

the Courthouse Journal

WACOUNTIES.ORG

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Courthouse Journal*

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

County Auditors Meet in Spokane

The Washington State Association of County Auditors (WSACA) met for their Annual Conference at The Davenport Hotel, in Spokane, May 8 – 10. Vice President Thad Duvall, Douglas County, opened the conference with host Vicky Dalton, Spokane County. First on the agenda was a panel discussion on the “Legislative Process, A to Z”. Panel members included former Snohomish County Auditor and current Snohomish County Superior Court Administrator Bob Terwilliger; Secretary of State representatives Katie Blinn, Shane Hamlin and Megan Ridout; Auditors’ Legislative co-chairs Karen Flynn, Kitsap County Auditor and Suzanne Sinclair, Island County Auditor; Pierce County Chief Deputy Auditor Keri Rooney; Department of Licensing Government Relations Director B.G. Sandahl; and WACO Deputy Director Christina Bridston.

The group spent time discussing various legislative issues throughout the conference that they would like to see addressed in future legislative sessions. Ultimately, they decided on the two recommendations that they would bring forward as part of the 2008 WACO legislative package: reducing spring elections (hopefully from four to two), and the privacy bill that did not pass in this year’s legislative session, providing for privacy protection for certain voter registration information.

Alice Rowe, Ph.D., presented training for auditors one morning on “Encouraging Cooperation in the Midst of Change”. Her technique was highly participative and motivational so that the participants were involved both intellectually and emotionally. The group exercises were entertaining and educational.

Other sessions included a Department of Licensing update on the Vehicle Field System from Glenn Ball and Mark Oestreich; a question and answer session with Paul Miller on the Secretary of State’s new security software; and a presentation from Pat McMahan, vice president of the Washington Association of Vehicle Subagents (WAVS). McMahan was pitching a legislative proposal from WAVS to add an Internet convenience fee for consumers who renew vehicle licenses online. The auditors made it clear that they will not support such legislation.

WSACA President Karen Martin, Walla Walla County Auditor, presented Jefferson County Auditor Donna Eldridge with the Auditor of the Year Award.

Want to post a job announcement on our webpage?

E-mail your info: Subject – “**JOBS - WA Counties**” to bwarden@wacounties.org

What information do you need to include in your e-mail?

Visit [Employment Opportunities](#)

The Courthouse Journal

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

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New officers elected were President Thad Duvall, Douglas County; Vice President Kim Wyman, Thurston County; Treasurer Jerry Pettit, Kittitas County; Secretary Pat Gardner, Pacific County; and WACO Representative Mike Garvison, Skamania County. District Chairs are Lincoln County Auditor Shelly Johnston, Lincoln County (Eastern); Wahkiakum County Auditor Diane Tischer (Southwest); Whatcom County Auditor Shirley Forslof (Northwest); and Grant County Auditor Bill Varney (Central).

WSACA members voted to meet in Long Beach in 2008 and in Pasco in 2009.

Legislative Committee Schedules and Agendas:

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm>

Bill Information: www.leg.wa.gov

Budget, Finance and Taxes

Workers Compensation Rate Holiday Finalized

Because of large reserves in the Medical Aid Fund, the Department of Labor & Industries is implementing a six-month partial rate holiday for this fund. The rate holiday also only applies to workers and companies insured by L&I. Large, self-insured employers (which include some counties) and their workers don't pay premiums into the Medical Aid Fund, and therefore, are unaffected by the rate holiday. Employers who participate in the state's workers compensation fund will not pay the Medical Aid Fund portion of their premium for work performed from July 1st through December 31st of this year. On average, this represents a total premium reduction of 34%. For more information, link to <http://www.lni.wa.gov/ClaimsIns/Insurance/RatesRisk/RateHoliday/RateHolidayFaq/Default.asp>.

State Supreme Court Hears I-747 Oral Arguments

On May 8th, the State Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *State of Washington v. Washington Citizen Action, Whitman County, et. al.* In this case, King County Superior Court ruled Initiative 747 (I-747) unconstitutional in June 2006 because the initiative title and contents mislead voters by being improperly based on a law that also was thrown out by the courts. I-747 limits the increase in property levies to the lesser of 1% or inflation (as measured by the Implicit Price Deflator). WSAC and the Association of Washington Cities filed a joint amicus brief in support of upholding the King County Superior Court ruling.

The Justices questioned both sides with questions during oral arguments, asking whether the state constitution requires initiatives to be based on the law at the time of filing signatures or based on the law at the time of voting. Justices also asked if there was an acceptable way for initiative sponsors to avoid the problem of amendments to the law between initiative filing and voting. It is not known when a ruling will be issued in the case.

Governor Signs E2SSB 5557 – Rural Counties Need to Take Action

E2SSB 5557 increases the 0.08% rural county sales and use tax used for economic development to 0.09%. In order to receive the increase, counties need to adopt an ordinance or amend their prior ordinance to increase the tax rate for this purpose from 0.08% to 0.09%. This tax rate increase will not increase the amount of tax collected from consumers. Rather, the tax rate increase will increase the amount credited against the state's sales tax.

Because E2SSB 5557 is effective August 1, 2007, the soonest a county could impose the tax rate increase is that date. Thereafter, counties need to send the ordinance to the Department of Revenue, Local Tax Manager, PO Box 47476, Olympia, WA 98504-7476. The new rate will go into effect on the first day of the month after the Department receives thirty days notice of the rate changes. Consequently, if everything is done correctly, the soonest your county's collections could increase is September 1, 2007.

Additionally, the type of public facilities for which the credit can be used was changed. Monies from the credit may not be used to fund justice system facilities. There was concern that counties would use monies from the credit to expand their jails to generate revenue from housing out-of-county or out-of-state inmates.

Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice

Correction:

An Invitation to Discuss Residency Restrictions for Sex Offenders in the Community

This article corrects an error in the original article that appeared in the May 10 CHJ. Please note that WSAC is asked to send only two representatives to the June 13 meeting.

In **SSB 6325**, the 2006 Legislature directed the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) to work with other stakeholder groups to develop consensus statewide standards, along with any consensus recommendations and proposed legislation regarding local zoning restrictions on where sex offenders can reside. Pending development of consensus statewide standards, the bill pre-empted local authority to limit where registered sex offenders who have been released from custody may live in a community.

WSAC is one of the stakeholder groups, and up to two WSAC members are invited to a first meeting of all the stakeholder groups Wednesday, June 13, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at the Tacoma Convention Center, Room 405. Please let WSAC policy director Sophia Byrd McSherry know if you would like to attend the June 13 meeting. AWC estimates that there will be an additional two to three stakeholder meetings during the summer and fall.

Also, because there are potentially a wide variety of subjects associated with this topic, AWC is asking stakeholders to submit a list of discussion items related to sex offender residency restrictions prior to the meeting. Please submit your discussion ideas to Sophia at WSAC (sbyrd@wacounties.org) or directly to AWC at tammymf@awcnet.org by June 1. AWC will compile a packet of discussion items and distribute back to the stakeholder groups in advance of the June 13 meeting.

Elections, Licensing & Recordings

2007-2009 Local Records Grant Program Application Available Now

The Washington State Archives Central Branch is pleased to announce that the application materials for the 2007-2009 Local Records Grant Program are now available online through the Secretary of State's website at <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/archives/lrgp.aspx>. This competitive grant program is only available to local government agencies in Washington State.

Individual grants of up to \$30,000 are available for projects that support public records management and preservation efforts, with emphasis on those projects involving records that are designated as archival and/or essential on records retention schedules. Local agencies serving populations of fewer than 20,000 people are eligible to apply for Express Grants, a "short form" program that supports scanning and microfilming projects for essential records (up to \$10,000), as well as equipment purchases such as metal shelving, archival storage boxes, or a microfilm reader (up to \$7,500). Applications for the 2007-2009 grant cycle must be completed and postmarked by July 13, 2007. If you have any questions after looking through the online grant application materials, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Julie Woods, the Local Records Grant Coordinator (jwoods@secstate.wa.gov).

Environment, Land Use & Resources

Farmland Preservation Grants Ready - Application deadline July 2 for Washington Program

By Patty Mamula, Freelance Writer

The Washington state Legislature approved and funded a new grant program last year to preserve farmland. Of the \$9 million appropriated for the farmland grants from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, \$4.3 million is still available. The application deadline is July 2.

Recently, the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC), which manages the program, offered a three-hour workshop for 25 interested applicants in North Bend, Wash. Although the grants are open to city and county agencies only, more than half of the people who attended represented various land trust organizations.

Kammie Bunes, who is one of five IAC grants managers and primarily responsible for counties in Western Washington, presented information about the program, how it works, eligible projects and how they're evaluated. "Other organizations may partner with the city or county for these grants," she said. "Conservation districts may be in partnership with a land trust and or a landowner. Although the city or county may not be the primary driver of the grant application, they will be the ones with the contractual agreement." The maximum grant amount is \$750,000, and applicants must provide at least 50 percent in matching resources

To begin the process, a one-page letter of intent must be completed by June 1. It includes the official contact name, a short (50 words or less) description of the proposed project and the amount requested. The letter doesn't obligate an applicant.

After the July 2 due date, the IAC grant managers check it, provide suggestions and feedback to the applicant and try to visit the project site. "We can be your best friend and worst critic," said Bunes. At the end of July, a 30-minute project review meeting is scheduled. "This is your opportunity to summarize your project in person. It's the time to bring the farm to the advisory committee," said Bunes. "All the committee members either grew up on a farm, are part owner of a farm or have farming in their background." The final deadline is Sept. 7, after which there is an evaluation meeting in October and a recommended list, ranked in order of importance, is sent to the 2008 Legislature for their approval. Final approval will be in summer 2008.

Since 1950, according to the IAC, the number of Washington farms decreased by more than 50 percent, and the number of farmland acres dropped by 17 percent. The goal of the grant program is to preserve working farms and lands for farming in the future. It's not to protect habitat. Eligible land parcels are usually at least 20 acres that are devoted primarily to livestock or agricultural commercial purposes. Lands where crops are taxed as forestland are excluded. Wetlands cannot exceed 20 percent of the property, so only 20 percent can be nontillable.

Grant proposals must include an acquisition component. Bunes described the classic way one of the grants might work. A farmer with a large piece of property would sell part of it to the city or county as a conservation easement. An easement restricts real estate and commercial and industrial development. The municipality then buys the land with grant money and matching money. The farmer retains the title and continues to own and manage the land. Then, the city or county has a responsibility to monitor future uses of the land to ensure compliance with the terms of the easement.

To meet grant eligibility requirements, the easement must be in place for at least 25 years. The ones submitted to date have been in perpetuity. "This is only our second year administering the program," said Bunes. A common concern among representatives of land trusts is whether or not a conservation organization could be listed as the co-holder of the easement along with the county. Their primary concern is to legally establish the relationship between the land trust and the county, especially in counties that don't have resources to maintain the easement where it will fall to the land trust to do so.

For policy updates regarding questions about leasing, co-owning and co-managing easement lands, she advised visiting www.iac.wa.gov/iac/grants/farmland.htm

Marguerite Austin, IAC Manager of Recreation and Habitat, detailed how to fill out the application. Booklets containing application forms and procedures were distributed. Austin highlighted important parts of the application. For instance, maps that show the location of a project within a geographic region of the state and ones that show it in a specific location are required. Austin recommended that all maps show clear identifiers, such as bodies of water, highways, local roadways and landmarks, so people reading the map can clearly identify the proposed project area within five miles or so. "The project description is the only written description that the Legislature and evaluators will see. It's also the description that's used for press releases. So, it's very important," she said.

The applications are filled out electronically using the agency's PRISM software. Information about how to access it and minimum system requirements is available at www.iac.wa.gov/oia/prism.htm

General Government Issues

Local Governments Key to Success of 2010 Census

The Census Bureau estimates there will be more than 310 million people living in more than 130 million households across the country by 2010. The partnership of local governments is vital to accomplish the feat of counting every person living in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Factoring in an increasingly diverse population, the rise in immigration and a record number of languages spoken by respondents, the need for a complete and accurate address list to mail or hand-deliver questionnaires will play a critical role in obtaining an accurate population count in the next census.

Although the 2010 Census is still three years away, the U.S. Census Bureau has begun mailing informational booklets to all state, local and tribal governments about a program for them to provide updated addresses for their communities known as the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program. This joint and voluntary program between the Census Bureau and your local government is the official start of the 2010 Census, which depends on a complete and accurate address list. Your assistance in assuring the residents in your community are counted is crucial to a successful census.

"Census data drive reapportionment and redistricting decisions and directly affect the distribution of more than \$200 billion in federal funding each year," said Doug Palmer, president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. "In order to get money for public health, education, transportation and much more, mayors across the country need to take the lead and work to get a complete count of their city's population in 2010 LUCA is the first step."

In partnership with the Census Bureau, local governments will use their area knowledge to improve the list of addresses for housing units and group quarters, including growth from new construction or annexation. After registering for LUCA between July 2007 and January 2008, participating governments will receive review materials and will have 120 days to review and improve the address list. The information contained in the address list is confidential by law, and those governments that choose to participate in the LUCA program will be provided an option to review the Census Bureau's address list. Like all census employees, those who review and update a confidential address list are subject to a jail term, a fine or both if they disclose any protected information.

After LUCA but prior to the 2010 Census questionnaire delivery, address listers will perform a field canvass across the country to make sure the latest address list is correct. Using GPS mapping on hand-held computers, workers will be able to update information electronically while out in the field.

"The Census Bureau has moved beyond being a 'pen and paper' census and is now utilizing new technology in order to improve the speed and accuracy of census operations in the field," said Census Bureau Deputy Director Preston Jay

Waite. "We are mandated by the Constitution to count the population every 10 years, and with the reengineering of the 2010 Census, we will be well equipped to fulfill this mandate."

Dating back to the nation's first census in 1790, the 2010 Census will have one of the shortest census questionnaires in the history of the United States. Asking just seven questions, including name, sex, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether you own or rent your home, the questionnaire will take respondents only about 10 minutes to fill out.

More information? visit "2010 Census LUCA Program": <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/luca2010/luca.html>

Public Health & Human Services

Retirement is bitter sweet for Fran Lewis

Nearing the end of her tenure as Pierce County's human services director, Fran Lewis feels good about a career marked by accomplishments and even better about a future filled with family opportunities. Lewis, 73, retires June 1 and no longer will face the daily commute to Tacoma from her Seattle home. "I am experiencing mixed emotions. I have loved the work, and it isn't easy to see my days here coming to an end," she said. A retirement celebration will be held May 30 at the Tacoma Yacht Club. The reservation deadline is Friday, May 25. Details are included in the attached flyer.

Chief of Staff Lyle Quasim has worked with Lewis for 33 years in his Pierce County role and previously with the Department of Social and Health Services. "I have witnessed her outstanding contributions to the mentally ill in Washington State and also at the national level," he said.

Lewis joined the county in 1992 as mental health manager and was instrumental in forming the Pierce County Regional Support Network. Other accomplishments of note include purchasing the former Puget Sound Hospital and saving psychiatric beds for the community; helping to create the Department of Human Services by integrating social and aging services; and developing Secure Detox services through the collaboration of chemical dependency and mental health. "But I think my most significant success has been finding staff who are dedicated and skilled in providing the department's range of services," said Lewis, who has directed the 320-employee department since 1998.

Her management team includes Dave Stewart, who is acting director during her times away from the office; Fiscal Manager Esther Mbajah; and Operations Managers Mark Crawford and Christi James. Division managers are Sally Nixon, Aging and Long Term Care; Penni Newman, Chemical Dependency; Denise Rothleutner, Developmental Disabilities; and Stewart, Mental Health.

Lewis said her job was demanding mainly because of expectations to provide a full range of services with limited funding provided by the state. "All of our services are funded by the state. Under the legislative process, we can depend upon funding for only two years at a time. Then we have to educate legislators for the next period of time," she said.

Although well past normal retirement age for government employees, she stayed because "I loved my job . . . The work has always been challenging but extremely rewarding. Sometimes I have not enjoyed the political nature of the work, but that is part of the responsibilities."

She serves on the National Association of Counties Human Services Committee and has been a National Association of Behavioral Health board member since 1996. Lewis and her husband, Russ, plan to spend August and September in Great Britain. Retirement also affords opportunity to enjoy time with son, Blaine, daughter, Leslie, grandsons and great-grandsons. Blaine and Leslie were soloists with the Community Choir of Port Townsend recently. "Attending their concerts will be one of the joys of retirement," she said.

CONTACT: Lyle Quasim, Executive Chief of Staff, 253-798-2992; or Dick Ferguson, Media and Community Relations, 253-798-3979

Transportation & Public Works

FSMIB 2007 Call for Projects

The Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board is issuing a call for projects to maintain a six-year list of active projects. Subject to final Board action on June 1, the call will begin on June 4, 2007 with applications due by close of business August 30, 2007. Applications can be submitted by WSDOT, and Washington Cities, Counties and Ports. Official notifications will be mailed on June 4 and applications will be available on-line at www.fmsib.wa.gov

Eligible projects must be on a strategic freight corridor and be listed as part of a state or local transportation plan. Projects should improve the movement of freight and/or mitigate the movement of freight through local communities.

Project scoring will be completed in September with the highest scoring projects advancing to final consideration during an interview with the Board's project selection committee in October. Full review and adoption of projects will take place during the Board's November meeting.

The Legislature has approved staggered funding for most of the existing list of FMSIB projects. The Board recognizes that due to the dynamic nature of freight movement there are emergent infrastructure needs driven by market forces that should be evaluated to determine if they should be added to the list of chokepoints within our freight corridors. Since FMSIB funds are committed for the next few biennia the question of funding additional projects is on a case by case basis and remains at the discretion of the Governor and Legislature. The Legislature is currently studying options that could provide additional funding for freight projects that would be considered during the 2008 session. The Board wants to be sure if there are new funds approved that the FMSIB projects are positioned to be recipients. FMSIB advocates for project funding each year based upon an individual project's ability to proceed to construction.

For further information, please contact Karen Schmidt or Donna Veley at 360-586-9695.

Now That the Legislative Session is Over ...

Don't forget the impact these bills will have on your county:

- **The Transportation Budget (Section 222 of ESHB 1094)** requires counties that plan under GMA to have adopted standards for access permitting on state highways that meet or exceed department standards in accordance with RCW 47.50.030. Counties must meet this requirement by December 1, 2008. WSAC and the Association of Washington Cities are meeting soon with Department of Transportation staff on the implementation of this proviso.
- **HB 1303** requires local governments, to the extent determined practicable by rules adopted by the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, to satisfy 100% of their fuel usage for operating publicly owned vessels, vehicles, and construction equipment from electricity or biofuel by June 1, 2015. Although rules are not required to be adopted until June 1, 2010, counties should examine their purchasing policies in anticipation of this mandate.
- **HB 1458** sets forth notice procedures for all public entities using their eminent domain powers. The bill is effective June 22, 2007. Failing to use the notice procedures will void the proceedings unless cured.
- **HB 1506** gives all counties the opportunity to use the General Contractor Contracting Method and Design-Build Contracting Method. Counties should consider these contracting methods for large projects such as jails, courthouse renovations, and wastewater facilities. Counties that have not used these alternative contracting methods must obtain prior approval from a project review committee.
- **HB 1858** allows counties to create transportation benefit districts and impose up to \$20 vehicle license fee to fund transportation investments in a state or regional plan. Counties (other than King, Pierce and Snohomish) have the exclusive authority to impose this fee until January 22, 2008. Thereafter, cities may impose the fee. If a county will

not impose the fee, it can adopt a resolution to that effect to allow cities to go forward before January 22, 2008. Counties must first attempt to adopt a countywide fee to be shared with cities according to an interlocal agreement. Sixty percent of cities representing 75% of the incorporated population must agree to the interlocal agreement for it to be effective.

- **HB 2010** expressly defines a “responsible bidder” as a person with 1) a certificate of registration, Ch. 18.27 RCW, 2) a current state unified business identifier number, 3) if applicable, industrial insurance coverage for bidder employees, an employment security number and a state excise tax registration number, and 4) not be disqualified from bidding as provided by statutes governing unregistered and unlicensed contractors and/or failing to pay prevailing wages. Additionally, the new law provides that public agencies may establish supplemental criteria for determining bidder responsibility. These criteria must be set forth in the invitation to bid or bidding documents and must include the basis for evaluation of the criteria and a deadline for appealing a determination of non-responsibility.
- **SB 6075** allows counties when purchasing materials, equipment, or supplies to dispense with formal competitive bidding for any purchase under \$5,000.

Training on New Public Works Legislation

The Associated General Contractors (AGC) and the University of Washington are offering training on the changes (SSHB 1506) to alternative public works contracting method statute. The next class is offered September 12 & 13 at the Seattle AGC Building. See the following link for information about this class:

http://www.agcwa.com/Public/education/gc_class_flyers/GC.CM4day.pdf

The Municipal Research Service Center (MRSC) and the American Public Works Association have scheduled mini-workshops that will cover all public works bills that passed the legislature, with emphasis on **SHB 2010** (responsible bidder), **SHB 1328** (small works roster), and **SSHB 1506** (alternative public works). These classes are from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on June 12 in Everett, June 21 in Renton, and June 27 in Camas. Classes are free. Registration is available by linking to

<http://www.apwa-wa.org/training/training.aspx>

MRSC has contracted with Washington State Technology Transfer Center (WST2) to provide four one day workshops on Purchasing, Bidding and Contract Management for Local Agencies. Dates and locations of the workshops are June 7 in Yakima, September 13 in Vancouver, October 9 in Spokane and November 14 in Shoreline. These workshops will also incorporate the 2007 legislative changes into the presentations. The cost of the workshop is \$75 and you can register by linking to <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/TAT2Center/Training/PBBrochure2007.pdf>

WSDOT Kicks Off Updated Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is beginning its State Bicycle Facilities and Pedestrian Walkways Plan update. The plan, which is an element of Washington's Multi-Modal Transportation Plan, was last updated in 1995. WSDOT has conducted a survey of public opinion about needs related to sidewalks, crosswalks, trails, and bike lanes, which will serve as the basis for the plan. As part of this effort, WSDOT will also propose a strategy for addressing these needs and improving coordination between local governments, regional agencies, and the state.

WSDOT is holding four scheduled public meetings to discuss the plan, and provide comments and feedback (see dates below). Comments can also be submitted either through the web site or by calling the toll free number: 1-866-375-6729. Comments will be taken throughout the update process. All comments will be considered in the final plan, scheduled for completion in spring 2008.

June 25, 2007

6:30-8:30 pm

Public Service Center, Elections Office
1305 Franklin @ Mill Plain, Vancouver, WA

June 26, 2007

6:30-8:30 pm

University of Washington, Gould Hall - First Floor Foyer
Seattle, WA

June 27, 2007

6:30-8:30 pm

Spokane City Council Chambers
808 W Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA

June 28, 2007

6:30-8:30 pm

Thurston Regional Planning Council
2424 Heritage Court SW, Suite A, Olympia, WA

Transportation Commission to Hold Rail Workshops

The Washington State Transportation Commission is holding two workshops to discuss the implementation of the Commission's 2006 Rail Study. In 2005, the Legislature provided the Commission with funding and a mandate to conduct a statewide rail capacity and system needs analysis. The study reviewed the current powers, authorities, and interests the state has in freight and passenger rail and recommended policies for state participation and ownership of rail infrastructure and service delivery. The study also prepared a plan for managing state owned rail assets. A copy of the final report adopted in December 2006 can be found at <http://www.wstc.wa.gov/Rail/default.htm>. The report presents recommendations on the whether or not the state should participate in rail, what the state's role in rail should be, investment approaches, governance, and a state asset management plan.

The Commission is holding two workshops to follow-up on the final report and discuss implementation of the state's future rail policy. Commissioners, Governor's policy staff, WSDOT staff, and legislators will participate in the discussion. The workshops are being held on June 6 in Tacoma at the Best Western Tacoma Dome Hotel and June 12 in Spokane at the Spokane City Center Double Tree Hotel. In order to participate, you need to RSVP by emailing at ParkerP@WSTC.WA.GOV or calling the Commission at 360-705-7070.

Association News

WSAC Invites You to Apply for the Legislative Steering Committee...

WSAC President, Commissioner Leo Bowman is seeking members for the 2007-2008 WSAC Legislative Steering Committee (LSC). If you are interested in serving on LSC you must submit the online form at http://www.wacounties.org/wsac/lsc_app.htm no later than **Friday, June 1, 2007**. **Please note**, if you are currently serving on the 2006-07 "LSC," your term has expired; therefore you must submit the online form to be considered for appointment.

Additional LSC Policy Guidelines include:

- The President shall appoint the LSC Co-Chairs for staggered two year terms.
- WSAC Executive Committee members are automatic members of the LSC.
- All LSC terms are for one year per the WSAC bylaws.
- WSAC President may appoint additional members to assure all interests of the Association are adequately represented.
- The President makes the final decision on all applications for appointment to LSC.

The 2007-08 WSAC LSC and Sub-committee meetings schedule is located online at: [LSC Meeting Calendar](#)

PLEASE - Keep in mind that these dates are tentative and subject to change. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Brad Banks at (360) 584-4219 ext 140 or bbanks@wacounties.org

Commissioner Ring-Erickson Appointed LSC Co-Chair

WSAC President Leo Bowman has appointed Mason County Commissioner Linda Ring-Erickson as Legislative Steering Committee (LSC) Co-Chair. Commissioner Ring-Erickson replaces Skagit County Commissioner Don Munks who served as LSC Co- Chair for the 2006-07 legislative sessions.

Commissioner Ring-Erickson joins Stevens County Commissioner Merrill Ott who is serving in his second year as co-chair. Commissioner Ring-Erickson was elected to her first term as Mason County Commissioner in November 2004 and has served on WSAC's Legislative Steering Committee, co-chaired WSAC's Rural Issues Sub-Committee and is currently WSAC's Western District Vice President.

Boards & Commissions

NACo Seeks Steering Committee Members for 2007-2008; Nominations Due June 9

Do you want a voice in creating the national legislative policies of the National Association of Counties? Then consider filling out a NACo nomination form to be appointed to one of their eleven steering committees, (Agriculture and Rural Affairs; Community and Economic Development; Environment, Energy and Land Use; Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs; Health; Human Services and Education; Justice and Public Safety; Labor and Employment; Public Lands; Telecommunications and Technology; and Transportation). The nomination process for membership on NACo policy steering committees is underway. As a NACo steering committee member, you are responsible for debating and creating national policies and priorities affecting counties and serve as NACo's front line in their grassroots efforts. Committees meet at the NACo legislative and annual conferences and one other time during the year. You will be responsible for your own travel.

The nomination form is attached in the Appendix section of this issue. Please be as thorough as possible in completing the nomination and grassroots forms and send it to the WSAC/WACO Office by June 9. The nominations are processed in our office and will be forwarded to NACo so please **DO NOT** send the form directly to NACo. The incoming NACo President makes the appointments and those selected to serve will be announced in September.

Questions? Call Ginni Peppert at (360) 753-1886 or gpeppert@wacounties.org.

Please Note: If you currently serve on a NACo Steering Committee and wish to continue in the position, you must reapply using the attached form.

Statewide Boards and Commissions Interest Form Due June 9

The following positions on statewide boards and commissions are available to WSAC members and, in some cases, county employees or representatives. To apply for any of the seats, complete the short online interest form **by June 9** at http://wacounties.org/wsac/boards_form.htm

- Affordable Housing Advisory Board, Westside seat – Two year term
<http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/profiles/005.asp>
- Community Economic Revitalization Board - Three year term beginning 9/07
<http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/profiles/033.asp>

- County Road Administration Board – Engineer seat for counties with less than 20,000 population; term expires 6/30/08. Contact CRAB for nomination process - <http://www.crab.wa.gov/>
- DRS Advisory Committee for Public Employees (PERS) - Three year term beginning 7/07
- Forensics Investigation Council - Four year term beginning 8/07 - <http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/profiles/073.asp>
- Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Plan 2 Retirement Board - Six year term beginning 7/07 - <http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/profiles/230.asp>
- Municipal Research Council - Two year term beginning 8/07; two positions available - <http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/profiles/141.asp>
- Pipeline Safety Committee - Two year term beginning 8/07 - <http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/profiles/165.asp>
- Puget Sound Council - Four year term beginning 8/07 - <http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/profiles/182.asp>
- Shorelines Hearing Board alternates (2 positions) - <http://www.eho.wa.gov/Boards/SHB.asp>
- Department of Corrections Work Release Advisory Committee (New Committee identified in WAC 137-57-030 and **ESSB 1657**); 1 – 3 positions available – Information about committee e-mail Wendy Jolly, wjolly@doc1.wa.gov

If you have any question or wish to apply please contact Michelle Zahrly at (360) 586-4219 ext 112 or mzahrly@wacounties.org

Training & Upcoming Events

Washington Counties – Full Calendar of Events

[WA COUNTIES CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)

Clark County Hosts Sustainability Conference Next Month

Don't miss the Southwest Washington Sustainability Conference and Trade Show June 21 and 22, 2007 at the Vancouver Hilton Hotel & Conference Center. Clark County, the City of Vancouver and Clark Public Utilities have joined forces to assemble a dynamic list of nationally-recognized speakers guaranteed to provoke thought and action.

This two-day conference and trade show will host key decision makers and leaders dedicated to the region's social, economic and environmental sustainability. Interactive sessions will provide tremendous opportunity for brainstorming and networking.

Breakout sessions include:

- Business opportunities/sustainable economic development
- Renewable energy options
- Green building
- Storm water and low impact development
- Sustainable agriculture
- The greening of business

For more information including the full agenda and registration information, visit: <http://sustainability.clark.wa.gov/>

Mark Your Calendars - WSAC Announces the 2007 Regional Forums

In anticipation of the next meeting of the WSAC Legislative Steering Committee, WSAC will be holding four Regional Forums to hear and discuss what issues members are most interested in and concerned about. ALL MEMBERS are welcome and encouraged to attend these Forums. In an effort to be as accessible to as many people as possible, the Forums will be held in Stevens, Franklin, Skagit and Cowlitz counties. Please find the dates and locations below:

Northwest Regional LSC Forum

June 7 (Thursday) Skagit County
1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Commissioner's Hearing Room (*Separate from the Courthouse*)
1800 Continental Place Suite 100, Mt. Vernon, WA

Southwest Regional LSC Forum

June 8 (Friday) Cowlitz County
10:00 a.m. to Noon Conference Room B (*Courthouse - Room 109*)
204 4th Avenue N, Kelso, WA

Again, these Regional Forums are designed to promote discussion and communication between members, LSC and WSAC and everyone is invited to attend one or all of them. We look forward to seeing you there.

Courthouse Ramblings & Good Things

Washington Counties Scholarship Fund Awards Announced

Two independent selection committees have chosen the following children of county employees to receive Washington Counties Scholarships for the 2007-2008 school year: **Sarah Anderson, Scott Henderson, Tarrah Lavinder, Jordan Swarthout, and Josiah Ward**. Each scholarship is worth \$2,500. The Washington Counties Scholarship Fund, a joint venture of WACO and WSAC, awards these five scholarships annually to high school seniors or full-time college students enrolled in a baccalaureate degree, associate degree or vocational/technical certification program. The students must be dependents of county employees.

Sarah Anderson, daughter of Lisa (Whatcom County Assessor's office) and Donald Anderson, is graduating from Squalicum High School, in Bellingham and will be pursuing a double major in Elementary Education and Spanish at Western Washington University. She is interested in teaching in a foreign country or working with English Language Learners. Sarah has been a classroom volunteer in both Kindergarten and in 2nd and 3rd grades. She is also a competitive ice skater.

Scott Henderson, son of Heidi (Thurston County Health and Social Services) and Thomas Henderson, will be a senior at Lewis & Clark College, in Portland and is pursuing a degree in Physics. He is applying to PhD programs in aerospace engineering and engineering physics. Scott has traveled extensively through ties with the Spanish Club at Lewis & Clark and spent a six-week home stay in Venezuela, followed by a year-long study exchange in Ecuador. He has been a volunteer math tutor for high school students, in engaged in wilderness leadership training and plays soccer. Scott was an alternate winner in 2006.

Tarrah Lavinder, the daughter of Gary Lavinder (Pacific County Department of Public Works) and Freddie Hatfield, is graduating from Raymond High School. Tarrah is going to pursue a major in Medicine and would like to become a pediatrician. Her community and volunteer service is extensive, she plays several sports and she has served as freshman and sophomore class representatives and a both junior and senior class president.

Jordan Swarthout, son of Kathi (Thurston County Treasurer's Office) and Michael Swarthout, will be a sophomore at the University of Washington, and is majoring in International Studies. He is aiming for minors in both French and Arabic, and eventually wants to serve overseas in the United States Foreign Service. Jordan is a member of the University of Washington Cross Country and Track teams and has a long list of honors and awards, as well as volunteer work.

Josiah Ward, son of Brian (Pierce County Sheriff's Department) and Stephanie Ward, will be a junior at Whitworth College. As a pre-med student, Josiah has chosen to be a pediatrician and has been hired by the Health Department of Whitworth College as a dorm medic to work alongside a registered nurse for the 2007-2008 school year. Josiah is currently active in the campus En Christo ministry, a student-run program which delivers food to those in need. He is an accomplished musician in saxophone and plays in the jazz band and wind ensemble at Whitworth. Josiah is also the recipient of a music scholarship.

Two alternates were also selected in the event any of the winners cannot utilize their scholarships. They are Adrianna Creasey, daughter of Carol (Clallam County Community Development), and Stanton Creasey (Clallam County Auditor's office), and Gina Duff Tichenor, daughter of Carol Cummings (King County Sheriff's office) and Lance Tichenor. Both Adrianna and Gina won the Washington Counties Scholarships in 2006.

Congratulations and best of luck to all of the winners!

Nation's Most Innovative Government Initiatives Compete for \$100,000 Award

King County Clerk's Office has been named Finalist for the Innovation in American Government Awards Competition.

Eighteen unique and effective government programs were announced last month as finalists for the 2007 Innovations in American Government Awards by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. These finalists will compete for seven \$100,000 awards.

The King County Clerk's Office was named among the finalists for its Electronic Court Records. Electronic Court Records (ECR) gives court case file users electronic access. Scanning and e-filing have eliminated paper files, resulting in faster processing, desktop access to documents and better security.

King County Clerk Barbara Miner visited Harvard University last week to make a five minute presentation to a panel of judges on the project. She noted that the panelists' credentials were very impressive in that they included professors, from NYU, Harvard, Berkeley; presidential administrators; authors on leadership; or consultants to national television shows on government issues. The panel usually includes a member of the Kennedy family as well. After an intense five minutes, the panel was allowed an additional time to ask question. The prize money is intended to assist others implement the same kind of project.

The Institute paid for expenses for the trip and allowed a "customer" of the innovative project to attend as well. King County Superior Court Judge Mary Yu was the ECR customer who attended. These finalists offer tangible results that innovative government leaders can improve public services to their citizens," said Stephen Goldsmith, Director of the Innovations in American Government Program. "When government officials focus on achieving results through innovative thinking, they show that government has the capacity to successfully tackle serious problems while creating efficiencies."

The Ash Institute reports that nearly 1,000 applications were submitted from across the country. The field was narrowed last month to the Top 50 Programs. The next step for the finalist programs was the presentation before the National Selection Committee at Kennedy School on Tuesday, May 15th. The winners will be announced in September in Washington, D.C. at a dinner celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Innovations in American Government Awards.

“Each of these finalist programs demonstrates public sector ingenuity,” said Gowher Rizvi, Director of the Ash Institute. “We are pleased to recognize these innovative initiatives and the hardworking individuals who dedicate themselves to the public good.”

There are eighteen finalists for this year’s awards and they include:

Automated Community Connection to Economic Self-Sufficiency

State of Florida

Antenatal & Neonatal Guidelines, Education & Learning System (ANGELS)

State of Arkansas

Capital Improvements Management Office

Kansas City, Missouri

Center for State Adoption and Policy Research

State of Tennessee

Citizen and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting (CLEAR)

City of Chicago, Illinois

Climate Protection Initiative

City of Seattle, Washington

Community Care

State of North Carolina

eCityGov Alliance

Puget Sound region, Washington

Electronic Court Records

King County, Washington

Homeowner's Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Juvenile Justice Continuum of Services and Graduated Sanctions

6th Judicial District of New Mexico

Landbanking for Affordable Housing

City of Eugene, Oregon

Overt Drug Market Strategy

City of High Point, North Carolina

Renewable Energy Mitigation Program

City of Aspen, Colorado

Science Engineering Mathematics and Aerospace Academy

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Urban Land Reform Initiative

Genesee County, Michigan

Vacant Property Registration Fee Program

City of Wilmington, Delaware

Water System Conservation Program

City of San Antonio, Texas

The Innovations in American Government Awards is a program of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation. The Ash Institute advances excellence in governance and strengthens democratic institutions worldwide. Through its research, publications, leadership training, global network, and awards program, the Ash Institute fosters creative and effective government problem-solving and serves as a catalyst for addressing many of the most pressing needs of the world’s citizens. The complete report is available at http://www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu/ash/pr_2007

Attachments

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

(U.S. Communities) website <http://www.uscommunities.org/>

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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