

the Courthouse Journal

WACOUNTIES.ORG

July 19, 2007
Issue No. 22

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

Commissioner Shelton to Take Helm of Washington Counties Insurance Fund

Island County Commissioner Mike Shelton resigned his seat Monday after 15 years in office to accept the position of Executive Director of the Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF). This is an exciting transition for our county members, as Shelton has strong knowledge of the programs offered to counties by the insurance agency and will stay in the county family.

Commissioner Shelton has served as Island County District 1 commissioner since January 1993. He completed his term as WSAC Board President in 2001 and has since served on the Legislative Steering Committee, as a WSAC representative on the Shoreline Hearings Board and a host of other leadership positions for the Association.

While his announcement was a surprise to most in his county, he was praised for the work he has done during his tenure including developing the county's first comprehensive plan in response to the Growth Management Act and championing mental health solutions for the county. It is clear that he will be missed by those he worked with on behalf of in his county.

Commissioner Shelton will oversee the Fund which has more than 90 participating employers covering 20,000 enrollees.

Island County Republican Caucus will now select three potential candidates to forward for the consideration of Commissioners Mac McDowell and John Dean.

Shelton assumes his new post in Olympia September 1.

Additional information:

<http://www.southwhidbeyrecord.com/portals-code/list.cgi?paper=85&cat=23&id=1028153&more=0>

Third WACO "Think Tank" Next Week

WACO President Rick Bart, Snohomish County Sheriff, has invited the WACO Board of Trustees, affiliate presidents and the WACO Legislative Committee to take part in WACO's 2007 "Think Tank" next Wednesday, July 25, in the Washington Counties Building. This exercise proved extremely successful in 2002 and 2003 in

Want to post a job announcement on our webpage?

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

Visit [Employment Opportunities](#)

The Courthouse Journal

Published weekly (during Legislative Session) and Bi-weekly (other than Session) by the **Washington Association of County Officials** (WACO) <http://wacounties.org/waco> and the **Washington State Association of Counties** (WSAC) <http://wacounties.org/wsac>

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

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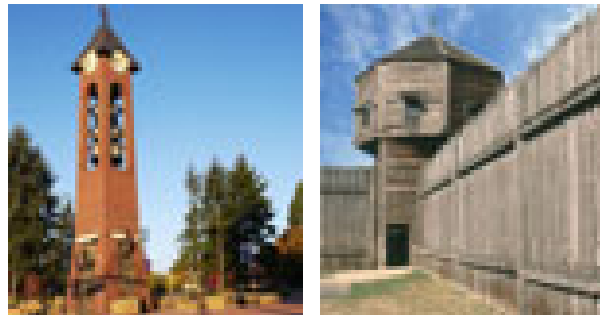
developing WACO's legislative recommendation and in setting the Association's priorities.

Representative Jim McIntire (D) from the 46th Legislative District in King County has been invited to address the group on fiscal and taxation issues preceding the "Think Tank." The focus of the afternoon session will be on the same issues being examined by a study being done by the State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development regarding the fiscal health of counties; shared services in and among counties; potential efficiencies and cost savings, and, any statutory or constitutional changes that may be necessary to give counties the authority to implement changes to governmental structures or functions if they would result in improved efficiency or service.

The "Think Tank" utilizes a very structured agenda to get all the issues before the group. From there, each of the issues is fully developed and documented along with its advantages and less favorable attributes. The ultimate goal of the group is to provide WACO's representatives to the Advisory Board of the CTED Study with the benefit of WACO members' widespread experience and perspective on the governance and delivery of services by counties.

WSAC Annual Conference in the Works

Vancouver Hilton - November 14-16, 2007



Photos courtesy Southwest Washington Convention & Visitors Bureau
http://www.southwestwashington.com/image_library.asp

Mark your calendar today for the Washington State Association of Counties Annual Conference in Clark County. The conference, traditionally held in September, has been moved later in the year to accommodate election schedules.

We have taken survey suggestions from last month's Joint District Meeting and are planning a schedule that allows for time in the community, for networking with peers, and for discussions of members' issues. Additional training opportunities and board and committee meetings will take place on November 12 and 13.

Legislative Committee Schedules and Agendas:

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

Bill Information: www.leg.wa.gov

WSAC is pleased to have the following affiliate organizations join them for the event: Board of County Commissioner/Council Clerks, Washington State Association of County and Regional Planning Directors, Washington State Association of County Engineers, Washington County Administrative Association, and Washington State University Extension. Also holding meetings at the hotel during this time will be the Association of County Human Services (ACHS) and the Public Health Executive Leadership Forum (PHELF).

Registration information and the preliminary program will be available at the beginning of September. We look forward to seeing you in Clark County!

Budget, Finance and Taxes

Elimination of the Prescribed Reporting Threshold for Local Governments

The Washington State Auditor's Office (SAO) is giving local governments the option of whether to report financial information using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) or cash basis as outlined in the Budgeting, Accounting, and Reporting System (BARS) manuals.

In the past, cities with populations of 25,000 or more, and counties with populations of 50,000 or more, were required to report in conformity with GAAP. Cities and towns with populations under 25,000, counties with populations under 50,000 and all other governments that use BARS, unless otherwise prescribed, were allowed to follow single-entry accounting, and cash basis reporting procedures that do not conform to GAAP. In addition, proprietary-type activities with operating revenues over \$5 million were required to report in conformity with GAAP.

Significant new accounting and auditing standards, beginning with the GASB Statement 34 implementation a few years ago, have added to the workload and complexity of financial reporting for local governments and this has resulted in reporting delays and an increase in financial statement errors. In many cases the additional GAAP requirements have increased each government's accounting and audit costs.

Given these circumstances, SAO is planning to eliminate the population and revenue thresholds prescribed in the BARS manuals effective immediately and will allow local governments to choose either GAAP or cash basis reporting. Local governments are still required to provide the Auditor's Office with supplementary schedules appropriate for their chosen reporting basis.

Before making this change, SAO consulted with the Local Government Advisory Committee and the Washington Finance Officers Association and received favorable feedback. We also consulted bond raters that deal with a number of local governments. They expressed no concerns and confirmed that the basis of reporting had no effect on a local government's bond rating.

This change does not affect local governments that prepare GAAP financial statements due to the requirements of their state or federal oversight agencies.

Although we expect the change to only affect a limited number of GAAP reporting governments, we want to assure you the Washington State Auditor's Office will continue to issue financial statement audit opinions in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (Yellow Book) regardless of the basis of reporting. We will also continue to emphasize the importance for local governments to be consistent in their basis of financial reporting once a change is made.

In an effort to assist local governments in making the best choice for their financial reporting, we will be preparing a document to identify the pros and cons of GAAP versus cash basis reporting. This document will be available on our Web site, www.sao.wa.gov. We hope you will find this document useful in making your financial reporting decisions.

If you have any questions, please call Christy Yost, Audit Manager for Local Government Support at (360) 725-5593.

County Fiscal Health Study Advisory Committee Appointed

In the 2007-2009 biennial budget, the Legislature directed the Department of Community, Trade & Economic Development (CTED) to examine the fiscal health of counties and the range of potential governance alternatives that may assist counties to be more cost effective. The CTED study may contain options and actions for consideration by the governor and the legislature, but at a minimum must recommend the changes to constitutional and statutory law necessary to provide non-charter counties with legal authority required to implement changes in governmental structures and functions to promote financial efficiency and improved services by December 1, 2007.

To ensure critical information and viewpoints from stakeholders are included in the legislative study, CTED has convened the advisory committee. The committee will assist CTED in considering options and actions, including the pros and cons of each option, and provide feedback to inform the recommendations and legislature. The advisory committee consists of eleven county elected and appointed officials nominated by the Washington State Association of Counties and the Washington Association of County Officials. The committee also includes one representative from academia and one representative from the business community appointed by CTED.

President Leo Bowman has appointed the following WSAC members to the County Health and Governance

Alternative Study:

Buell Hawkins, Chelan County Commissioner
Mike Blankenship, Ferry County Commissioner
Tim Sheldon, Mason County Commissioner
Bill Barron, Clark County Administrator
Ken Stone, Cowlitz County Public Works Director
Bob Cowan, King County Budget Director

WACO appointed the following members:

WACO President Rick Bart, Snohomish County Sheriff
WACO Vice President Suzanne Sinclair, Island County Auditor
Rose Bowman, Lewis County Treasurer
Gordon Heimbigner, Walla Walla County Treasurer
Peter Banks, Skamania County Prosecutor

CTED appointed:

Carl Adrian, CEO/President, Tri-City Development Council
Professor Terry Novak, Graduate Program in Public Administration, Eastern Washington University

The first meeting of the committee will be Friday, July 27 at 10:00 a.m. at the Washington Counties Building, in Olympia.

Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice

Commissioner Gallagher Named to State Work Release Committee

Mason County Commissioner Ross Gallagher will represent WSAC on the state Department of Corrections (DOC) new statewide Work Release Siting Advisory Committee. The group will advise prison officials on where to establish work-release facilities to help felony offenders transition to a law-abiding life after release from prison.

The 2007 Legislature authorized DOC to borrow money to build or lease work-release centers to house an additional 120 recently released inmates over the next two years. The prison system now has 16 such centers with capacity for 670 inmates.

Corrections Secretary Harold Clarke named the eight-member committee this week. The members are: Ida Ballasiotes, president of Families and Friends of Violent Crime Victims (representing victims); Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney Ed Holm (representing the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys); Tim Quenzer, Chief, Monroe Police (representing the Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs); Judge John Hickman, Pierce County Superior Court (representing Superior Court Judges Association); Marie Sullivan, CTED Government Relations Director (representing state government); Anne Fiala, DOC Assistant Deputy Secretary (representing DOC); Councilwoman Nancy McLaughlin, Spokane City Council (representing the Association of Washington Cities); Commissioner Ross Gallagher, Mason County Board of Commissioners (representing WSAC).

The WSAC Board of Directors at its June meeting voted to submit three nominees for the Advisory Committee position. Besides Gallagher, the other two were King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert and Clallam County Jail Administrator Ron Sukert.

Reichert Emergency Communications Legislation Implemented; \$19.2 Million for Washington State

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *July 18, 2007*

Contact: *Abigail Shilling - (202) 225-7761*

Washington D.C. - Congressman Dave Reichert (WA-08) was pleased to announce today the release of \$19.2 million for the State of Washington to ensure that first responders have the ability to communicate during emergencies. The \$19.2 million is released out of the Department of Commerce's Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grants, which are being distributed in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security.

"The ability of first responders to communicate is the backbone of an effective response to an emergency," said Reichert. "We witnessed in Hurricane Katrina the devastation that can result when responders lack adequate communications. The legislation I wrote and Congress passed last year addressed many of those issues and laid the foundation to address the remaining problems. The Department of Homeland Security is finally giving emergency communications the attention and focus it requires and is beginning to understand that it is crucial to effective emergency response. I'm also pleased that the State of Washington will receive this funding."

The funds, which are a one-time grant, come from funds generated from the digital television transition. Last year, as Chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology, Chairman Reichert was successful in getting his 21st Century Emergency Communications Act signed into law as part of a comprehensive reform of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The PSIC Grants that are being awarded today must be spent in accordance with the reforms of the Reichert bill, which ensure states have Statewide Interoperable Communication Plans in place before the funds are spent to ensure strategic use.

After working with first responders, state and local officials as well as experts in the private sector across the nation, Congressman Reichert drafted the 21st Century Emergency Communications Act in order to address the emergency communications problems that the nation saw the tragic results of after Hurricane Katrina and 9/11. Reichert's legislation was signed into law on October 4, 2006.

Elections, Licensing & Recordings

Pacific Northwest Elections Conference

"Navigating the Tides of Change" was the theme for the Pacific Northwest Elections Conference in Portland, recently. This is the second time that elections officials from throughout the region have met together (the first was in 2002) to discuss important elections issues. Many of the county auditors in our state were part of the program, as well as staff from the Office of the Secretary of State. Lincoln County Auditor Shelly Johnston was the Conference Co-Chair, along

with John Kauffman, Multnomah County (Oregon) Director of Elections. Both Secretary of State Sam Reed and Oregon Secretary of State Bill Bradbury were in attendance and addressed the huge crowd in attendance.

The three-day conference pulled in speakers from around the country, with vast knowledge of elections. Speakers included Donetta Davidson, Chair of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC); Doug Lewis, from The Election Center; Doug Chapin, Director of Electionline.org; Ray Martinez, Pew Charitable Trusts; Marcia Lausen, Design for Democracy; Bill Cowles, Supervisor of Elections, Orange County (Florida); Kathy Dent, Sarasota County (Florida) Clerk; and Stuart Rothenberg, a political analyst. Other speakers included the elections experts from Washington and Oregon.

The workshops over the three-day conference were excellent and highlighted the issues that are coming to the forefront of the elections community. They included "Where Do We Go from Here? A National Perspective on the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) II and the Pew Charitable Trusts"; "Surviving the Perfect Storm: What Happened in Washington State in November, 2004 (The Closest Governor's Race in U.S. History)"; "Lessons Learned in Florida – Security DREs, and Paper Ballots"; "HAVA II – It's Coming. Is Your County Ready?"; "Signature Verification Procedures"; "Design for Democracy: Ballot and Election Design"; "Legal Issues and Litigation"; "How to Build the Perfect Election Office"; "Is the Software You're Using the Software You Bought?"; "Can Vote Centers Work for You?"; "Coordinating and Working with Your Post Office"; "Vote Talley Audits and HAVA II – Making it All Count"; "Nuts and Bolts of the Washington Election Information Project"; and "Reaching Out to Diverse Audiences, Disability Communities; Military and Minority Groups".

County auditors participating as panel members and moderators for the various programs were Shelly Johnston, Lincoln County; Kim Wyman, Thurston County; Evelyn Arnold, Chelan County; Donna Eldridge, Jefferson County; Karen Cartmel, chief deputy, Jefferson County; Michael Garvison, Skamania County; Vicky Dalton, Spokane County; Pat McCarthy, Pierce County; and Steve Homan, elections manager, Thurston County.

Environment, Land Use & Resources

Summary of H.R. 3058, Public Land Communities Transition Act

History

In 2000, the 106th Congress enacted the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (P.L. 106-393), commonly referred to as the "county payments bill", to restore stability to the annual payments made to States and counties containing National Forest System lands and public domain lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The 1908 statute initially providing for these revenue-sharing payments specified that the county payments were to be used for public schools and roads. Globalization and changed federal forest management priorities reduced the revenue-sharing payments to counties and created budgetary uncertainty for areas reliant on the revenue-sharing payments. The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act sought to address this instability by providing funding for a period of 7 years, but requiring reauthorization after that time.

Anticipating the need for reauthorization, in February of 2006, the Administration released their reauthorization plan as part of the FY2007 budget proposal. The Administration's reauthorization proposal was funded through the sale of over 300,000 acres of National Forest System lands. This proposal was met with considerable concern by the Congress. In the 109th Congress, Representatives Greg Walden (R-OR) and Peter DeFazio (D-OR) introduced H.R. 517, a bill to reauthorize County Payments through FY2013, which was not enacted. In the 110th Congress, efforts to include a multi-year county payments extension in the Emergency Supplemental fell short, and instead a one-year extension was enacted. Considerable emphasis has been given to the need for action from the authorizing House Committees on a multi-year county payments bill.

Summary of Legislation

Congressman Peter DeFazio and Natural Resource Committee Chairman Nick Rahall have crafted a reauthorization bill that mirrors a proposal overwhelmingly supported in the Senate. The bill provides for five years of transition payments

to forest counties while also fully funding the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program for the same period. The bill makes the payments through PILT as both concern public land communities. Specifically, the bill includes \$2.1 billion to forest counties for rural schools and counties through 2012. In addition, the legislation includes \$1.9 billion to other counties receiving federal land payments through the PILT program.

The bill includes a new formula for distribution of county payments that is based on the historical allocation, the concentration of public land in the county, and the current economic condition of the county. The bill transitions counties from these payments by ramping down the total payments by 10% each year. The phase-down fulfills the principles of the National Forest County Schools Coalition that the safety-net payments would be a temporary program. Additional transition funding is provided for Oregon, Washington, and California for the first four years of the legislation to assist in their adjustment to the new funding formula.

Current List of Co-Sponsors

DeFazio (D-OR), Rahall (D-WV), Mike Thompson (D-CA)

General Government Issues

DOJ Issues New Installment of ADA Technical Assistance Materials

The Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice issued new installments this year of a technical assistance document designed to assist state and local officials to improve compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in their programs, services, activities, and facilities. The Tool Kit is designed to teach state and local government officials how to identify and fix problems that prevent people with disabilities from gaining equal access to state and local government programs, services, and activities. It also shows state and local officials how to conduct accessibility surveys of their buildings and facilities to identify and remove architectural barriers to access. While state and local governments are not required to use the ADA Best Practices Tool Kit, the Department encourages its use as one effective means of complying with the requirements of Title II of the ADA.

The ADA Best Practices Tool Kit for State and Local Governments is available online at:

<http://www.ada.gov/pcatoolkit/toolkitmain.htm>

Public Health & Human Services

Mental Health Sales Tax Paying Dividends

[John Craig](#), Staff writer

From the Spokesman Review

July 11, 2007

Spokane County Commission Chairman Mark Richard says he'll proudly carry a year-old mental health tax into his 2008 re-election campaign. He and Commissioners Todd Mielke and Bonnie Mager planned to announce at a news conference today that a 1 percent local sales tax for county mental health programs paid big dividends in its first year.

"Out of all the things that I have done here, it is probably the most rewarding," Richard said.

Programs decimated by deep cuts have been restored and improved, and some new ones have been created. Mental patients are receiving outpatient treatment to prevent crises that could send them to Eastern State Hospital in Medical Lake or the psychiatric ward at Sacred Heart Medical Center. And the county is no longer wasting millions of dollars on penalties for sending too many patients to the state mental hospital.

The county is saving lives as well as money, according to John Murphy, a longtime patient advocate at Eastern State who once was a patient himself. "Anything they can do to keep people in the community and keep them from going into full-blown crisis is worth every dollar of it," Murphy said. With new medicines and proper treatment, he said, most mental patients are indistinguishable from anyone else. The key is to help people "before they get over the edge," he said. "You don't get to the real crisis point where you're so sick it takes months and months to get better."

Richard agreed that the sales tax increase is one of several boons for mental patients in the past couple of years.

Others include state cancellation of \$300,000 worth of Spokane County penalties, the Legislature's appropriation of \$80 million statewide to offset federal cuts in mental health funding, and the city of Spokane's \$3.2 million purchase of the 138-bed Carlyle Care Center in November to save it from bank foreclosure.

Commissioners imposed the mental health sales tax in December 2005, several months after the Legislature authorized it and one month after 58.1 percent of voters added their blessing in an advisory ballot. The tax took effect in March 2006. It could have been permanent, but commissioners authorized the tax only through March 2009. Richard said he will call for its renewal, although he may ask for another advisory ballot and another sunset period – measures he believes build trust with constituents.

The tax was expected to produce about \$6.5 million in its first full year of collection, but delivered about \$7.5 million. County mental health officials expect another \$7.5 million in the coming fiscal year. They plan to parlay it into \$10.2 million by taking advantage of a state program that matches local contributions for mental health treatment of Medicaid patients.

In previous years, much of the matching money would have gone to penalties instead. Mental health officials spent about \$1 million of their 2005 budget on penalties for sending too many crisis cases to Eastern State Hospital. Now crisis-preventing treatment has eliminated most of the penalties, freeing up more money for treatment. Christine Barada, director of Community Services, Housing and Community Development, said her agency had been paying \$500 a day extra – twice the standard rate – for each Eastern State Hospital bed in excess of 101 that was occupied by a Spokane County resident. The county hadn't been below the limit for "quite a few years," she said.

Now, county residents fill only about 90 beds a day at Eastern State Hospital and the 101-bed limit hasn't been exceeded for more than a few days in eight months, Barada said. A preliminary accounting indicates penalties were only about \$4,000 in the first six months of this year. In addition, Richard said, the county Regional Service Network for mental health programs has repaid a \$2.8 million emergency loan and rebuilt its budget reserves while restoring, improving and creating programs.

Among the improvements he cited, a team now screens jail inmates – some 30 percent of whom are estimated to have mental health problems – for treatment instead of prosecution for low-level crimes. Barada said other sales tax accomplishments include:

- Reopening the crisis triage center in the Community Services Building at 312 W. Eighth, which was closed in November 2005. The center refers clients to agencies for treatment.
- Providing more beds and longer stays at the Hartson House treatment center.
- Increasing the number of treatment beds in detoxification, congregate care centers and other residential facilities.
- Restoration of mental health counseling in schools, and counseling for the elderly.
- Supporting court programs that provide alternatives to incarceration for defendants with mental health and drug problems.

Association News

Pacific County Sheriff Appointed to FEMA National Advisory Council

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator David Paulison recently announced the membership of the National Advisory Council, naming Pacific County Sheriff John Didion as one of the administrator representatives on the Council. The Council also includes emergency managers, and other local and state elected officials.

The council advises the Administrator of FEMA on all aspects of preparedness and emergency management in an effort to ensure close coordination with its partners across the country.

“These experts in the field of emergency preparedness and response will bring new and unique perspective to the Department,” said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. “We welcome their service and look forward to their valuable contributions and innovative ideas in emergency management.”

“The men and women nominated to serve on the National Advisory Committee are recognized experts across the range of emergency management disciplines,” said Administrator Paulison. “Their extensive knowledge and diverse points of view will be a great asset as they advise us on how we can best respond to natural and manmade disasters together.”

The development of the National Advisory Council was set into motion by the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006. Members are appointed by the Administrator and represent a geographic and significant cross section of officials from emergency management and law enforcement, and include homeland security directors, adjutants general, emergency response providers from state, local, and tribal governments, private sector, and nongovernmental organizations.

The Council is being instituted to ensure effective and ongoing coordination of the federal preparedness, protection, response, recovery and mitigation for natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters. Specifically, the Council will focus attention in the development and revision of the national preparedness goal, the national preparedness system, the National Incident Management System, the National Response Plan, and other related plans and strategies.

The Council intends to hold quarterly meetings each year. Pending final approval of disclosure forms that must by law be submitted by certain appointees, the first meeting is expected to be convened this fall.

“You’ve come a long ways, Baby!”



Wednesday, July 18, was a WACO “First.” Deputy Director Christina Bridston celebrated her 30 year anniversary with WACO. Chris joined WACO following graduation from Pacific Lutheran University as Public Information Officer and began lobbying over 20 years ago. The early days involved archaic mechanisms like mimeograph machines and correcting selectrics when WACO published and “snail-mailed” the Courthouse Journal once a month. The legislative session required that every bill of interest was copied and mailed to the members needing it as well. Today, in addition to her duties as Deputy Director, Chris handles the conference planning and provides the primary support to the county auditors and treasurers, as well as any miscellaneous assignments that need her attention. The high regard that WACO members and staff have for Chris was in evidence Wednesday with calls, e-mails, cards and flowers.

Chris lives in Tacoma with her husband Jim, daughter Anna, and the family dog, Gracie.

By the way, thanks, Chris!

Boards & Commissions

WSAC Seeks Candidates for the Puget Sound Partnership's Ecosystem Coordination Board

As many of you know, the *Puget Sound Ecosystem Coordination Board*

(http://www.psp.wa.gov/about_us/ecosystem.htm) is an integral part of the Puget Sound Partnership. The Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council is responsible for convening the Board -- which has representation from:

- Action Areas
- Business Interests
- Environmental Interests
- Tribal Governments
- Counties, Cities, and Port Districts
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies
- Legislators

The "Board" is established as part of ESSB 5372 and seeks County Representation per the following:

Section 7, 2(e)

One representative each from counties, cities, and port districts, appointed by the council from nominations submitted by statewide associations representing such local governments;

Additionally, Counties may be represented from the Action Areas:

Section 7, 2 (a)

One representative from the geographic area of each of the action areas specified in section 8 of this act, appointed by the council. The council shall solicit nominations from, at a minimum, counties, cities, and watershed groups;

The primary activities of the Ecosystem Coordination Board are as follows:

- Advise and assist the Leadership Council in carrying out its responsibilities including development and implementation of the action agenda;
- Assist cities, counties, ports, tribes, watershed groups, and other governmental and private organizations in the compilation of local programs for consideration for inclusion in the action agenda;
- Upon request of the council, review and make recommendations regarding activities, projects, and programs proposed for inclusion in the action agenda, including assessing existing ecosystem scale management, restoration and protection plan elements, activities, projects, and programs for inclusion in the action agenda;
- Seek public and private funding and the commitment of other resources for plan implementation;
- Assist the council in conducting public education activities regarding threats to Puget Sound and about local implementation strategies to support the action agenda; and
- Recruit the active involvement of and encourage the collaboration and communication among governmental and nongovernmental entities, the private sector, and citizens working to achieve the recovery of Puget Sound

If you are interested in representing the Counties on the Ecosystem Coordination Board complete the short online interest form by Friday, August 3 at http://wacounties.org/wsac/boards_form.htm.

If you have any question please contact me at ejohnson@wacounties.org or 360-753-1886.

As you consider putting your name forward, I believe it is important to keep the following items in mind:

- This position must work to - and be willing to - represent the views of all 12 Puget Sound Coastal Counties;
- There will be many meetings, including the potential for subcommittee work. This will be a time consuming board position;
- You will need to communicate with your fellow County Elected Officials and Staff.

Training & Upcoming Events

Washington Counties – Full Calendar of Events

<http://wacounties.org/Calendar%20of%20Events-WEB.htm>

No travel money for training? No gas price low enough? NO PROBLEM!

CPO Goes Distance Learning - Combining classroom learning with video delivery

The CPO Program sponsors have been working hard to find a way to bring the training to you this summer. Working closely with WSU Extension's Learning Centers, we are able to offer simultaneous training at three sites! Each location will have one trainer on site to facilitate certain course topics and guide the learning process. This classroom style set up will enable participants to ask questions, view each site live time, and join in on group discussions- no matter where you attend! We are excited to offer this type of training to ease the strain on travel budgets and provide a quality learning experience through the use of this innovative technology.

Details and registration information available on our website: <http://www.cpoprogram.org>

Aug 14 - ETHICAL DILEMMAS

4 Core Credits Cost: \$120 / 3 Locations- same day! Thurston, Chelan, and Walla Walla

Program Overview

Through lecture and small group discussion, case studies and group activities, participants review the ethical environment within which public officials must function as well as the standards they are expected to meet. This training provides new and seasoned elected officials and public administrators with an understanding of statutory standards, core principles and the ability to apply these principles in their own county organization.

- Enhance knowledge of the foundations of Ethics
- Discuss Ethical sources and approaches
- Provide simple decision-making models
- Increase awareness of problems and responses
- Core Principles (simple rules) involved in ethical behaviors for public officials
- Conflict of Interest issues
- Personal advantage/gain

Aug 28 - COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES: Roles and Responsibilities

4 Core Credits Cost: \$120 / 3 Locations- same day! Thurston, Chelan, and Spokane

Program Overview

Counties in Washington operate under powers granted to them by State Statute. Successful leadership within each County depends on a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Commissioners, Council members, Executives and other Elected Officials. Building an effective team to manage county government within these turbulent times require a unique and varied set of skills. Through lecture and small group discussion, case studies and group activities, participants will broaden their knowledge of county government form, function, roles and responsibilities.

- Key roles and responsibilities of elected and appointed county government officials
- Methods to build a management team designed for your county's needs and culture
- Techniques to enhance commitment to the County Management Team

- Problem-solving skills and techniques to address those wicked county problems.
- The roles of social trust within the context of community support for local government
- History and purpose of county government

AWC to Host Sustainable Communities Conference September 26 - 28

What are sustainable communities? Why are they important? What benefits do they bring? How can we create them? How have communities successfully applied the principles of sustainable development? The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) is proud to be hosting its first annual Sustainable Communities Conference for local governments on September 26-28 in Vancouver, WA at the Hilton Hotel. This conference will address these questions and provide local governments with a framework of knowledge that they can use to sustain their communities through the planning and development of the built environment. Its objectives are, first, to demystify and "practicalize" the concept of sustainability and, second, to explain how local governments can apply the important tools of this process to achieving sustainable communities.

Workshop topics will include:

- Green Buildings
- Clean Energy
- Mobility – transit, bike/pedestrian
- Water – reclaimed, waste, storm
- How to build consensus in your community

For more information and to register, go to <http://www.awcnet.org/sustainablecommunities> or contact AWC staff, Sheri Sawyer, at sheris@awcnet.org.

Interoperability Policy Academy Announcement

The National Association of Counties, in collaboration with the National League of Cities, is hosting a two-day Interoperability Policy Academy in San Francisco, California, on October 18 - 19, 2007.

County and City officials – both in elected and management positions – are invited to attend the Academy as a team of up to four people (with an optional fifth member of the team being someone who has responsibility for development and coordination of the statewide interoperability plan). At least one publicly elected official **MUST** be on the team.

This two-day event will help county, city, and municipal officials address challenges to achieving communications interoperability at the local level, as well as address how to become involved in statewide planning efforts. This is not a technical training seminar; rather, the Academy will focus on policy-level issues and concerns.

Expenses for attendance are paid.

More information and the application for attendance is available on NACo's website: <http://www.naco.org/interop/>

HURRY! Application deadline is August 8, 2007! Space is limited and we may not be able to accommodate all who apply.

If there are questions, contact Rocky Lopes, NACo Project Manager, via email rlopes@naco.org or by phone on (202) 661-8841.

Counties Encouraged to Promote Summer Reading to Young Residents

It is not too late to help promote the 2007 Summer Reading Program. The Washington State Library is asking for counties to spread the word about its 2007 Summer Reading Program, which continues until the school-year begins.

The program, while supporting local libraries, helps students stay intellectually active throughout the summer and gives families something fun to do together.

As a promotional partner, counties are asked to:

- Link from your county webpage to the Washington State library webpage www.libraries.wa.gov
- Include information on the Summer Reading program in your newsletters, at summer events, and through other means. (*flier master attached*)

For more information, contact Jessie Domingo at the Metropolitan Group, (503) 223-3299 or jdomingo@metgroup.com.

Thank you to those counties who have already been promoting the program!

Courthouse Ramblings

We send our deepest sympathies to Snohomish County Sheriff **Rick Bart**, WACO President, whose father Robert Bart passed away on July 12. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

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We were saddened to learn of the death of former Douglas County Commissioner **Matt Warner** who passed away on July 13. Mr. Warner was elected in 1989 and served one term. He is survived by his wife and five children. Funeral services were held Wednesday, July 18 in Wenatchee.

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Skagit County Clerk **Katie Jungquist** has a new e-mail address: It is katiej@co.skagit.wa.us. Please make this change in your Directory of County Officials.

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Please note a new address for **Douglas County Sheriff**: 110 NE 2nd Street, Ste 200, East Wenatchee WA 98802.

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Pierce County's Associate Medical Examiner **Roberto Ramoso, M.D.**, will retire July 31. Dr. Ramoso has worked for the Medical Examiner's Office for the last 15 years and has been serving as acting department director since Dr. John Howard's resignation and move to Spokane County in April.

Dr. Ramoso is looking forward to many relaxing years of retirement with his wife and family, and he will be greatly missed. A retirement open house for Dr. Ramoso will be held at the Medical Examiner's Office, 3619 Pacific Ave., from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, July 31. Please stop by the office and join us in celebrating his successful career.

Upon completing medical school, receiving his M.D. degree (in 1966) and completing internship and residency programs, he began his professional medical career in 1973. He was a pathologist at hospitals, a staff pathologist for the United States Navy and worked in Medical Examiner offices in Iowa and New Jersey. Prior to joining Pierce County, he was Assistant Medical Examiner at the Essex County Medical Examiner's Office in Newark, N.J. from 1986 to 1992.

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Kathy Fewins, Pierce County chief deputy assessor-treasurer, has resigned effective August 10, after 26 years in public service. She will be taking the position of community relations manager for Investco Financial Corp. in her hometown of Sumner.

As chief deputy to Assessor-Treasurer Ken Madsen for more than six years, Fewins leads an office of 100 employees and manages a \$12 million budget. Her accomplishments include initiating performance audits, implementing a new tax assessment system, tax administration system and document management system. Fewins worked for both the

Washington State House of Representatives and Washington State Senate before coming to Pierce County in 1993. She served eight years as Madsen's councilmember assistant and became his chief deputy following his election as assessor-treasurer. She also served as a Sumner City Council member and Deputy Mayor from 1990-98.

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Mason County Clerk **Pat Swartos** received her 35-year pin and an award from the county July 18, in a special recognition ceremony for county employees. Pat has been working for Mason County for 35 ½ years. Congratulations to her!

Good Things

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has asked San Juan County 1st District Council Member **Kevin Ranker** to share his expertise on coastal environment and development issues at a policy planning "Experts Meeting" in Washington, D.C. on July 17-18.

NOAA selected Councilman Ranker as one of 28 persons to participate in the final phase of a project aimed at developing priorities and strategies for a reauthorized Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA). The U.S. Congress approved the CZMA in 1972 to work with states to conserve coastal resources, protect the environment and set standards for development.

Councilman Ranker has served on numerous coastal and ocean policy committees including the Coastal Counties Caucus, Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council, the Washington State Oil Spill Advisory Council and the Governor's Ocean Policy Work Group.

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For the 20th year in a row, the Pierce County Budget and Finance Department received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award during the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Conference, in Chicago, last month. The award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and represents a significant achievement by department director **Patrick Kenney**, budget manager, and **Mary Schmidtke** and their coworkers.

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

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

Designed in cooperation with an Advisory Board of local government purchasing officials, U.S. Communities pools the purchasing power of public agencies, achieves bulk volume discounts on behalf of public agencies, competitively solicits quality products through a lead public agency and provides a purchasing forum for public agencies nationwide.

You can obtain information on how to contact all U.S. Communities suppliers by telephoning (866) 472-7467 or by sending an email to info@uscommunities.org

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