

the Courthouse Journal

WACOUNTIES.ORG

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

WSAC Annual Conference Hotel Fills Early; Options Available

The room block at the Vancouver Hilton has a limited number of rooms still available for those planning to attend the 101st WSAC Annual Conference and Exhibitor Fair, November 13-16, 2007. For those still seeking rooms, first try the Hilton at (360) 993-4500 or 1-800 HILTONS and ask for the Washington Association of Counties room block rate.

Other downtown Vancouver hotels within walking distance of the Hilton are:

Red Lion Hotel at the Quay
360-693-3668

Econo Lodge
360-694-8341

Two other hotels are located downtown a short drive from the conference hotel:

Homewood Suites
360-750-1100

Shilo Inn - Downtown
360-696-0411

There is an ample parking garage with low daily rates located kitty-corner to the Hilton so those needing to drive between their hotel and the conference hotel should not be greatly inconvenienced.

A full listing of Vancouver area lodging is available at
<http://www.southwestwashington.com/>.

Registration is coming soon - watch your in-box for a link to the online registration website!

WACO Conference around the Corner – Register Now!

The finishing touches are being put on the program for the 49th Annual WACO Conference, to be held at the Skamania Lodge, in Stevenson, October 1-5. Snohomish County Sheriff Rick Bart will be presiding over the conference and a special western-themed President's Reception for Rick will be held Wednesday evening, October 3. Don't forget your western wear - boots, hats, jeans, scarves – anything you may have so that you can get into the spirit of the evening. Kittitas County Sheriff Gene Dana will be providing the entertainment, so it should be great fun.

We have attached the latest draft program to this issue of the Journal and it can also be viewed at our website at www.wacounties.org/waco. The conference registration form is

Want to post a job announcement on our webpage?

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

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

Visit [Employment Opportunities](#)

The Courthouse Journal

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

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also on the website. Several meetings will be held on Tuesday, October 2, including a WACO Board of Trustees' meeting, when all seven of the WACO affiliate groups will present their 2008 legislative recommendations. Those recommendations that are approved will be voted on by the entire membership during the week and become part of the 2008 WACO legislative package. Affiliate groups meeting on Tuesday are coroners and medical examiners, clerks, auditors, assessors and treasurers. In addition, the prosecutors, sheriffs and clerks in the methamphetamine pilot counties will meet for a review of the program.

Wednesday, October 3, will be the formal opening of the conference. You will not want to miss the keynote speaker, Tom Flick, a former NFL quarterback, Rose Bowl Champion and a Pac-10 Conference "Player of the Year". Flick addresses over 70,000 men and women each year on high performance strategies for leadership, teamwork, change and personal growth. His passion for raising more effective leaders is achieved by his unique gift to connect with the listener's heart as well as their head.

Following a business meeting and luncheon, there will be a panel discussion on the Community Trade and Economic Development Study (CTED) concerning county financial health and governance alternatives. An Advisory Committee has been developed to hammer out some recommendations which would provide non-charter counties with the legal authority required to implement changes in governmental structures and functions needed to promote optimum financial efficiency and improved services. A report on the study is due back to the legislature by December 1. Several WACO members are on the Advisory Committee, including WACO President Rick Bart and WACO Vice President Suzanne Sinclair, Island County Auditor, as well as some of those on the panel. Skamania County Prosecutor Peter Banks will be moderating the panel. Participating as panel members will be Lewis County Treasurer Rose Bowman, Advisory Committee Chair; Representative Bill Fromhold; Representative Richard Curtis; CTED Director Juli Wilkerson; King County Director of the Office of Management and Budget Bob Cowan; and Walla Walla County Treasurer Gordon Heimbigner.

The afternoon will end with a presentation by Kristen Anderson with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children discussing what an informed community needs to know about sex predators and how the federal and local governments around the country are partnering to confront this serious problem.

Thursday, October 4, is affiliate day, where the county assessors, auditors, clerks, coroners/medical examiners, prosecutors, sheriffs and treasurers will hold separate business meetings and training. During the Annual Banquet that evening, there will be a recognition of county officials moving on, installation of officers and awards. The entertainment slated is comedian Eric Haines.

Friday, October 5, will wrap up with a business meeting, adoption of the 2008 legislative package and selection of the 2010 conference site.

See you in Stevenson!

Budget, Finance and Taxes

Attorney General Opinion Request of ESB 5498

It is now official. Director Cindy Holmstrom of the Washington State Department of Revenue has officially requested an Attorney General Opinion of ESB 5498, Multiple Year LID Lifts. This follows closely in the wake of several news articles that have dropped concerning the application of this statute.

The request is stated as follows. "What is the impact of ESB 5498 (Laws of 2007, ch. 380) with respect to its effect on multi-year property tax levy lid lifts?" For those of you that wish to follow the progress, the docket number for this opinion is No. 07-08-05.

How important is this requested opinion? If you consider that this law was aimed at allowing "Special Purpose Districts" the freedom and flexibility of multi-year LID LIFTS, it could be extremely important.

The following is a definition of a "Special Purpose District", which has been taken from "The Closest Governments to the People" on page 242, authored by Steve Lundin of the Division of Governmental Studies and Services Washington State University.

"Special purpose districts are also called limited purpose governments. They provide a more limited range of governmental services and facilities than general purpose units of local government (counties and cities). Normally, the services and facilities provided by a type of special purpose district are implicit from the name of the type of special purpose district. For example, school districts provide schools and educate children, library districts provide libraries and library services, public hospital districts provide hospitals, and fire protection districts provide fire protection services. A few types of special purpose districts (port districts and irrigation districts) have been authorized to provide a fairly wide range of different services and facilities."

So what are the characteristics of a "Special Purpose District"? According to Mr. Lundin again, they are as follows: Each special purpose district has:

- Boundaries;
- Its own governing body;
- A limited number of authorized functions or duties, normally reflected in its name;
- Independent authority to carry out its limited functions or duties; and
- Permanent existence until it is dissolved or altered by certain actions.

Municipal Research & Services Center of Washington (MRSC) states: "in Washington, special purpose districts are limited purpose local governments separate from a city, town, or county government. Generally they perform a single function, though some perform a limited number of functions. They provide an array of services and facilities ... that are not otherwise available from city or county governments. Over the years, the Washington legislature has enabled more than 80 different special purpose districts. The number of special district statutes counted may vary depending on the definition of a special district."

The following is a list of "Special Purpose Districts" as provided by MRSC:

Air Pollution Control; Apportionment; Boards of Joint Control; Cemetery; Community Renewal; Conservation; Cultural Arts, Stadium & Convention; Diking, Drainage and Flood Control; Consolidated Diking; Diking; Diking and Drainage Improvement; Diking and Sewerage Improvement; Diking, Drainage and Irrigation Improvement; Diking, Drainage and

Sewerage Improvement; Diking Improvement; Drainage; Drainage and Irrigation Improvement; Drainage Improvement; Flood Control; Flood Control Zone; Intercounty Diking and Drainage; Education; Education Service; School; Joint; Emergency Medical Services; Emergency Service Communication; Fire Protection; Health; Hospital, Rural Public; Housing Authorities; Public Housing; Joint; Industrial Development Districts (Ports); Irrigation; Irrigation and Rehabilitation; Joint Operating Agencies; Lake Management; Legal Authorities (Hydroelectric Projects); Library; Intercounty Rural; Island; Library Capital Facilities Areas; Regional; Rural County; Rural Partial County; Metropolitan Municipal Corporations; Operating Agencies; Electricity Generation and Distribution; Cities; PUD; Park; Joint Park & Recreation; Metropolitan Park; Park and Recreation; Park and Recreation Service Areas; Pest Control; Agricultural Pest; Horticultural Pest and Disease; Mosquito Control; Pest; Weed; Regular; Intercounty; Public Facilities; County; City; Public Hospital; Public Stadium; Public Utility; Public Waterway; Reclamation and Irrigation Districts in Reclamation Areas; Reclamation Districts of One Million Acres; Sanitary; Sewer; Sewerage Improvement; Shellfish Protection; Solid Waste Collection; Solid Waste Disposal; Transportation; Airport; County Transportation (Monorail); County Rail; County Road; Ferry; Ferry, Passenger Only; Port; River and Harbor Improvement; Roads and Bridges Service; Transit; County Transportation Authorities; Public Transportation Benefit Areas; Regional Transportation Authority; Regional Transportation Investment; Transportation Benefit; Unincorporated Transportation Benefit Area; TV Reception Improvement; Water District; Water-Sewer.

When you grasp how many potential Multi-Year LID Lifts are possible if only some of these multitude of districts chose to approach the voters, you get a real feel of how large a problem this could become.

We look forward to a speedy and relevant determination from the Attorney General to corral a huge potential impact before it gets to far out of hand.

SSTA Mitigation Advisory Group Begins Work

The legislation to implement sales tax streamlining included a provision to establish an advisory committee to assist the Department of Revenue (DOR) with the implementation of mitigation payments. DOR appointed one negatively impacted and one positively impacted local jurisdiction to participate on the advisory group. Glenn Olsen, Clark County Budget Director, was selected as the negatively impacted county and John Bartz, Thurston County Budget Director, was selected as the positively impacted county.

The Advisory Committee to plan for mitigation will:

- Identify issues that will have an impact on mitigation.
- Provide a forum where concerns will be heard and recommendations can be made.
- Provide points of contact for interested parties.
- Voice for other local jurisdictions.
- Exchange detailed information and technical advice.
- Provide an arena for brainstorming ideas and possible solutions.
- Communicate decisions that have been made.

The next meetings are being held on October 26 & November 15 at the Department of Revenue Offices in Olympia from 10 am to 2 pm. The meetings are open to the public. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Murray at (360) 753-1886.

Supreme Court Rules on Skagit County Critical Area Ordinance

<http://www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/index.cfm?fa=opinions.showOpinion&filename=763399MAJ>

<http://www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/index.cfm?fa=opinions.showOpinion&filename=763399CP1>

<http://www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/index.cfm?fa=opinions.showOpinion&filename=763399Di1>

San Juan County Enacts Killer Whale Protection Ordinance

(San Juan County News Release, September 11, 2007)

The San Juan County Council today enacted a landmark ordinance designed to prevent boaters from harassing the endangered southern resident killer whales that frequent its waters. The ordinance makes it unlawful to feed killer whales or “knowingly” approach within 100 yards of a killer whale within San Juan County.

Recent declines in the whale population in the area have been blamed on declining salmon runs and pollution, as well as stress from noise and close contacts with boaters. The whales have been classified as “endangered” under the Federal Endangered Species Act, but rules for protecting the whales are not expected to emerge from National Marine Fisheries Service for at least another year.

“This is an interim measure,” Council Member Howie Rosenfeld said, “it won’t be necessary after the federal regulations are completed.”

“These animals need protection now,” said Council Member Kevin Ranker, who – along with Rosenfeld – has pushed hard for the ordinance. “We need to look out for them so these magnificent animals will be with us in the future.”

During a public hearing prior to the Council’s vote, several speakers expressed concern that, because the whales are fast-moving and unpredictable, many boaters could find themselves accidentally in violation of the law.

Council Members emphasized that enforcement officers will need to exercise discretion, but Councilman Rosenfeld added, “Enforcement people will be there to protect the whales from flagrant violators and we haven’t had a tool to do that.”

During the summer and fall months, three pods of killer whales are commonly found in the waters of San Juan County and whale watching has become a \$10 million industry. But most of the complaints about interference with the whales concern small pleasure craft rather than commercial operators. Bill Wright, representing the Northwest Whale Watch Association, enthusiastically endorsed the ordinance and noted that much of its substance was patterned after his association’s voluntary “Be Whale Wise” code of conduct.

The environmental group, Friends of the San Juans, has also championed this ordinance. “[The whales] are being stressed by a shortage of food and a toxic environment,” said Amy Trainer, the group’s attorney, “hopefully this ordinance will make their lives a little bit better.”

San Juan County Sheriff Bill Cumming supported the ordinance but also expressed concern about having enough resources to adequately enforce it. Council Member Ranker suggested that the Council consider an additional \$16,500 monthly appropriation for the ordinance’s enforcement during the summer tourist season.

Earlier, in testimony at the hearing, Sgt. Russ Mullins of the Washington Fish and Wildlife told Council Members that his office was prepared to cooperate with the Sheriff to use the ordinance to protect the whales. "It's why we go to work in the morning," he said.

The Council signed the ordinance immediately so that it will be in effect prior to the popular Roche Harbor Salmon Derby, which begins September 27th and often brings large numbers of fishing boats and the orca whales into conflict.

Council Members Alan Lichter, Gene Knapp, Kevin Ranker and Howie Rosenfeld voted in favor of the ordinance. Members Bob Myhr and Rich Peterson were traveling and not able to attend the meeting.

The ordinance as adopted is posted at: http://www.co.san-juan.wa.us/News/vesselwhaleord_final.pdf

Opportunity to Comment on the 2008 Action Plan of the 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan

(Submitted by the State of Washington, Department of Community, Trade & Economic Development)

The Consolidated Plan determines priorities, establishes strategic goals, and allocates resources for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded programs administered by the state, namely: the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG), and the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) programs.

While all four programs propose to make minor changes for 2008, the more significant proposed changes impact only the CDBG program and include:

- The consolidation of the CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Grants and CDBG Community Investment Fund into the CDBG General Purpose Grant funding program.
- The streamlining of the CDBG Planning-Only Grant application submittal and review processes.

Additional details regarding the proposed changes to the CDBG Program are available on the CTED website (www.cted.wa.gov/cdbg) or by contacting Clare Billings at (360) 725-3017 or clareb@cted.wa.gov.

The proposed 2008 Action Plan is now available for review and comment on the CTED website, or you may request a hard copy by contacting CDBG, PO Box 42525, Olympia WA 98504-2525, after September 11, 2007. A 30 day public comment period lasting until October 10, 2007 will follow publication of the draft plan.

Written comments will be accepted through October 10, 2007 by mail or e-mail to Kristen Nieto at kristenn@cted.wa.gov. This publication is available in alternative format upon request.

General Government Issues

Permit Tracking Grants Available to Rural Counties

The Office of Financial Management has issued an amendment to its recent Request for Grant Proposals, "Local Government Grants for Permit Tracking Systems". The amendment includes a correction to the website used for county population and answers questions received to date from potential applicants.

The amendment and links to the grant application information is available at <http://wacounties.org/wsac/index.htm>.

Local governments should quickly consider whether to apply for state grant money to help acquire or upgrade electronic permit tracking systems. A total of \$175,000 is available in each of the 2008 and 2009 state fiscal years. This year the application deadline is October 11, 2007 - 12:00 noon. Grants will be awarded by October 31, 2007. Grant funds awarded for State Fiscal Year 2008 must be expended by June 30, 2008.

Grant Applicants must meet the following minimum requirements.

- Be a local government agency located in a county with fewer than 350,000 residents;
- Be a local government agency responsible for issuing development permits; and
- Have local matching funds.

Legislators expect recipients to provide better information to applicants and improve internal and interagency communications. Technology improvements should support a more streamlined permit review process, benefiting local governments, applicants, and the public. Capacity for future upgrades to allow interagency connectivity and web-based communications must be part of the system plan.

The funded electronic permit tracking systems will also help local jurisdictions report on performance by tracking information such as permit turnaround times, the percent of applications that are considered complete on first submittal, the number of review cycles required, total processing fees or costs, and information about what other permits or approvals are required.

Questions regarding the RFGP must be directed to Jan McMullen, RFGP Coordinator at jan.mcmullen@ofm.wa.gov

Transportation & Public Works

WSTC Hosts Transportation Summit

The Washington State Transportation Commission has organized the “Inland Northwest Regional Transportation Summit” on September 19 & 20 in Spokane at the Spokane Convention Center. The Summit will set the stage for rural and urban leaders from the Inland Northwest to come together and discuss opportunities that lie before the region and work collaboratively in identifying transportation and economic development goals for the present and future. Individuals representing government, businesses, and community groups from the Greater Spokane economic region, including Northern Idaho and the Palouse, are expected to attend.

The Summit begins at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 19 with an Opening Address by Tom Fitzsimmons, Chief of Staff to Washington Governor Christine Gregoire, followed by a reception on the Spokane Convention Center rooftop patio. The program continues all day Thursday, September 20, with a taped appearance by U.S. Senator Patty Murray and a keynote address by Commissioner Frank Mulvey of the U.S. Surface Transportation Board. Sessions also include interactive and participatory discussions with legislative leaders from Washington and Idaho. The Summit culminates in setting near term goals for a Regional Transportation Action Plan.

You can register at the door or online at <http://www.wstc.wa.gov/TranspSummit/SummitRegistration.htm>

AG Rob McKenna Convenes Eminent Domain Task Force

WSAC President and Benton County Commissioner Leo Bowman is representing WSAC on an eminent domain task force convened by Washington State Attorney General Rob McKenna. The task force consists of representatives from counties, cities, ports, agriculture, the business community, academics, and legislators. The task force first met in August to organize itself and to hone in on issues for potential legislation in the 2008 legislative session. The next meeting is October 19 and discussions will begin where **House Bill 2016** left off. **HB 2016**, sponsored by Representative Larry Springer, would have prohibited the use of eminent domain for economic development purposes, required condemners to evaluate other alternatives before exercising eminent domain, required a repurchase option to condemnees if property taken by eminent domain is to be sold, and increased evaluator fees. WSAC and others had mixed views on portions of the bill, particularly the increase in the evaluator fees.

Association News

WSAC Staff Member Moves On

Sophia Byrd McSherry has announced that she has accepted a new position as the Deputy Director for the Office of Public Defense effective October 1, 2007. She will be leaving WSAC on September 28 to prepare for her new job.

The Office of Public Defense, (OPD) works to implement the constitutional guarantee of counsel and to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of indigent defense services. OPD administers state funds appropriated for the Parents Representation Program for dependency cases, appellate indigent defense services, and trial level indigent defense services in criminal cases. Established by the Legislature in 1996, OPD is an independent agency of the judicial branch.

In her new position, Sophia will work with cities and counties on public defense issues as well as government relations activities with the Governor's office, Legislature, and other state agencies.

Sophia has been the lead Policy Director for Criminal Justice since January 2000. In addition she has lobbied on pension, labor and emergency management issues. She was also an intern during the 1996 session while a student at the University of Washington.

While this is a great opportunity for Sophia it will obviously be a loss for WSAC. She has been instrumental in many important pieces of legislation and policy discussions for the Association. Notably she has led a multi-year effort to have the State of Washington provide public defense for dependency cases and for the first time some state reimbursement for county indigent defense costs.

Please join us in thanking Sophia for her service to WSAC as we wish her well in her new job.

Special Guests to Give Their “Slant” on CTED Study

WACO members will have an opportunity to speak with “those in the know” about the County Fiscal Health and Governance Structure Study being conducted by the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) on October 3 at the 49th WACO Annual Conference at Skamania Lodge in Stevenson. The interest of county officials is apparent in the high response rate to the corresponding survey.

Legislators Representative Bill Fromhold (D) from the 49th District in Clark County, and Representative Richard Curtis (R) representing the 18th District in Clark and Cowlitz Counties, will join CTED Director Juli Wilkerson and some local government members of the Advisory Committee to CTED on a panel to explore all the issues unearthed in the study and share their expectations of what will result from the study.

Skamania Prosecutor Peter Banks, a member of the Advisory Committee will moderate the session that will include Advisory Committee Chair Rose Bowman, Lewis County Treasurer, and Committee members Walla Walla County Treasurer Gordon Heimbigner and Robert Cowan, Director of the King County Office of Management and Budget, who represents the Washington State Association of Counties.

The study is expected to be completed by early November in order to meet the December 1 deadline to report to the Legislature. Anne Pflug, the CTED Local Government Project Manager, is the study lead.

Boards & Commissions

WSAC Seeks Nominees for Two NACo Board Positions

With the anticipated retirement of Council Member Kirke Sievers from his Snohomish County council position, WSAC is seeking a member to fill the seat he holds on the NACo Board of Directors.

In addition, Washington is eligible for a third position on the NACo Board because our state is in the top twelve states paying dues to NACo with 80% or more of the counties as members. The WSAC Board will take action at their September 21 meeting to approve adding a third position.

Members wishing to submit their names for consideration to the WSAC Board to serve on the NACo Board of Directors should fill out a short online application by **September 28** at http://wacounties.org/wsac/boards_form.htm.

The next meeting of the NACo Board is December 2007. Those members selected to serve should be prepared to attend that meeting.

NACo Board meetings occur four times annually and attendance at all meetings is expected:

Spring – Legislative Conference and WIR meetings

July – Annual Conference

Nov/Dec – Fall Conference

WSAC currently reimburses up to \$2,000 for two of the four meetings each year. It is understood that the board member will pay for the other two trips. However, if the WSAC Board elects to add a third NACo position, they may adopt a new travel limit of up to \$1,500 per meeting.

President Leo Bowman is the other WSAC member serving on the NACo Board.

For more information, contact Michelle Zahrly at mzahrly@wacounties.org or (360) 586-4219 ext. 112.

Commissioners Cothren and Hover Nominated for state Forest Fire Work Group

WSAC Executive Director Bill Vogler has nominated Commissioner Dan Cothren, Wahkiakum County, and Commissioner Bud Hover, Okanogan County, to the Forest Fire Prevention and Protection Work Group on advice of Commissioner Cothren, Chair of WSAC's Timber Counties Committee. The request for candidates offered a very short timeline for response and requested candidates with an understanding and experience with wildfire issues; both Commissioners Cothren and Hover have experience with forestry issues and wildfire practices.

The 2007 Legislature directed the Department of Natural Resources to convene the group to make recommendations on a broad range of fire prevention and protection issues. DNR will make the final appointment of county representatives to the work group. The group's recommendations are due to the Legislature on August 1, 2008.

Statewide Boards and Commissions Still Need Members to Serve

The following positions on statewide boards and commissions remain open to WSAC members and, in some cases, county employees or representatives. In order to be considered to serve by the WSAC Board of Directors at their meeting next week, applications are due by **September 17**. To apply for any of the seats, complete the short online interest form at http://wacounties.org/wsac/boards_form.htm

- Farmland Preservation Task Force - No term length - Task Force Expires 1/1/2011
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=5108&year=2007>

- Forensics Investigation Council - Four year term beginning 8/07
<http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/profiles/073.asp>
- Municipal Research Council - Two year term beginning 8/07
<http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/profiles/141.asp>
- Shorelines Hearing Board alternates (2 positions currently vacant)
<http://www.eho.wa.gov/Boards/SHB.asp>

New Opening - Farmland Preservation Task Force (Eastern & Western Seats)

The 2007 Legislature (**SSB 5108**) created the Office of Farmland Preservation within the State Conservation Commission to develop model programs and tools to retain agricultural land for agricultural production, including a grant process to assist local governments in purchasing development rights from farmers who want to keep their lands in agriculture for generations to come. Steve McGonigal has been hired as the manager for the new Office of Farmland Preservation.

Information on **SB 5108** can be found at: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=5108&year=2007>

If you are interested in representing the Counties on the "Farmland Preservation Task Force" you must complete the short online interest form (http://wacounties.org/wsac/boards_form.htm) no later than **Monday, September 17**.

If you have any questions about the open seats or the application process, please contact Michelle Zahrly at (360) 586-4219 ext 112 or mzahrly@wacounties.org

Training & Upcoming Events

Washington Counties – [Full Calendar of Events](#)

Pierce County Offers Conference for Field Staff

"Check Your Gauges, Tune up Your Skills" at the 2007 Field Staff Conference in Tacoma, October 24 and 25. Here is a uniquely focused and affordable conference sponsored by Pierce County, Pierce Transit, City of Lakewood and the Tacoma/Pierce County Health Department. It is designed for any public sector employee whose work takes them into the community.

Whether the job is case management, inspections, code enforcement, property appraisal, law enforcement, parks and recreation services, environmental assessments, transportation and infrastructure, probation services or other jobs, field staff encounter similar issues when they work outside the typical office environment. Conference sponsors have designed this event to address those real issues public sector employees face in the field. Learn about Property Access Laws, Dashboard Dining, Safe Encounters with Animals, Personal Safety for Women, Road Rage, When Your Vehicle Becomes Your Office and more.

Mark your calendars for October 24 and/or October 25 for an outstanding field staff learning event held at King Oscar Tacoma Inn and Convention Center. This one day conference is repeated in full a second day allowing participants to choose a one or two day experience. Keynoter Michael Dimeo will open the conference with "The Rules of Personal Engagement." Then participants may choose from 23 outstanding conference workshops.

Registration includes a full conference manual, continental breakfast and lunch. Parking will be easy at King Oscar Tacoma Inn and Convention Center located 8726 South Hosmer, off I-5 in Tacoma.

To learn more about this conference the brochure can be found at <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/xml/abtus/ourorg/pers/FSBrochure07.pdf>. To register for this conference, follow the link in the attached brochure or go directly to this website: <http://www.regonline.com/140264>

Conference Coordinator pcunningham@tacomacc.edu

DIS to Hold Technology Exposition

The Washington State Department of Information Services (DIS) is having a free technology exposition on September 26, 2007, featuring products and services available to Washington's counties. The Washington State Association of Counties encourages all county officials and county sheriffs to attend and learn how they can benefit from these offerings.

http://dis.wa.gov/news/technoexpo_2007.aspx

There is still time to register for WACME Training in conjunction with the WACO 49th Annual Conference. **FINDING MISSING PERSONS AND IDENTIFYING HUMAN REMAINS** the **third chapter** for Coroners, Medical Examiners and Law Enforcement is offered on Thursday, October 4! WACME Training announcement and registration is attached to this journal. Don't wait! Sign up now!

Courthouse Ramblings

Cowlitz County future elected officials practiced "running" and won medals at Disneyland over the Labor Day Holiday and are happy to report Cam Swanson was in the top ten of the 7-9 year olds for the 400 yard dash and his brother Zach smoked 'em in the Diaper Dash. Their mom Kris, Cowlitz County Auditor, reports she finished the Half Marathon despite triple digit heat, in 2 hours, 39 minutes and four seconds. Nice going!

Good Things

Bakke Jumps on Board

(By Paul Boring, Whidbey News-Times © 09/13/2007)

Only tumbleweeds blew through the halls of the county courthouse Monday afternoon. Newly appointed Commissioner Phil Bakke was being sworn in and it was the hottest ticket in town.

Judges Alan Hancock and Vickie Churchill held court at noon to administer the oath of office to whom Hancock referred to as "a splendid young gentleman." Bakke was appointed to the District 1 position last Wednesday by Commissioners Mac McDowell and John Dean to replace Mike Shelton.

"Phil has emerged from a strong field as the appointee of Commissioners McDowell and Dean to replace Commissioner Shelton," Hancock said. "And goodness knows he has big shoes to fill."

At 36, Bakke is already a seasoned veteran in Coupeville, having worked 12 years for the county. He vied for the commissioner position in a pool of three Republican candidates that, in addition to himself, included Auditor Suzanne Sinclair and real estate professional Reece Rose. Sinclair, along with what looked like half of the county's employees, was in the audience Monday to wish Bakke well in his new political endeavor.

Hancock said he and the former planning director share “a love of learning.” Both men attended Western Washington University and completed graduate studies at the University of Washington. Albeit at different times, Hancock reluctantly pointed out.

“Interestingly enough, at Western we both had a fascinating man by the name of Tom Downing for a philosophy professor. Oh, all right it was 30 years apart,” the judge quipped.

The Superior Court judge was quick to heap praise on the new commissioner and remind Bakke of his new responsibility and accountability to Island County citizens.

“In any event, Phil, you have all the tools to step into this awesome responsibility, and it is our confident expectation that you will faithfully serve as county commissioner with courage, wisdom and foresight, always remembering that you are called to serve the public to which you are accountable,” he said.

Trading his jeans and tennis shoes for a suit and tie, Bakke expressed his gratitude to the throng of supporters who used their lunch to witness the swearing in ceremony.

“It’s an honor to be here,” he said. “I’m humbled by the confidence and respect that I’ve received from the community.” He went on to applaud the high caliber candidates he interviewed alongside during the appointment process and made it clear that his baptism will be of the fiery ilk.

“I think this will be one of the shortest honeymoon periods ever known,” Bakke said with a laugh. “I know everyone will be patient and work with me and I want to work with you all to try and make a difference for Island County.”

After taking the oath of office and signing the requisite papers, the courtroom exploded in applause and the new commissioner addressed the crowd with a grin.

Monday was Bakke’s first day on the job. Battling jitters as he began to view county intricacies from a different perspective, the former planning director was honored to play a part in promoting his longtime second-in-command, Jeff Tate.

“One of my first actions this morning was to make a motion to appoint Jeff planning director,” he said. “That was pretty neat.”

Tate was appointed temporary director last Thursday. The commissioners unanimously voted to install him permanently in the position Monday.

Attachments



Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners

Training Announcement

October 4, 2007, WACME Training
in Conjunction with The 49th Annual WACO Conference
Skamania Lodge, Stevenson

FINDING MISSING PERSONS AND IDENTIFYING HUMAN REMAINS

The third chapter for coroners, medical examiners and law enforcement.

8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

This is a third in an education series offered by the Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners to assist investigators in locating missing persons and identifying human remains. Experts in the field have been assembled to offer expanded training in dental identification and the utilization of local, state and national resources to bring answers and comfort to the families and friends of the missing. The program is not a repetition of earlier classes but is a more comprehensive course in the subject matter. The speakers include Gary Bell, DDS, consultant in forensic odontology to local and state law enforcement, the FBI, and the military; Kristen Anderson, Case Analyst for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children; and Susan Miller, WSP Missing and Unidentified Persons Unit Program Manager. The program will conclude with a session on hospital deaths and the reporting of the deaths of foreign nationals.

Continuing education credits are available for those maintaining the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigator's (A.B.M.D.I.) requirements.

Cost: Training Course is being provided by the Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (WACME). Coroner and medical examiner staff will be reimbursed for expenses.

There is no registration fee for coroner and medical examiner staff and law enforcement.

Registration: Contact Kathie at Washington Association of County Officials
Send to: WACO, 206 Tenth Avenue SE, Olympia WA 98501
Email: khouts@wacounties.org, Phone: 360-753-7319, Fax: 360-664-2812

Date: Thursday, October 4, 2007 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Location: Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, Washington

Questions: Contact WACME Education Chair Tim Davidson,
Cowlitz County Coroner, Email: davidson@co.cowlitz.wa.us
Phone: 360-577-3079 (Cowlitz County Coroner's Office) Cell: 360-957-6051

WACME TRAINING REGISTRATION

Applicants Name (Last) (First) (Middle)		
Title/Rank:	Last four of Social Security Number:	Agency:
Agency Mailing Address: (Street or PO Box) (City) (State) (Zip)		
Agency Phone:	Agency Fax:	Email Address:

Additional Applicants

Applicants Name and Rank:	E-Mail Address:	Last 4 #s SSN:

LODGING INFORMATION

The Washington Association of County Officials has reserved a block of rooms at the [Skamania Lodge](#), 1131 SW Skamania Lodge Way, Stevenson, Washington. All rooms are \$139.00 per night, plus state and local taxes, currently 7%, plus a 2% occupancy tax. In addition, there is a daily lodge fee of \$12.00, plus 7% sales tax per room per night.

To receive this rate, call 1-509-427-7700 or 1-800-221-7117 and say you are with WACO. The cutoff date for this room block is Friday, September 7, 2007.

Coroner, medical examiner and prosecutor/coroner staff will be reimbursed one night's lodging, per diem and mileage calculated from their respective offices.

Attachments

**49th Annual WACO Conference
October 1-5, 2007
Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, Washington**

Draft Program
Monday, October 1

2:00 pm - Golf Tournament - Skamania Lodge Golf Course

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Archives Oversight Committee Meeting

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Registration Desk Opens

Tuesday, October 2

9:00 am - 5:00 pm Registration Open

9:30 am - 11:30 am Elections Administration and Certification Board Meeting

11:00 am - 1:30 pm WACO Board of Trustees' Luncheon Meeting

Presentation of Affiliate Legislative Proposals

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Work Session — Reporting Deaths in Care Facilities

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Treasurers' Meeting

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Clerks' Case Management System Workshop

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Auditors' Training - Licensing Fraud Prevention, Department of Licensing

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Assessors' and Treasurers' Joint Meeting

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Business Meeting

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Methamphetamine Pilot Counties Review (Clerks, Prosecutors and Sheriffs)

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Welcoming Reception

Wednesday, October 3

7:30 am - 5:00 pm Registration Open

7:45 am Buffet Breakfast

8:30 am Opening General Session

Call to Order — President Rick Bart, Snohomish County Sheriff

Presentation of Colors — Skamania County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem — Virginia Leach, Pacific County Clerk

Welcome — Paul Pearce, Chair, Skamania County Commission

Introductions

9:00 am	-	10:30 am	Keynote Speaker: Tom Flick - “The Heart of a Champion — It’s Beating in You”
			Following his success as an NFL quarterback, Rose Bowl Champion and a Pac-10 Conference “Player of the Year,” Tom Flick now applies his winning ways as a dynamic and highly sought-after speaker. Tom understands that people, not programs, help organizations change and grow. Meeting the challenges of today’s local government environment requires a committed workforce and leaders who allow people to become peak performers both personally and professionally to increase success.
10:30 am	-	10:45 am	Break
10:45 am	-	11:45 am	WACO Business Meeting Presentation of WACO Legislative Proposals Washington Counties Scholarship Fund — Mark Leander, Skagit County Assessor Archives Oversight Committee Report — Mike Killian, Franklin County Clerk Nominating Committee Report — Katie Jungquist, Skagit County Treasurer Introduction of Candidates for the WACO Board of Trustees Polls Open
Noon	-	1:30 pm	Luncheon
1:30 pm	-	5:00 pm	General Session (Continued)
1:30 pm	-	3:30 pm	County Financial Health & Governance Alternatives — Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) Study Moderator: Peter Banks, Skamania County Prosecutor Representative Bill Fromhold, D-49 th District Representative Richard Curtis, D-18 th District Juli Wilkerson, Director, CTED Rose Bowman, Lewis County Treasurer, Advisory Committee Chair Robert Cowen, King County, Director, Office of Management & Budget Gordon Heimbigner, Walla Walla County Treasurer
3:30 pm	-	3:45 pm	Break
3:45 pm	-	4:45 pm	Kristen Anderson, Deputy Director, Case Analysis & Support Division, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children “What an Informed Community Needs to Know about Sex Predators: The Emerging Federal and Local Partnership”
5:00 pm	-	6:00 pm	Prosecuting Attorneys’ Board Meeting
6:00 pm	-	7:30 pm	President’s Reception Honoring Rick Bart (Western theme) Entertainment — Kittitas County Sheriff Gene Dana “The History of Sheriffs”

Thursday, October 4

- 6:30 am Walk/Run - Director: Randy Gaylord, San Juan County Prosecutor
(Coffee available at 6:00 am)
- 8:00 am - 1:00 pm Registration Open
- 8:00 am - 5:00 pm Coroners' and Medical Examiners' Training – "Finding Missing Persons & Identifying Human Remains"
- 8:30 am - 4:30 pm Assessors' Meeting
- 8:30 am - 4:30 pm Auditors' Meeting
- 8:30 am - 5:00 pm Prosecutors' Meeting (Joint Meeting with Sheriffs at 3:15 pm)
- 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Treasurers' Meeting
- 8:30 am - 5:00 pm Clerks' Business Meeting (8:30 to 12:00)
Clerks' Training - Manny Najarro, Manager, Core CMS (Case Management System),
Administrative Office of the Courts (2:00 - 5:00)
- 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Sheriffs' Meeting (Joint Meeting with Prosecutors at 3:15 pm)
- Noon - 1:30 pm Luncheon for WACO Officers, Affiliate Presidents and Affiliate Vice Presidents
- 1:00 pm Polls Close at Registration Desk
- 3:15 pm - 5:00 pm Prosecutors' and Sheriffs' Joint Meeting
- 6:00 pm No Host Social
- 7:00 pm Annual Banquet
Installation of Officers
Recognition of County Officials Moving On
Awards
Entertainment: Eric Haines, Comedian

Friday, October 5

- 8:00 am - 9:30 am Continental Breakfast and Annual Business Meeting
Call to Order – President Rick Bart
President's Report
Financial Report
Adoption of 2008 Legislative Package
2010 Conference Site Selection
Memorial and Resolutions
New President's Comments
Other Business
Adjourn
- 10:00 am - Noon Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Advisory Board Meeting

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)

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