

the Courthouse Journal

WACOUNTIES.ORG

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

WACO Affiliates to Meet

Six WACO affiliates will be meeting over the course of the next three weeks for Annual Conferences and training.

- **Washington State Association of County Assessors' Annual Conference** – June 11-14 – Clarion Inn, Yakima. President: Scott Noble, King County Assessor
- **Washington State Association of County Treasurers' Annual Conference** – June 11-15 – Marcus Whitman Hotel, Walla Walla. President: Judy Ainslie, Cowlitz County Treasurer
- **Washington State Association of County Clerks' Annual Conference** – June 12-15 – Best Western Suites, Friday Harbor. President: Pam Daniels, Snohomish County Clerk
- **Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners Training** – June 17-19 – Campbell's Resort, Chelan. President: Greg Sandstrom, Kitsap County Coroner
- **Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' Summer Training Conference** – June 20-22 – Campbell's Resort, Chelan. President: Randy Gaylord, San Juan County Prosecutor
- **2007 Northwest Regional Elections Conference** – June 26-29 - Red Lion Hotel at Jantzen Beach, Portland. President: Thad Duvall, Douglas County Auditor

WSAC Board meets in Chelan

WSAC President Leo Bowman presided over a facilitated retreat in Chelan on May 24-25. The retreat agenda focused on how WSAC can become a highly successful organization using the model "Seven Measures of Success." Bainbridge Island Consultant Michael Lisagor worked with the Board to identify a number of key issue areas for WSAC to focus on in the next two years including:

- Financial Services Corporation
- Program Review and Analysis
- Partnerships
- Data Gathering and Outreach

At the WSAC Board of Directors Meeting in Walla Walla, members will review the final set of objectives and actions associated with each issue area

The real highlight of the Board retreat found the Board of Directors lining the parade route in Chelan to cheer on our very own Chelan County Commissioner Buell Hawkins on Thursday night.

For more information on the Board Retreat Agenda and Outcomes, please contact Michelle Zahrly or Eric Johnson.

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](http://www.wacounties.org/employment)

The Courthouse Journal

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

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

WACO - (360) 753-7319 / Fax (360) 664-2812

Debbie Wilke, Executive Director
Christina Bridston, Deputy Director
Robin Chase, Financial Operations Manager
Bob Carlton, Research Associate
Kathleen Houts, Administrative Assistant

WSAC - (360) 753-1886 / Fax (360) 753-2842

Bill Vogler, Executive Director

Executive Staff

Eric Johnson, Assistant Executive Director
Trina Bannister, Finance Director
Michelle Zahrly, Communications Director

Policy Staff

Sophia Byrd McSherry, Policy Director-
Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice
Jean Wessman, Policy Director-
Human Services, Juvenile Justice & Housing
Julie Murray, Policy Director-
Transportation, Finance & Budget
Vicki Kirkpatrick, Public Health Policy Director
& WSALPHO Administrator
Brad Banks, Policy Analyst
Tom Robinson, Timber Program Manager

Operations Staff

Ginni Peppert, Member Services Coordinator
Barbara Warden, Member Services Coordinator
Justin Kerrihard, Technology Manager
Beth Dubey, Member Services Assistant

Certified Public Officials Program (CPO)

Vacant, Program Manager

<http://www.cpoprogram.org/>

Norm Maleng Remembered by Family, Officials and Colleagues

By Warren King Seattle Times staff reporter

More than a thousand people from King County and beyond flocked to the University of Washington on Saturday to bid a final farewell to one of the area's most beloved citizens.

Norm Maleng, King County prosecutor for 28 years, was lauded for his commitment to justice, his honesty and his caring for others. The tributes at the UW's Hec Edmundson Pavilion rang with grief but also with gratitude for the way Maleng touched his community in the decades before his unexpected death May 24 from cardiac arrest. He was 68.

"He was the heart and soul of justice," said Gov. Christine Gregoire. "He was everybody's mentor. ... From Norm, you would always learn something. It was his best judgment, and it was always right on."

Gregoire, like all of the speakers, spoke of Maleng's warmth and caring and thanked his wife, Judy, and son, Mark, for their support and "for sharing him with the state of Washington." "He was a blessing to the entire state of Washington."

Dan Satterberg, Maleng's chief of staff for 17 years and now acting prosecuting attorney, also focused on Maleng's family support and the way he opened himself to others.

Maleng, he said, often sat with crime victims and told them simply that he was sorry. It came from a man who lost his 12-year-old daughter, Karen, to a sledding accident in 1989.

"They could see that this was a man who had been through grief, and it made them strong," Satterberg said. "He brought them hope in the midst of hopelessness."

Satterberg said Maleng, a deeply religious man, believed in angels and that Karen watched over him every day.

"Norm said Karen's death taught him so much about death and about life," Satterberg said. "His grief became his shield. He said, 'There is nothing anyone can do to me that can hurt me now.' And he felt that strength to do good."

Like many, Satterberg marveled at his boss's unfailing optimism and compassion. "He was full of love and disregarded whatever risks there were in opening his heart," said Satterberg.

Dozens of police officers and firefighters attended the memorial service in dress uniform. Outside the pavilion were two Seattle Fire Department trucks with ladders extended to form an arch, a traditional salute to a fallen comrade. And a variety of those attending shared their feelings as they filed into the pavilion.

"He just made everybody, no matter what level they worked at, feel important and worthwhile," said Sarah Ruwe, who worked as a legal assistant in the prosecutor's office for 3-½ years. "He always made a point to say hello and learn everyone's names."

Cheryl Terry was also among those paying their respects. She came to know Maleng after the death of her husband, Seattle police Officer Antonio Terry, who was shot and killed in the line of duty in 1994.

Legislative Committee Schedules and Agendas:

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

Bill Information: www.leg.wa.gov

"Our family has appreciated the support of the prosecutor's office so much," she said. "He [Maleng] had a 100 percent commitment in following through on justice for each and every case. I just wanted to pay my regards."

Maleng served eight terms as prosecutor, often winning re-election by enormous margins. His steady hand and wisdom set examples of leadership and courage for legions of attorneys, friends and King County citizens, many said.

"He had a heart and showed me how you can have a heart and still be effective," said Randy Gaylord, the prosecuting attorney in San Juan County and president of the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys. "When Norm spoke," he said, "people listened."

Maleng was widely known for instituting important legal reforms and new approaches to prosecution. He helped persuade the state Legislature to pass the Sentencing Reform Act of 1981, which standardized sentences and plea bargaining. He instituted a tougher approach to sex offenders, which led to the state's system of registering convicted offenders after their release. He started a special unit to prosecute sexual assaults and domestic violence, and he responded to the many public complaints about car thefts with a unit to go after the most prolific thieves. He also helped establish a special drug court, one of the first in the nation, that waives prosecution if the offender follows a strict plan of drug testing and counseling. Studies show the approach reduces repeat offenses and cuts jail costs.

During his nearly three decades in office, Maleng oversaw prosecution of some of the highest-profile cases in the county's history: the Wah Mee massacre in 1983, the slaying of Seattle attorney Charles Goldmark and family in 1985; and the Green River serial murders that culminated in the sentencing of Gary Ridgway in 2003. Yet the prosecutor managed to touch people on a personal level, to integrate the many roles he seamlessly played in life.

Mike Vaska, a Seattle attorney who attended the memorial, worked for a while as a special deputy in Maleng's office. His last memory of Maleng was during a time when he was interviewing for a job at the U.S. Attorney's Office. "We talked about the importance of justice and separating it from politics. He was an embodiment of that. ... He was a shining example of how you can do both. When it came to prosecuting and pursuing justice, he was absolutely beyond reproach."

Washington State Supreme Court Justice Bobbe Bridge told the audience of how hard Maleng worked for troubled kids: He encouraged education and special programs to get them back on track. He worked with parents and community-service workers. "He was so proud of those who turned their lives around," she said. "Norm saved the lives of youths."

Maleng's son, Mark, 29, told the audience how his family deeply appreciated the community's outpouring of condolences and praise since his father died. He also praised his father's staff for helping build what he called the finest prosecuting attorney's office in the nation. "He was humbled by all that you did for him," he said. "And he was humbled by the courage of [crime] victims." He said his father loved his work, but even with all his responsibilities, his family came first. He fondly recalled attending Mariners, Sonics and Husky games with him. He recalled how his father and mother were a team that did much good. "The greatest honor of his life was to serve as King County prosecuting attorney," said Mark Maleng. "The greatest honor of my life was to call him my dad."

The family of Norm Maleng said condolences may be sent in care of the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, 516 Third Ave., W-554, Seattle, WA 98104. Contributions in memory of Norm Maleng may be made to one of three charities:

The University of Washington Law School, William Gates Hall, P.O. Box 353020, Seattle, WA 98195-3020; The Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 2330 Viewmont Way W., Seattle, WA 98199; Harborview Medical Center, c/o Norm Maleng Fund, 325 Ninth Ave., Seattle, WA 98104.

Dan Satterberg Appointed King County Prosecutor

Following the death of King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng, the King County Council named Dan Satterberg as acting prosecuting attorney. Satterberg served as a criminal prosecutor for five years before Maleng chose him as chief of staff 17 years ago. He is a graduate of the University of Washington and the UW Law School. On Monday, Satterberg, a Republican, filed as a candidate for Prosecuting Attorney. Satterberg is expected to be the top candidate when the County Council appoints a prosecutor to serve until results of the November election are certified.

WSAC Joint District Meeting

Those wishing to register for the 2007 Joint District Meeting June 20-22 in Walla Walla, should contact Denise Boyd, WSU Conference Services at (509) 335-2954 or boydenise@wsu.edu.

What is the Role of Local Elected Officials?

by Bob Carlton, WACO

No one really thinks about the role of elected officials. Most are considered to be figure heads elected to take up space in an office. We really don't need them, right? They serve no real purpose, right?

I spent the better part of 27 years taking up "space in an office" in one form or another. In most instances, the public never really sees the inner workings that go on in all the county offices throughout the state. As long as there are no scandals or news headlines that revolve around an office, they are pretty much taken for granted.

So, what is the role of each county elected official? Administer the laws respective to your office -- that is a "given." Each office has a certain amount of work that must get done in order for that office to successfully perform their function. Examples such as revaluation of property, issuance of marriage licenses, recording of documents and the collection of taxes come to mind. Of course, we also have the court and legal system administration, and don't forget someone has to be in patrol cars and respond to complaints and people who break the law. But is that all they do?

One little thought of, but most important function of any elected official is to protect the public. You are on point and watchful and mindful of anything that affects the people you were elected to serve. In other words, any elected official is an advocate for the people.

We've heard it said that Coroners speak for the dead, when no one else can. Consider now that all other elected officials speak for the living when no one else will. And, it is not because they don't want to, it is because they simply don't have the knowledge of the day to day workings of county government, and the laws that affect them.

Recently in Seattle, King County Assessor Scott Noble spoke before the International Association of Assessing Officers. His speech was both timely and very well thought out as to the role of elected officials, specifically dealing with the property tax system in the State of Washington. With his permission, and proper credit to the *Fair & Equitable Journal* published by the IAAO, is the following article:

KEEPERS OF THE FAITH

This article is adapted from King County Assessor Scott Noble's luncheon remarks at the April 25-26, 2007 IAAO Councils and Sections Seminar in Seattle, Washington.

The viability and fairness of the property tax system are crucial, as it is the best and, some say, the only tax system that can fund local governance structure and enhance local control. The property tax system is the only tax system existing in each of the United States.

When I attended the 1997 IAAO International Conference in Toronto, Ontario, I was looking for an anchor—an anchor of faith of what was fair. I had just been through a difficult legislative session where unfair proposals came out of the woodwork and were soon to be on the ballot for public approval. I found that anchor of faith in Toronto. It's called the IAAO Standard on Property Tax Policy. The association adopted it there in Toronto in August 1997.

As assessing officers, we must be keepers of that faith and fight to be fair, to be taxpayer advocates (fighting what is unfair), and to be as transparent and open as possible with information. In this article, I highlight quotes of the IAAO Standard on Property Tax Policy and also describe my experience and perspective in Washington state. Washington is fairly unique in that its property tax system is budget-driven; all real property is a single class and is market-value-based; and there is a uniformity-of-taxation requirement in the Washington State Constitution.

Assessing Officer's Role in Policy Formation and Analysis

According to the IAAO standard, an assessing officer:

- Is knowledgeable about the strengths and weaknesses of a particular property tax system.
- Can use this knowledge to improve the system.
- Can serve as an information clearinghouse, help shape the debate, and define the administrative requirement of a policy proposal.
- Can call attention to problems that might be created by a policy, propose legislative remedies, and participate in the development of statutes, rules, and regulations.

- Can explain the inequities that could result from proposals – which may be well intentioned, but poorly designed with loads of unintended consequences – and can propose alternatives that may be less inequitable, such as budget or revenue caps or selective exemptions.
- Is often in the best position to understand and, therefore, take positions for or against proposed policies. Assessing officers should provide detailed rationales for taking such positions and provide highly objective analysis to maintain credibility.

Experience and Perspective in Washington State

In Washington, the property tax system is budget-driven, and as a result, proposals on property tax relief or reform tend to shift taxes, not reduce them. The biggest issues over the years have been valuation limits, exemption proliferation, and tax transparency (or, I should say, the lack thereof). In other words, tax shift happens.

I was the Legislative Committee Chair of the State Assessors Association for eight years and currently serve as President. I can sum up my experience with legislative sessions as follows, “It feels like you are on fire.” This year, this feeling lasted for four months; in the even-numbered years, it lasts for two months. Some years the back and forth to the state capitol seemed like a yo-yo; I remember one session during which I drove to Olympia about three times a week. The term yo-yo also describes how it feels when testifying on a hot topic: You’re On Your Own.

On average, more than 120 legislative proposals concerning property taxes or property tax administration are introduced each year. Many of these bills have fiscal notes on their financial (or tax shift) impacts; unfortunately the information is needed in a couple of hours at best. This last year more than 140 bills were considered, and I often felt like a cat on a hot tin roof, scrambling to answer fiscal notes, e-mail testimony, and respond to press, legislator, and other inquiries.

Valuation Limits

Two ballot measures, Referendum 47 in 1997 and Initiative 722 in 2000, proposed valuation increase limitations to the public and passed. Of valuation limits, the IAAO standard states,

“Valuation increase limits may appear to provide control, but actually distort the distribution of the property tax, destroying property tax equity and increasing public confusion” and “Valuation increase limits result in lower effective property tax rates for owners of desirable property and higher effective property tax rates for owners of less desirable property. Any other control is preferable.”

Referendum 47 (1997) had three parts: (1) Make permanent a reduction in the state property tax levy (a good thing). (2). Lower districts’ maximum levies with more tax transparency (another good thing). (3). Enact a complex two-part valuation limitation formula (not a good thing). A group of ten assessors took the valuation limit provision to the State Supreme Court. After a nearly two-year battle from start to finish, the State Supreme Court unanimously ruled the limit unfair and unconstitutional.

The other initiative was from Tim Eyman, a well-known tax crusader in Washington. His Initiative 722 valuations would have been limited to 2 percent increases. Statewide, the tax shifts would have been enormous, and nearly 1 million properties would not have been eligible.

This measure also ended up at the Washington State Supreme Court after another nearly two-year battle. Again, assessors led the opposition, and I was wearing the bull’s eye quite often. The Washington State Supreme Court ruled unanimously that the valuation limits were unconstitutional, with Justice Sanders’ concurring opinion strongly speaking out against them.

The year after adoption of the *IAAO Standard on Property Tax Policy*, it was cited seven times by the Washington State Supreme Court in its unanimous ruling that Referendum 47 was unfair and unconstitutional, thus preserving the uniformity requirement of the Washington State Constitution.

Tax Transparency

The IAAO standard says, “Truth-in-taxation systems should be promoted whenever possible.” In 1995, I was fortunate in helping initiate and pass a bill requiring taxing districts to hold a public hearing each year on their property tax levy increases.

As assessing officers, we must be keepers of that faith and fight to be fair, to be taxpayer advocates (fighting what is unfair), and to be as transparent and open as possible with information.

Assessors in Washington have initiated tax transparency bills each year since 2002. Unfortunately, these bills have not been successful, and this year the assessors association could not find a single sponsor in the legislature to step up and

introduce it. The power of some local taxing districts is such that these bills do not move forward. Amazingly, some districts submitted a motion in the Initiative 722 Supreme Court case asking the court to rule a tax increase occurred only when the property tax levy rate went up. King County and the State Attorney General submitted counter motions stating this was incorrect. The Attorney General added, "The average informed voter certainly would be surprised to learn that a levy increase (that is, an increase in the amount of taxes collected by a taxing district) is not a monetary increase in an existing tax. The plaintiff's argument that only a rate increase constitutes a 'tax increase' is flawed." The State Supreme Court declined to rule on this issue, and many taxing districts continue to say novel things regarding property tax levies.

Exemption Proliferation

With more than a hundred property tax exemptions, Washington is similar to many other jurisdictions. Assessors have submitted many exemption review bills to the legislature, and fortunately a related bill passed last year. It set up a Tax Preference Performance Audit process, headed by a public commission. The subject first appeared in legislative recommendations by the 2002 Gates Commission on Washington State's Tax Structure. The bill's sponsor, Representative Jim McIntire, was a member of the Gates Commission. I was the assessor representative.

Ironically, this year the legislature proposed a record number of new property tax exemptions (49). Few passed.

Storm on the Horizon—Prospects for the Property Tax System of Washington State

Real estate prices and sales have skyrocketed around the state in recent years. The generally unaffordable real estate market has spread out from King County to just about every other county in the state. This situation has sparked concern and protest, with legislators wanting to "do something." The proposals introduced this year ran the gamut from valuation limitations to multiple exemptions to budget and revenue caps. Regarding homeowner-related proposals, not a single bill passed. Achieving substantive relief or reform in a uniform and equitable manner proved very elusive. To this all-too-common ingredient in revolts, Washington adds a historical issue that may tip the scales.

In 2001, Initiative 747 passed, limiting taxing districts to 1 percent increases for property tax levies or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. For districts taking less than their maximum dollars in past years or less than 1 percent in current years, they can bank this property tax dollar levy capacity for potential use in future years.

In June 2006, the King County Superior Court found Initiative 747 unconstitutional. It has been appealed to the Washington State Supreme Court, with a stay on the ruling by the King County Superior Court. The stay on the ruling was granted by the State Supreme Court in August 2006 and postponed the potential for large property tax increases due to banked capacity (basically the difference between 1 percent and inflation for six tax years plus any unused capacity from years prior to 2002). This possibility for large property tax increases was the reason the Assessors Association unanimously passed a resolution in June 2006 and forwarded it to the Attorney General of Washington, asking for a stay on this ruling by the King County Superior Court.

In the worst (and unlikely) case that the State Supreme Court agrees with the King County Superior Court and rules Initiative 747 unconstitutional, the senior taxing districts in King County *could* [my emphasis] raise their property tax levies an average of 20 percent in a single year. Needless to say, if anything like this happens, there will be an uproar.

These variables point to 2008 as a year that may determine the fate of the current property tax system in Washington. Hearings on the property tax will be conducted by the Washington State House of Representatives Finance Committee throughout the state later this year. The committee will consider homestead exemptions, a Proposition 13-type system, circuit breakers, and other approaches. It is expected these considerations will be a major part of the 2008 gubernatorial campaign next year.

Keeping the Faith

As proposals increase, assessing officers will be inundated with requests for information and analysis, usually on very short notice. Through all this, we must keep the faith, even though it is hard work.

Carefully tailoring and targeting property tax relief and reform is the only true prospect for success. Removing myth, misconception, and unintended consequence is vital over the long run, because as fewer and fewer people trust the system, the citizenry becomes ever more susceptible to untested, quick-fix remedies that limit public choice and cost more money.

In any technical analysis of the property tax system, the highly fragmented condition of the governance structure and tax base must be taken into consideration. One reason for spiraling increases in property taxes is the state's rapid growth—the greater cost of public services to a fragmented, ever-expanding sprawl. The six-county Seattle metropolitan area has

one unit of government for every 6,300 people, very similar to the six-county Chicago metro area. The Seattle ratio, however, is five times that of greater Los Angeles and almost seven times that of New York City.

In the end, I believe an objective, professional effort can move these discussions away from rhetoric and toward the examination of real reform, the preservation of local control options, and the avoidance of unfair or ill-advised proposals.

So, to assessing officers who keep the faith: Keep up the great work and thank you for your service to your respective citizens. Keep fighting for what is fair, against that which is not, and let everybody, at all times, know what is really going on.

Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice

Agencies Begin Planning to Implement Offender Re-Entry Bill

Although the bill doesn't officially become effective until July 22, state agencies, individual counties and WSAC already are gearing up to implement the many aspects of **ESSB 6157**, relating to offender re-entry.

Here's a quick rundown of 6157-related activities currently under way that affect counties:

- Per Section 102 of the bill, each county is directed to "inventory" existing community programs and services that may assist offenders; the inventory is to be completed by January 1, 2008. The state will reimburse each county for up to 40 hours work on the inventory. WSAC and the state Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) are currently developing an online tool by which counties may report their inventory information. **By mid-June, you can expect to receive a letter from CTED and WSAC explaining the inventory tool, timelines, and reimbursement procedures.**
- Section 108 of the bill amends existing law related to local Law and Justice Councils, and reinvigorates the councils with new, optional authority to become involved in offender re-entry activities. In response, some local Law and Justice Councils are considering amendments to their local county codes. To learn more about local code proposals – or to share your county's proposals -- contact WSAC staff Sophia Byrd McSherry at sbyrd@wacounties.org or 360-753-1886.
- The bill directs the state Department of Corrections (DOC) to establish an advisory committee to assist in siting work release facilities, community justice centers, etc. DOC has already solicited nominees for this committee, including nominees to represent WSAC. The WSAC Board of Directors will choose up to three WSAC nominees at its June 19 board meeting, and the Secretary of Corrections will appoint a WSAC representative. All WSAC members should have received an email last week explaining the purpose of the committee and providing a link to the online application form, which is due in the WSAC office by June 9.
- The June 21 WSAC conference in Walla Walla will include a presentation by Steve Aos of the Washington Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) regarding cost-effective programs that are proven to reduce criminal recidivism. WSIPP also will be helping develop the application for counties to seek state funding to develop "Community Transition Coordination Networks" (CTCNs), as authorized by ESSB 6157.

WSAC will be pro-active to keep you informed as more develops regarding implementation of this bill. Any questions or concerns, please contact WSAC staff Sophia Byrd McSherry.

Governor Gregoire Announces Six Counties to Receive Juvenile Justice Reform Grants from MacArthur Foundation

Governor Gregoire announced that six Washington counties will receive funding and technical support to improve juvenile justice systems, part of a five-year, \$10 million investment in the state under the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Models for Change initiative. The six counties, which were selected in recognition of their innovative work in juvenile justice reform, are Benton, Clark, Franklin, King, Pierce and Spokane.

"Youth who end up in the juvenile justice system deserve opportunities for successful lives and a chance to succeed in the global economy. Models for Change will enable us to build on and accelerate the terrific work already underway in Washington," said Governor Gregoire. "We are one of only four states selected by the MacArthur Foundation to receive

funding under this initiative and I am particularly proud that the Foundation is acknowledging work being done in both eastern and western Washington, in rural as well as urban counties.”

The counties were selected following a process that evaluated a number of criteria, including their commitment to juvenile justice reform, their record of collaborative relationships seeking policy change and improvement, the likelihood of achieving initiative goals and their potential as a bellwether for other parts of the state.

[Governor Gregoire’s Web Site: More Information](#)

[MacArthur Foundation Web Site: More Information](#)

Environment, Land Use & Resources

DOE Seeks Shellfish Aquaculture Regulatory Committee Member

The 2007 Washington State Legislature passed SSHB 2220 relating to shellfish aquaculture. This bill:

- Commissions a series of intertidal geoduck aquaculture scientific research studies, to be led by Washington Sea Grant;
- Creates a Shellfish Aquaculture Regulatory Committee with members representing a wide range of perspectives;
- Directs Ecology to develop Shoreline Master Program guidelines for geoduck aquaculture operation siting and operation; and
- Directs the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife to expand the information required for aquatic farm registration.

In particular, the Shellfish Aquaculture Regulatory Committee has three tasks under this legislation:

(1) Developing recommendations for an integrated regulatory process for all current and new shellfish aquaculture projects. DOE anticipates this work will involve roughly monthly meetings from July 2007 to early/mid 2008. The legislation requires the Committee to report its recommendations and findings to the legislature by December 1, 2007, with a further report, if necessary, by December 1, 2008.

(2) Advising Ecology on new geoduck aquaculture guidelines to assist local Shoreline Master Program updates. These guidelines are to be adopted by rule into Ecology’s Shoreline Master Program Guidelines. DOE anticipates that the rule process will take about a year, from mid-2008 to mid-2009. During this period, DOE anticipates occasional Committee meetings to advise Ecology on drafting and revising the rule in response to comments.

(3) Oversight of the intertidal geoduck scientific research program authorized by the bill. The Committee will advise Sea Grant on research topics and priorities, and ensure that research meets planning, permitting and data management needs. This will be an important topic in the initial months of the Committee (last half of 2007), with updates and continued dialogue anticipated with Sea Grant through mid-2009.

The 14 members of the Shellfish Aquaculture Regulatory Committee will represent the shellfish industry, the environmental community, shoreline property owners, county government, four state agencies (Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Agriculture, and Natural Resources) and tribal governments. Ecology will provide staffing to the Committee. The project will conclude by June 2009.

County participation

SSHB 2220 specifies two County participants for the Committee: One Puget Sound county and one Pacific Coast county.

DOE intends for the committee to begin work in July. If you are interested in participating, please contact: Tom Clingman, Policy and Legislative Lead, Ecology Shorelands & Environmental Assistance Program, (360) 407-7448 or tcli461@ecy.wa.gov.

The Washington Invasive Species Council Needs Your Help

More and more we are hearing about the invasion of non-native species – plant and animal, terrestrial and aquatic. The number of these “global hitchhikers” arriving in our state is steadily increasing. Our surroundings are changing because of them. They cause harm to our economy, environment, and health.

The Washington Invasive Species Council was established by the Legislature to facilitate communication and cooperation with public and private efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to invasive species. The only way to do this is with a cooperative, collaborative and strategic effort. The Council is asking for your help in the development of a statewide strategic plan.

If you have programs, projects, or other activities that help to reduce the impacts of invasive non-native species, please take a few minutes to complete the attached questionnaire. This information will be used to gain a better understanding of efforts underway throughout the state and to help the Council establish effective communication and collaboration with various groups. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=NVDYUrL06wMJt0mkcHbslQ%3d%3d>

For additional information, please contact Clover Lockard, Executive Coordinator Washington Invasive Species Council, 360-902-3088 or CloverL@iac.wa.gov.

Public Health & Human Services

Washington Behavioral Healthcare Conference to be held in Yakima

The 18th annual Washington Behavioral Healthcare Conference, *Realizing Our Dreams Together*, will be held in Yakima June 13 – 15. The conference brings together national experts in recovery; consumer and family leaders in consumer-directed services; providers of local model programs and evidence-based practices, and state officials from the Mental Health Division’s System Transformation Initiative and the Governor’s Office Transformation Grant. This year’s theme was chosen to emphasize action, hope and collaboration.

Keynoters include pioneering Boston psychologist Courtenay Harding, author of the famous “Vermont Study” and other work which confirm that one half to two thirds of people with schizophrenia recover significantly or completely over time and Amy Long, a consumer practitioner who focuses on the “healing within.” Other highlights are over 35 workshops with tracks that focus on consumer recovery and resiliency, children and youth services, developmental disabilities, aging and older adult services, evidence-based and promising practices across the state.

Registration is available via the internet at https://www.ventrue2inc.com/rehome.aspx?event=WBHC_2007
For additional information contact Julia Stephan at 425-451-4087 X227.

Association News

Sheriffs Meet in Wenatchee

The Washington State Sheriffs’ Association (WSSA) met on May 22, at the Coast Wenatchee Hotel and Conference Center in Wenatchee in conjunction with the 2007 Spring Conference of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC). Whatcom County Sheriff Bill Elfo, WSSA President, presided over the meeting. Nearly 30 counties were represented.

The sheriffs present unanimously adopted a WSSA Legislative Action Protocol to formalize the legislative process for the organization. The Protocol establishes a WSSA Legislative Coordinating Committee comprised of the officers to meet periodically to review legislation and develop an association position. The WASPC Legislative Agenda will be presented to the sheriffs for discussion and potential ratification.

In addition, the Protocol recognizes WASPC as the legislative lead on matters related to the criminal and law enforcement functions of the office of sheriffs while WACO is recognized as the legislative lead for matters related to the elective office of the sheriff and civil support functions of the office. WASPC and WACO will support the efforts of each other in the designated areas.

All WSSA members are requested to submit all individual legislation to the WSSA Legislative Coordinating Committee and/or the WASPC Legislative Committee but nothing precludes a member from pursuing their own legislative interests. WSSA will develop its legislative agenda for 2008 over the summer.

The agenda also included legislative and committee reports; presentations by organizations including Search and Rescue and Fight Crime, Invest in Kids; and an executive session.

WASPC Elects Officers

Franklin County Sheriff Richard Lathim was recently elected President of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) during the WASPC Spring Conference in Wenatchee. Lathim was elected sheriff in 1986 and served as WACO President in 2000/01.

The Vice President's slot went to Pacific County Sheriff John Didion. Sheriffs serving on the Executive Board include Chelan County Sheriff Mike Harum, Walla Walla County Sheriff Mike Humphreys, and King County Sheriff Sue Rahr.

Boards & Commissions

Candidacy Statements for Special Election of WSAC Board of Directors Secretary-Treasurer Position

WSAC Members will vote in a special election at their June 21/22 General Meeting in Walla Walla to fill the Board of Directors Secretary-Treasurer officer position. The position became vacant after Commissioner Chris Endresen announced her resignation as Vice Chair to accept a new position with Senator Cantwell's office. The Board of Directors passed a motion May 24 to recommend to the full membership that the current Secretary-Treasurer, Commissioner Mary Hunt, fill the vacant position of Vice President which left the Secretary-Treasurer position open.

The following members have announced their candidacy for the Secretary-Treasurer position as of June 6, 2007:

Friends,

As someone who cares about Counties and our future, I have decided to run for Secretary Treasurer of the Washington Association of Counties.

Our Association faces both opportunities and challenges. WSAC must remain **accountable** to our members. We need leaders who will listen and who understand that the long-term plans that they approve **set the course for our future**.

As Secretary Treasurer of WSAC, I will work to understand the needs of all of our members and the communities they represent. And, I will look for opportunities to **involve all members** and make the Board decisions **open and balanced**.

And, as a member of the Executive Committee, I will continue to **find opportunities** to educate the public, other elected officials, and interest groups about the current and future **needs of counties**.

In my experience as a Commissioner and as a member of WSAC, I will always work for positive change in our Association. I am asking you to give me the opportunity to move to the next level and elect me as your next WSAC Secretary Treasurer.

This is the campaign of a member who has gained much from WSAC. There are no special interests or agendas just a committed candidate and friends who share my hopes and concerns for the future of Counties. Please contact me with your questions and remember when it is time to vote choose **"Leadership that listens."**

Lynda Ring-Erickson
Mason County Commissioner

There has never been a more important time for our Association to be at the table in Olympia than now. We have more tasks to accomplish than ever before and less money to do it with. This is the time that's crucial for us, as an organization, to provide leadership to our State and our Nation through bi-partisan east-west, and rural urban cooperation.

For the last six years, I have had the privilege of serving this organization. I have been the Western District Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-President and current president. I have served as WSAC representative to the Puget Sound Council for the last two years. I have also served NACo as a member of the Agriculture Steering Committee for the past 6 years, the Food Safety Sub-committee Chair for the past 4 years and am currently a member of the Rural Action Caucus.

I believe our organization will be a key player in the future of our State and our Nation and I would appreciate your support at our next conference when we fill the position vacated by our distinguished colleague Chris Endresen. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Kenneth A. Dahlstedt
Skagit County Commissioner

Reminder: Statewide Boards and Commissions Interest Form Due June 9

Interested individuals are still needed for several statewide Boards and Commissions. To apply for any of the seats below, 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>

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 6157**); 1-3 positions available . For information about this committee e-mail Wendy Jolly, wljolly@doc1.wa.gov .

If you have questions or are having difficulty with the online form please contact Michelle Zahrly at (360) 586-4219 ext 112 or mzahrly@wacounties.org

WACO Member Wanted for Advisory Board

The Heritage Barn Preservation Program is looking for a WACO member to serve on advisory board recently created by the Legislature in Chapter 333 of the Laws of 2007. The board is part of a program within the State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation designed to provide funding for emergency assistance matching grants to barn owners and assess the need for long-term barn preservation. The historic barns are considered essential and irreplaceable symbols of Washington's history and community development.

WACO President Rick Bart has asked that county officials who would like to serve on the advisory committee contact the WACO office as soon as possible. The committee is charged with establishing an historic barn recognition program; developing criteria for the designation of historic barn and eligibility for grant funds; and examining regulatory issues that impose constraints on the ability to use heritage barns for contemporary economically productive purposes.

Training & Upcoming Events

Counties Encouraged to Promote Summer Reading to Young Residents

The Washington State Library is asking for counties to help promote its 2007 Summer Reading Program. The program—which takes place in large and small, urban and rural communities across the state—helps students stay intellectually

active throughout the summer and gives families something fun to do together. The goal of the promotional campaign is to raise awareness about the program, encourage young people and families to participate, and support local libraries.

As a promotional partner, counties are asked to:

- Link from your county webpage to the Washington State library webpage www.libraries.wa.gov. Website copy is available from the contact below.
- Include information on the Summer Reading program in your newsletters, at summer events, and through other means.

Not only will the above activities help promote the great programs taking place throughout the state of Washington, it will reinforce the fact that county governments are dedicated to helping youth and families thrive.

The campaign starts as schools break for the summer, so promotional activities can begin in the next two weeks. More information on the Summer Reading program will be available at the Joint District Conference June 20-22 in Walla Walla. Or counties may contact Jessie Domingo at the Metropolitan Group, (503) 223-3299 or jdomingo@metgroup.com.

Good Things

What the Snohomish County Auditor's Office did in 2006

Snohomish County Auditor Carolyn Diepenbrock reports:

13,030,092	document pages viewed on Recorder's website
8,649,280	revenue collected
1,454,292	images of documents sold
923,235	vehicle licenses issued countywide
460,656	votes cast
337,563	documents recorded
334,369	registered voters
201,418	voter registration transactions
170,154	visitors to the public records website
42,129	processed vehicle internet renewals
33,009	vessel licenses issued
17,380	households canvassed for pet education
16,041	searches conducted
16,041	customers assisted in public records
14,546	recording phone calls
12,400	pets licensed
10,978	dollars raised for charities
7,838	animal and business license complaints received
7,018	maps sold
3,956	marriage licenses issued
2,656	military voters
1,620	recording transactions done by credit card
1,592	false alarm notices sent
811	ballot styles
682	business license inspections made
596	animals impounded
592	candidate filings
566	voting devices (disabled access units) used
402	businesses licensed
247	kennels licensed
234	business complaints resolved
170	public disclosure requests
92	pets w/tags or microchips returned to owners
85	election seasonal workers
56	community collection center workers
52	skilled Auditor staff members
24	community collection centers used
17	licensing sub-agencies
10	Certified Election Administrators
7	performance audits completed
6	elections
4	Work Opportunities employees
1	Recount (s)

Courthouse Ramblings

We are sad to hear that former Pacific County Prosecutor **Michael Smith** passed away last month after a lengthy illness. Smith was defeated in the 2002 election and moved to Stevens County where he served as deputy prosecutor until his death. Our sympathy goes to his wife Terry Ray-Smith and his son Randy. Condolences can be sent to his family at P.O. Box 293, Colville, WA 99114.

Attachments

Dealing with Mentally Ill and Chemically Dependent Offenders in Washington State: The Business Plan

Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs
Web Conference
July 10, 2007 – 10:00 am to 12:00 pm PDT

Please join us as we explore new opportunities for change

The GAINS Mental Health Team Coalition was formed after the September 2006 Summit – Dealing with Mentally Ill Chemically Dependent Offenders in Washington State. The teams have been working together since that event to prepare a statewide business plan, evaluating different options and opportunities for change consistent with the National GAINS Center Sequential Intercept Model. The draft business plan will be available for review on June 30, 2007.

As a valued stakeholder, we would like to invite you to offer your feedback and insight during this web conference. Each component of the business plan will be presented for review.

The Teams will be finalizing the plan and presenting it to the Mental Health Council in August 2007.

You can register now at:

<http://w.on24.com/r.htm?e=45889&s=1&k=9C549F0DE0072397C84CC1F268DB6F27>

Please direct questions to: Elisa Elliott, Project Manager, King County Sheriff's Office, Phone: 206-205-7920 e-mail: elisa.elliott@metrokc.gov

Hosted by: Washington State Partners in Crisis

Supported by:



"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." - Anne Frank

Attachments (Continued)

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

U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance (U.S. Communities)

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