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Washington State Association of Counties

*Inside the
Courthouse Journal*

Budget, Finance & Taxes
Page 3

Boards & Commissions
Page 4

**Training &
Upcoming Events**
Page 5

Attachments
Page 7



**Job announcements & links to County
Employment pages at:**

<http://wacounties.org/>

the Courthouse Journal

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Washington Association of County Officials

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and the **Washington State Association of
Counties**

(WSAC) wacounties.org/wsac

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

SESSION

OPENS

JANUARY 12, 2009

Legislative Committee Schedules and Agendas:

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

Bill Information: www.leg.wa.gov

Budget, Finance and Taxes

Finally! Success with PILT Funding

It took almost three years to accomplish, but in December 2009 counties should receive funds from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as payment for Natural Area Preserves (NAP) and Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA) lands acquired by the Department. You may recall ESSB 5396 that was passed by the legislature in 2005. It directed that payments be made, but it provided no funding, nor did it address the method of arriving at what the dollar amount of PILT payment to the counties should be.

There are 28 counties in the state with DNR, NAP or NRCA land acreage that now totals almost 126,000 acres. One of the problems is how to value the land. Another problem is technology-related: county offices might not even be aware they have these lands in their county or where they are located.

DNR was able to provide PDF maps of all the parcels, and with WACO coordinating and each of the 28 Assessor offices putting forth extra time and staff to enter and check the map data, they were able to reconcile any conflicts with existing parcels.

The next problem was how to value the lands themselves. It was established that the formula would be the consolidated levy rate in that Code Area, less the State Levy, but what value to apply that against was problematic. Many of the counties have utilized Public Benefit Rating Systems (PBRs), and many of those counties have set a maximum reduction of 50% of market value for lands described as Open Space. It was finally agreed that a 50% reduction in market value was indeed appropriate for these NAP and NRCA lands.

There were no funds allocated to make the payments. Finally, in late December of 2008, the Supplemental Budget was approved which included funding for these payments to the counties. The last piece of the puzzle is finally in place.

It is important to note that all the groundwork and effort put forth has led us to a workable and equitable resolution. And, perhaps most important, we now have in place a workable formula for handling these lands in the future. To get to this point took a combined and cooperative effort of DNR staff, County Assessors, County Treasurers and County Commissioners across the state, and we finally got the job done.

Boards & Commissions

Statewide Board and Commission Seats Need County Representation

Quite a few seats have opened up on statewide boards and commissions as a result of WSAC members leaving office. WSAC is seeking interested members, and others where indicated, to submit their names for consideration for one or more of the following positions. It is expected that the WSAC Executive Committee will take action quickly to appoint or nominate members for the following open seats:

County Road Administration Board

Must be filled by a County Commissioner or Councilmember from a county with population between 20,000 and 125,000; this is to fill an unexpired term which ends in June, 2010.

<http://www.crab.wa.gov/newabout.asp>

Emergency Management Council

One county representative seat; indeterminate term

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/profiles/059.asp>

Farmland Preservation Task Force

One westside county representative seat; fulfilling a term that ends 1/1/11

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/profiles/059.asp>

Oil Spill Advisory Council

One representative of county government from counties bordering Puget Sound, the Columbia river/Pacific Ocean, and the Strait of Juan de Fuca/San Juan Islands

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/profiles/241.asp>

Shorelines Hearings Board

http://www.eho.wa.gov/Boards_SHB.aspx

Snowmobile Advisory Committee

<http://www.parks.wa.gov/winter/snomobilecom.asp>

State Building Code Council

Two seats available: one each western and eastern; three year terms; must be filled by a County Commissioner, Councilmember or Executive.

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/profiles/019.asp>

<http://www.sbcc.wa.gov/sbccindx.html>

Winter Recreation (Sno-Park) Advisory Committee

<http://www.parks.wa.gov/winter/snoparkcom.asp>

Two positions for unexpired terms are open due to WSAC members who resigned due to other commitments:

Invasive Species Council

One eastside county representative seat.

http://www.rco.wa.gov/invasive_species/default.htm

Sex Offender Policy Board

http://www.sgc.wa.gov/SOPB_Information/Sex_Offender_Policy_Board.htm

In addition, the following position is being advertised per WSAC policy. Snohomish County Councilmember Dave Gossett, who currently serves in his first term, has expressed his interested in being reappointed to the seat.

Affordable Housing Advisory Board, Westside

<http://www.cted.wa.gov/site/718/default.aspx>

Process for Applying or Re-Applying to a Statewide Board or Commission

To apply, fill out an interest form [at http://www.wacounties.org/wsac/boards.asp](http://www.wacounties.org/wsac/boards.asp).

All interested parties, including those members desiring reappointment, must complete an online form for the seat in which they seek appointment. The information on the form is taken to the WSAC Executive Committee or Board of Directors, depending on timing, for either nomination to the appointing authority or direct appointment per statute. Applicants are notified after the WSAC decision and, if selected, are given information on the next steps in the appointment process.

For more information about the nomination and appointment process, please contact Michelle Nelson, Communications & Member Services Director, at mnelson@wacounties.org or (360) 586-4219 ext. 112.

Process for Resigning from a Statewide Board or Commission

WSAC members and county representatives who no longer are able or wish to serve on a statewide position are asked to submit their resignation in writing to the appointing authority and copy their correspondence to Michelle Nelson mnelson@wacounties.org at WSAC. WSAC needs to be informed along with the body itself so that we may initiate the process to find a replacement. All open positions must be advertised in WSAC publications, and a decision for nomination or appointment will be made by the WSAC Board of Directors or Executive Committee, per WSAC policy. If you have questions about who is the appointing authority, please contact Michelle. Thank you for helping us to keep track of upcoming openings!

Training & Upcoming Events

Washington Counties – [wacounties.org/Calendar of Events](http://wacounties.org/Calendar%20of%20Events)

County Training Institute – www.countytraininginstitute.org

Risk Pool Classes: Public Records Act

The Washington Counties Risk Pool is offering five Public Records Act and E-Records training classes to all employees of our member counties free of charge. Employees of municipalities outside the Risk Pool may attend for a fee of \$50. The classes will be held in February 2009 and will be taught by Ramsey Ramerman. Ramsey is an attorney who specializes in helping local governments meet their obligations under the Public Records Act and other open government laws. He currently serves as the local government representative on the Governor's "Sunshine Committee."

Class attendees will be provided a short overview of the requirements of the Public Records Act. However, the focus of the class will be on responding to public records requests and managing your electronic records. Attendees will receive sample municipal Public Records Act Policies including policies governing how internal emails and other electronic records should be managed. The classes will last 3 ½ hours starting at 9:00 a.m. to allow for travel time. The class dates and locations are as follows:

- Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2009, Thurston County (Olympia)
- Thursday, Feb. 5, 2009, Skagit County (Mt. Vernon)
- Wednesday, February 18, 2009, Kittitas County (Ellensburg)
- Thursday, Feb. 19, 2009, Spokane County (Spokane)
- Wednesday, March 4, 2009, Clark County (Vancouver)

The class flyer is attached (see Page 8). To register for any of the four classes, please click on the following link.

http://216.216.119.251/event_reg_publish.cfm

Please note: 3.5 CLE credits have been approved for this class.

Disaster Logistics A 2-Day Workshop on Managing Logistics for Emergency Situations

January 21-22, 2009 | Houston, TX

To review all of our Emergency Response Planning training and to sign up for our complimentary monthly print magazine, Homeland Defense Journal, go to www.HomelandDefenseJournal.com

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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You may 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.



The Public Records Act And E-Records

Presented by
Ramsey Ramerman

- ✓ Overview of the Public Records Act
- ✓ What E-Records are subject to disclosure?
- ✓ Tips to help make finding and producing E-Records easier
- ✓ All about metadata and when you have to produce metadata to requesters
- ✓ Steps to build a Public Records Act policy that maximizes transparency while minimizing the burden on your county

Class Dates & Locations

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