28 was another sunny and warm day in Spokane. It was filled with additional concurrent interactive workshops such as I-747, the 1 percent limit on property taxes; I-601, the smoking ban; affordable housing and ending homelessness; and Columbia River Water Management. The morning was keyed off by a brief history of the public mental health system and current challenges facing our RSNs presented by Richard Kellogg, DSHS' Mental Health Division Director.

The session on the Initiative 747 case was standing room only. Earlier in the week, the WSAC Board of Directors, in a 13-7 decision approved the filing of an amicus brief at the Washington State Supreme Court in support of the respondents' arguments that Initiative 747 violated provisions of the State Constitution. The respondents include Whitman County. Commissioner Greg Parth provided the members with some background on the case and Whitman County's role. Knoll Lowney, lead attorney for the respondents, briefed the members on the arguments to be presented to the court, such as Initiative 747 failed to set forth in full the law being amended as required by the State Constitution and had a defective ballot title. Jim Justin, Assistant Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the Association of Washington Cities (AWC), also briefed members on the conversations AWC and WSAC have had with leaders in the executive and legislative branches on the case.

In the second workshop, Ward Hinds, M.D., Health Officer, Snohomish Health District, Kim Thorburn, M.D., Health Officer, Spokane Regional Health District and Rick Porso, Public Health Manager, Tacoma-Pierce Health Department brought their audience up to date on implementation of the no-smoking ban, its successes and challenges. The workshops were followed by the second of our "cracker barrel sessions" which included two other Gold-level sponsors, Nationwide Retirement Solutions and the Washington Counties Insurance Fund. Again, we want to thank them for partnering with us.

After an inspirational and thought-provoking presentation on healing the partisan divide by Donna Zajonc, author, "The Politics of Hope", and co-founder of the Bainbridge Leadership Group at lunch, two more workshops filled the afternoon hours.

Representative Mark Miloscia (D-Federal Way), Assistant Director Stephen Buxbaum, Housing Division, Department of Community Trade and Economic Development (DCTED), Phoebe Nelson, Executive Director, Women's Resource Center, Wenatchee, and Bill Block, Executive Director, King County Coalition to End Homelessness provided examples of the required 10-year plans to end homelessness, the challenges for performance from the legislature and available assistance from DCTED to an audience of approximately 25 members. The moderator was Mary Hunt, Douglas, who is the Eastern Washington representative to the Governor's Affordable Housing Advisory Board. Key issues were the involvement of local officials, siting challenges, cost, and outcome measurements.

Department of Ecology's Derek Sandison and Gerry O'Keefe joined Stevens County Commissioner Merrill Ott to brief members on the Columbia River Basin Water Management Program including information on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the preliminary list of potential water storage projects.



Even past Presidents got in the act!
Pictured L-R: Ross Dunfee, Benton county PW Director/CE, Harold Moss, Former Pierce County Councilmember, and Dean Burton, Garfield County Commissioner & WSAC President

Thursday evening was the Joint Centennial Reception and Banquet at which past presidents of WSAC, former members, retiring members, honored guests and dignitaries were all celebrated (see separate article). There was a joint cutting of two formal cakes (and they were good too!) to celebrate the occasion by WSAC President Dean Burton and WSACE President Ross Dunfee.

In addition, due to canvassing board duties back home in Benton County for Leo, President Burton inducted the new WSAC officers for the next year. They are President Leo Bowman,



Pictured L-R: Mary Hunt - Douglas County Commissioner, Chris Endresen - Kitsap County Commissioner, Leo Bowman - Benton County Commissioner and Dean Burton - Garfield County Commissioner.

Benton, Vice-President Chris Endresen, Kitsap, and after an honorable and well-fought election, Secretary-Treasurer, Mary Hunt, Douglas. WSAC wants to welcome its new officers.

And finally, last but not least, Friday arrived. The skies were still blue; the weather was still warm and sunny. We were privileged to have the State Senate Majority Leader, Senator Lisa Brown (D-Spokane) and Senate Minority Whip, Senator Mark Schoesler (R-Ritzville) join us for breakfast. We want to thank them warmly for joining us and for their message of the importance of economic health and development for all Washington.

Following breakfast were two final concurrent workshops. "One Year After Katrina: Lessons Learned and Local Applications" attracted a full audience of commissioners and engineers. Three of the four panelists were local or state emergency management professionals who had attended the NACo-sponsored "Restoration Conference," last May in New Orleans. They were Cindy Bricker, Thurston County, Jody Woodcock, Pierce County Emergency Management and Capt. Clark Palmer, Washington State Patrol. The fourth panelist offered a view from the eye of the storm, so to speak. He was Benny Rousselle, President of Plaquemines Parish, LA, which suffered massive destruction during the storm. Mr. Rousselle reminded the audience that all disasters are local, and local officials have a duty to prepare for and implement local recovery efforts. He cautioned strongly against relying exclusively on outside resources, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). All the panelists touched on the broad theme of "relationships. The panel was moderated by Thurston County Commissioner Diane Oberquell, Chair, Governor's Emergency Management Council.

The other workshop was a discussion of marine resources issues on Puget Sound, the Northwest Straits and the open ocean coast. Jim Kramer from the Puget Sound Partnership joined San Juan County Councilmember Kevin Ranker and Snohomish County Councilmember Dave Somers to review the status of a proposal on "Puget Sound Governance" and requesting input from Commissioners and Councilmembers on the proposal.

The conference closed with the final business meeting of the general membership for 2006. Well-attended, the membership unanimously adopted the 2006-2007 Legislative Package, the 2007 WSAC Budget, proposed changes to the WSAC bylaws which added Whatcom County to the Urban Caucus, and received a variety of affiliate reports. The 2007 WSAC Budget includes the following:

- Adoption of a 7% dues increase, the first increase since 2003;
- Re-establishment of the Policy Analyst Position, eliminated in 2005; and
- Establishing a new Communications/Member Services Program Manager position.
- Note: the retiring Deputy Director for Urban Counties will not be replaced and the savings from that plus the dues increase will allow for the two program initiatives listed above.

Thanks to everyone for the best conference ever. Special thanks to all the hard-working WSAC staff and WSAC officers who contributed so much to our success. And thanks to Spokane County for being our gracious and welcoming host.

Thanks Again to All Our Sponsors and Exhibitors at the Centennial Conference

The Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) would like to take this opportunity to once more thank all of our sponsors and exhibitors at the 100th Annual Conference held September 25 – 29 in Spokane. We could not have done it without your help and support and we look forward to your partnership next year.

Sponsors:

Washington Counties Insurance Fund
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Nationwide Retirement Solutions
EKO system, Delivered by Interlocking Software
Halton Company
Western States Equipment
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Washington Refuse & Recycling Association

Exhibitors:

Automated Funds Transfer Services
Cascade Recreation, Inc.
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Veolia Water
Washington Counties Insurance Fund
Washington Counties Rsk Pool
Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geology & Earth Resources
Washington State Department of Labor & Industries
Washington State Library
Washington State Public Works Board
Waste Management of Washington

Environment, Land Use & Resources

Timber Counties Committee Meet in Spokane

The Timber Counties Committee met on September 25, 2006 at the fall conference. The agenda and the substantive discussions which followed resulted in a number of decisions.

Paul Beddoe, NACO, and Commissioner Al McKee, Skamania County, discussed the efforts to reauthorize PL 106-393 including the Washington DC fly-in. Over 200 individuals participated in the fly-in; Paul and Al indicated to the group that the effort was very successful in increasing the awareness of the issue and keeping it alive. Congress has not yet acted on the bill and will not address the issue further until after the fall elections. There is strong support to reauthorize the issue for at least one more year. More information to follow as it becomes available. Mr. Beddoe also discussed ongoing discussion and actions related to the Endangered Species Act.

Scott Furman, Assessor, Okanogan County, presented the current version of the Forest Taxation Legislation (S043-02), the Committee discussed the legislation and indicated a willingness to work with the Assessors to perfect the bill.

Bruce Mackey, Lands Steward DNR, discussed the current efforts to develop a long term strategy for conservation of marbled murrelets under the DNR HCP. The Olympic Peninsula and Southwest Washington areas are currently going through SEPA/NEPA scoping review. Bruce suggested that one alternative for the SEPA/NEPA review which might benefit counties that receive funds from State Forest lands, Forest Board Transfer and Purchase, might be a unitary trust concept for managing these lands. The Committee agreed to consider this issue further and appointed a sub-committee to develop the draft principles for a unitary trust for discussion at a future meeting of the Timber Counties. The following Commissioners were nominated for the sub-committee: Ted Anderson, Skagit County; Lynda Ring-Erickson, Mason County; Paul Pearce, Skamania County; Mike Doherty, Clallam County; and Dan Cothren, Wahkiakum County.

John Mankowski, Natural Resource Policy Director for the Governor's Office, discussed the Governor's petition to the Federal Government related to management of the roadless areas on USFS lands in Washington. John indicated that the 2005 federal policy for roadless areas has recently been over turned in the courts. This action places the 2001 rule back in effect. He also stated that an appeal has been filed in the recent case and that there are also pending court cases against the 2001 rule which were set aside when the 2005 rule took effect. The end result was that the Committee approved a comment letter to the Governor related to the petition and asked Tom Robinson to forward the comments to the Governor's office.

Councilmember Dave Somers, Snohomish County, introduced himself and discussed his role as County representative on the Forest Practices Board. The Committee discussed proposed changes to the forest practices rules related to the desired future conditions of riparian management areas. Comments related to proposed rule changes were presented by Tom Robinson and approved by the Committee for submission to the Forest Practices Board (FPB).

Commissioner Dan Cothren, Wahkiakum County, current Chair of the Timber Committee, asked the Timber Committee to reconsider the position of Committee Chair and asked for nominations for the position. A nomination was made and seconded from the floor to retain Commissioner Cothren as Chairman. No further nomination were received, Commissioner Cothren was re-elected unanimously. Commissioner Al McKee, Skamania County indicated that he was not running for re-election this year and that the Committee should consider his replacement on the Board of Directors of the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition (NFCSC). Commissioner Paul Pearce, Skamania County, was selected as Washington's nomination to the Board. Commissioner Pearce's name will be forwarded to the NFCSC Board for their consideration. Commissioner McKee also served as the county representative to the federal Inter-Agency Advisory Committee on the Northwest Forest Plan. Commissioner Paul Pearce was nominated as the new County Representative and Commissioner Bud Hover, Okanogan County, was nominated as Alternate to the position.

Tom Robinson presented a proposed memorandum of agreement for early and often communications between the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and Washington Counties to the members. This MOA mirrors an established MOA in Oregon which was implemented last year. The Committee approved and supported the proposal and asked that it be presented to the WSAC Board of Directors at the earliest opportunity for their consideration.

Agricultural Pilots Project Pre-proposal Requirements Streamlined and Deadline Extended

The deadline for pilot pre-proposals has been extended to October 20th, and the requirements have been streamlined to ease the submission of innovative and practical projects that demonstrate potential benefits for agriculture and the environment. Pre-proposals should be less than 5 pages and need not be overly detailed, but should clearly show the potential value and impact, and show that the project could soon be ready for implementation. Promising proposals will be invited for expansion and further detail.

Requirements for the pre-proposal due by October 20th are attached to this issue. Additional information about the project including Oversight Committee members and project selection criteria can be found at <http://pcc.wsu.edu/projects/agriculturalpilotsproject.html> . If you have questions, please contact agpilots@u.washington.edu or call (206) 616-6962.

Doing Right by West Coast Waters

Published in the Seattle P-I, Tuesday, October 3, 2006 – By KEVIN RANKER, GUEST COLUMNIST

I live on San Juan Island overlooking Haro Strait and am used to seeing our beloved southern resident orca whales swim past. Whenever I hear them outside my window, I can't help but smile. Whether we're fishing for salmon, chasing our kids around tide pools or listening to orcas, we should all experience the glory of the waters on our coast. Governor Chris Gregoire and her fellow West Coast governors have taken a bold step in that direction by launching a concerted effort to protect the health of the ocean.

This is a big move, and not just because it involved Governors' Christine Gregoire, Washington; Ted Kulongoski, Oregon; and Arnold Schwarzenegger, California. It's big because the ocean is big, with a lot of different people in different places making different decisions. Now we're going to start making the big, hard decisions together and treating our ocean the way scientists are saying we should, as a single, vast, interconnected web of life.

More than most people, Washington residents have a huge stake in doing right by our ocean waters. Roughly two-thirds of us live around Puget Sound with more people on the way. I worry about the impact of future development on these waters as so many people arrive. People come here because they appreciate what these waters have to offer. Whether it's a chance to catch a salmon or a job in one of several emerging marine-related fields, we need to protect those opportunities. The ocean is a growth industry here. We have more than 4,000 commercial fishing permits and 200,000 recreational fishing licenses. We're a national leader in shellfish aquaculture. Seattle's Delta Marine Industries last year launched the largest yacht built in the country in 75 years. Christensen Shipyards in Vancouver built Tiger Woods' yacht. Along with shipyards in Westport and Anacortes, they're employing hundreds. The state is also a leader in ocean research. University of California-Davis' SeaDoc Society on Orcas Island and the University of Washington's Friday Harbor lab here on San Juan Island host scientists from around the world.

By working to restore our waters, we create even more opportunities to become a research powerhouse and a center for emerging marine trades and technology. That research will benefit from the West Coast governors' endorsement of an ecosystem-based management approach that involves the entire web of life, including humans. We know too well how the struggles of our salmon and orcas are an emblem of larger problems around the Sound. We've seen two independent national studies report that our oceans are in trouble and need to be managed as whole ecosystems. We're seeing dead fish in Hood Canal. It's so much more pleasant to think of catching fish in Hood Canal or casting for them from a dock in Deer Harbor, once a guaranteed way of catching dinner and now largely a thing of the past. I'm looking forward to when it is once again a reality, when the sound of an orca is extraordinary on its own terms, not because there too few orcas left.

The West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health is getting us firmly on the road to improvement, creating more collaboration among local, state, tribal and federal governments. These waters are so much of what we are all about. It's time we all work on them together.

Kevin Ranker is a San Juan County Councilmember. He has more than 15 years' experience working on coastal and ocean policy/legislation at the local, regional, national and international level.

Public Health & Human Services

WSALPHO Meets in Spokane

In conjunction with the WSAC Centennial Conference, the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) also met on Thursday, September 28. Because this is the annual business meeting for WSALPHO, several orders of business were completed including new officers. Ngozi Oleru, Environmental Health Chief, Public Health – Seattle & King County succeeds Janet Davis, Community Health Director, Whatcom County Health Department, as WSALPHO Chair. Janet moves to Past Chair and Rick Mockler, Deputy Administrator, Snohomish Health District moves up to Chair-Elect. Larry Jecha, MD, Health Officer, Benton-Franklin Health District, was appointed to the position of Secretary-Treasurer on an interim basis while the WSALPHO Board of Directors reviews the WSALPHO Bylaws and develops a long-range strategic plan for WSALPHO.

WSALPHO members heard from each of the three Forums of WSALPHO (Public Health Executive Leadership Forum, Public Health Nursing Directors Forum, and Environmental Health Directors Forum) about their workplans and activities.

A highlight of the meeting was a panel presentation entitled: "Public Health and the Built Environment...What's Planning Got to do with it?" Ngozi Oleru moderated the panel and speakers included Karen Wolf of the King County Executive's Office, Lyle Bicknell of the City of Seattle Planning Department, and Mike Scarey, Planner, City of SeaTac. They provided a history of public health and planning and how early planning revolved around health and sanitation issues. Much of the last century saw Planning and Public Health operating independently of each other and we saw development less conducive to integrating health activity into our everyday lifestyles. Contemporary zoning mixes uses to improve health and general welfare. Public education is a critical component to these types of zoning changes. The City of Seattle is now using Health Impact Assessments as part of their review and determination of zoning and development - responding to people's desire for more destinations they can walk to.

WSALPHO members talked about the current status of the Joint Select Committee on Public Health Financing. A WSALPHO work group is developing tools for WSALPHO members to use as they talk with local and state elected officials about the funding opportunity for public health that this study provides. We hope this is the opportunity to attain additional funding to assist counties in meeting local public health responsibilities.

Members also heard a presentation and had a discussion about the collaborative work between state and local public health in developing public health indicators. Public health indicators provide important tools for quality improvement.

Finally, WSALPHO members received an update on the work of the State Board of Health and on the work of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Access and Cost.

Implementation of I-901

On Thursday, Rick Porso, Public Health Manager, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Kim Thorburn, Health Officer, Spokane Regional Health District, and Ward Hinds, Health Officer, Snohomish Health District spoke about the Implementation of I-901 – the Statewide Smoking Ban. Following are highlights of their presentation:

- I-901 passed in November 2005 by a 63.2% majority statewide
- It was approved in every county in Washington

- It represents a major milestone for the public's health
- Its intent is to protect the health of citizens in public places and workers in places of employment
- Education and mailings preceded the enforcement of the ban
- Investigations of violations is primarily complaint driven
- Focus on education and assistance with signage
- In Snohomish County
 - Violations were reported for about 1.5% of all businesses and places of employment
 - Complaints have decreased significantly since the law went into effect – violators almost always respond to warnings and education.
 - More than 99.9% of public places and workplaces now in compliance

Transportation & Public Works

Best County Project Excellence Award Presented to Skagit County at Annual Conference

Kevin Ward of FHWA joined Kathleen Davis to present Skagit County with the 2006 Award of Excellence (Best County Project) for its Main Street Reconstruction in Concrete. Accepting the award were Skagit County Project Engineer Janice Marlega and County Commissioner Don Munks.

This multiple agency partnership between the Town of Concrete, Skagit County, the Federal Highways Administration, WSDOT, TIB, and the residents and businesses of Concrete, provided much safer conditions for all modes of transportation. The project involved total reconstruction of Main Street, improving the economic vitality and revitalization of the downtown area. WSDOT administered \$1.9 million for this project.

WSACE Celebrates 100 Years of Service with WSAC

The Washington State Association of County Engineers (WSACE) celebrated their 100 years of service at their Annual Fall Conference in Spokane last week. Two prestigious awards, the Centennial Award and Life Achievement Award, were granted by WSACE to past members.

John O. Trent, recipient of the Centennial Award, is a retired County Engineer from Pierce County and was the 1979 Washington State County Engineer of the Year, 1981 WSACE President, and the 1996 National Association of County Engineers President.

Ernie Geissler was the recipient of the Life Achievement Award. Ernie served as Lewis County Engineer, WSACE President (1965) and became the first County Road Administration Board Director, also in 1965. More background about the achievements of these retired County Engineers is in the WSACE Centennial book. If you would like a Centennial book please contact Karen Pendleton at CRAB (karen@crab.wa.gov or (360) 753-5989).

In addition to the regular business discussions, WSACE heard more about how the federal and state storm water programs will impact county capital projects. The new mandated programs will have a significant financial impact on county road and bridge projects. Chairman of the Washington Transportation Commission, Richard Ford, provided an update of the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) and requested ongoing dialogue to clarify county needs in future WTP documents.

Association News

Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) Honors its Former and Retiring Members

As part of the Centennial Annual Conference, WSAC had the opportunity to honor a large number of former and retiring members. We were indeed pleased to have so many attend our 100th conference and visit with current members imparting a little wisdom and a little well-earned bit or two of good humor about how it was done in the “old days”. We would like to take this additional opportunity to call out the names of former members, past presidents and retiring members who were able to join us in Spokane. We’d also like to thank Les Eldridge, Thurston County, for his

presentation of the award celebrating WSAC’s 100 years from the Washington Association of Former County Elected Officials (WAFCEO).



< Retiring Members

Pictured L-R: Dennis Hadaller, Lewis County; Deborah Moore, Grant County; Perry Huston, Kittitas County; Les Wigen, Whitman County; Patty Lent, Kitsap County; Leo Bowman, Benton County – Incoming WSAC President & Bill Vogler, WSAC Executive Director. **Not pictured:** Joan Frey, Klickitat County; Frank Brock, Franklin County; Pat Rodgers, Jefferson County; Pat Hamilton, Pacific County; Al McKee, Skamania County; Jesse Palacios, Yakima County; Mitch Brown, Pend Oreille County.

Former WSAC Presidents



Pictured L-R (Front Row): Dave Carey, Walla Walla County; Tom Cowan, San Juan County; Diane Oberquell, Thurston County; Everett Fourre, Thurston County (Retired); Betty Ingham, Yakima County; Senator Karen Fraser, Thurston County; Harold Moss, Pierce County; Dean Burton, Garfield County. **Pictured L-R (Back Row):** LeRoy Allison, Grant County; Mike Shelton, Island County; Jay Weber, Douglas County; Robert Hart, Skagit County; Dean Judd, Adams County; John McBride, Spokane County; Mike Murphy, Grays Harbor County; Bud Norris, Skagit County. **Not pictured:** Former Governor Mike Lowry, King County; Vern Marll, Columbia County; Betty Sue Morris, Clark County; Gordon Kunz, Lincoln County.

Former WSAC Members



Pictured L-R (Front Row): Harold Moss, Pierce County; Betty Ingham, Yakima County; Vickie Strong, Stevens County; Tom Cowan, San Juan County; Ed Callahan, Skamania County; Sue Miller, Franklin County; Bruce Whitemarsh, Franklin County; Doug Sutherland, Commissioner of Public Lands, Former Pierce County Executive; Harmon Johnson, Walla Walla County; Judy Wilson, Thurston County; Mary Seubert, Kittitas County; John Horsley, Past NACo President, Executive Director, American Assn of State Hwy & Transportation Officials, Kitsap County; Joanne Schwartz, Lewis County; Fran Bessermin, Stevens County; Jim Potts, Whitman County; Nora Mae Kiefer-Olfs, Whitman County; Senator Karen Fraser, Thurston County. **Pictured L-R (Back Row):** Everett Fourre, Thurston County; Harvey Wolden, Skagit County; George Barner, Thurston County; Robert Hart, Skagit County; John McBride, Spokane County; Unidentified; Dean Judd, Adams County; Unidentified; Van Vandenberg, Skamania County; Lawrence Gaydeski, Clallam County; Eric Johnson, Lewis County; Busse Nutley, Clark County; Bill Vogler, Grays Harbor County; Jay Weber, Douglas County; Representative Bill Hinkle, Kittitas County; Bud Norris, Skagit County; Mike Murphy, Grays Harbor; **Not pictured:** Tom Bristow, Ferry County; O G Clemons, Stevens County; Marie Bremner, Ferry County; Sandi Strawn, Benton County; Les Eldridge, Thurston County; Mike Keogh, Pend Oreille County; Gary Kohler, Ferry County; Ron Ihrig, Klickitat County; Harmon Johnson, Walla Walla County; John Krogh, Pend Oreille County; Jack Geraghty, Spokane County; Beryl Robison, Cowlitz County; Harold Cooper, Lewis County; Robert Koller, Garfield County.

Courthouse Ramblings

Loveland scores another milestone!

Former WACO President and Franklin County Treasurer Valoria Loveland has one more “notch” in her long career in public service. Loveland, currently serving as Director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture, was recently elected president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA).

Loveland is the first woman to serve as president since the association’s beginning in 1915 and is the first woman to serve as the Director of the State Department. Congratulations!

Calendar of Events

Meeting	Location	Date	Information
<i>For your convenience training and workshops are bolded.</i>			
<u>OCTOBER 2006</u>			
International Assn of Assessing Officers' (IAAO) Annual Conference	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	October 8 - 11	(360) 753-7319
WA Counties Insurance Fund ACE	SeaTac	October 18	(360) 586-0466
WA Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Autumn Session & Board Meeting	Red Lion Hotel at the Park, Spokane	October 25 - 26	(360) 586-7447 ext 100
<u>NOVEMBER 2006</u>			
Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs	Skamania Lodge, Stevenson	November 13 - 17	(360) 486-2380
Assn of County Human Services (ACHS)	Walla Walla	November 16 - 17	(360) 586-4219 ext 106 or (360) 561-6317
Joint WA Counties Insurance Fund/ WA Counties Insurance Pool Budget Meeting	Kennewick	November 16	(360) 586-0466
Holiday Closure	WA Counties Building	November 23 - 24	
<u>DECEMBER 2006</u>			
WA Assoc of Coroners and Medical Examiners Medicolegal Death Investigations Training	Red Lion Hotel, Olympia	December 2-5	(360) 753-7319
WA State Sheriffs Association Training	Red Lion Hotel, Olympia	December 3-5	(360) 753-7319
Newly Elected Officials Training (WSAC new officials will also meet on Dec 8)	Red Lion Hotel, Olympia	December 5-7	(360) 753-7319 or 753-1886
WACO Board of Trustees' Meeting	Red Lion Hotel, Olympia	December 5	(360) 753-7319
Legislative Steering Committee	Red Lion Hotel, Olympia	December 8	(360) 753-7319 or 753-1886
WA Assn of Prosecuting Attorneys' Annual Winter	Crowne Plaza, Seattle	December 6 - 8	(360) 753-2175
Holiday Closure	WA Counties Building	December 25	
<u>JANUARY 2007</u>			
Holiday Closure	WA Counties Building	January 1	
Legislative Session Begins	Olympia	January 8	

Attachments

Welcome to the U.S. Communities Purchasing & Finance Agency

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The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO), the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP), the National League of Cities (NLC), and the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), jointly sponsor the

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**Ray Burnett,
Commissioner of Purchases and Supplies
Kansas City, MO.**