

WATOA Teleconference 1/11/12

1. Call to order 2:06 PM
 - a. Mike, Chris, Linda, Victoria Lincoln from AWC, Jeff, Randy, Dea, Megan, Randy, Jim
2. Treasurer Report—Dea Drake
 - a. End balance Dec. 2011 \$8805.59
3. State Legislative Update—Victoria Lincoln
 - a. 60-day short session
 - b. Hearings room in house has new electronic agenda boards
 - c. Can use mobile devices to sign in & testify at hearings
 - d. Big item to watch--\$2 billion budget shortfall, now at \$1.5B after special session
 - e. State economist announced resignation today
 - f. Continue to defend state-shared revenues
 - g. Policy issues: off to slow start, if you want to make changes or propose bills it's a tough time
 - h. Chair of House Technology Committee is looking at retail communications authority for last few years. He had hearing yesterday and bill continued to today. Substitute version includes PUDs and the Port. Some of our code cities have gone to court to determine what authority they have to deal with broadband. Code cities usually have broad authority. Concerned that if a bill mucks with this, it could impact ones already providing service. Attorneys advise to keep statement simple. Hearings have been full with telecommunications industry. They don't think PUDs and Ports should be involved. Bill has uphill battle to survive. 3 weeks to first session deadline.
 - i. From Jeff—Click is making changes, will have discussion about what bill proposes, venturing into the public sector. Will see where the Public Utilities Commission takes it.
 - i. CenturyLink running a franchise bill in Idaho: don't know Idaho cities commission viewpoint, doesn't think the company will run anything in Washington this year. Didn't get anywhere in the past. Mood in legislature has not changed. In recession, more chips are stacked against them. Don't worry if a bill will be dropped. Watch Idaho and keep an eye on how they solve it, it could embolden CenturyLink to try it other places. Trying Idaho first to see if they'll be blocked there. Last year, Pocatello, ID convinced legislature is wasn't the right thing to do. Local governments are not a barrier. Victoria will send around email when more info becomes available.
 - j. Anticipates this might be one of the worst financial years of the recession for local governments.
 - k. Requires action: WATOA president will send study information to Idaho group showing what happened after statewide franchises were passed in some states.
 - l. Encourages group to send her emails, keep her posted if things change in Idaho
 - m. From Jeff--NATOA discussion about Federal bill introduced by Senator Jim Demint, South Carolina and Representative Steve Scalise, Louisiana, for rewriting the '92 Cable Act. Bill was introduced in mid-December. Jeff doesn't know much about it, NATOA looking into it.
4. Quarterly newsletter finalize
 - a. Deadline for changes by Monday (MLK)/Tuesday, on web by Wednesday
5. Discussion of phone conference and list serve fees and options
 - a. Couldn't find a good alternative, decision is to keep conference calls with 800 number and same for list serve that would fit our needs.

- b. Jeff Lueders motioned & Jim Demmon seconded--Use existing conference calls provider and the existing list serve provider for monthly WATOA meetings for 2012, revisit for 2013—approved
- 6. Retreat planning
 - a. Yes, do the retreat at Yakima City Hall. Mike will work with Randy on logistics
 - b. March 2—email to confirm a date/location availability
- 7. Misc.
 - a. Century Link interest to move into IP TV
 - b. Centurylink franchises happening in Colorado
 - c. Nothing in Washington at this time
- 8. Adjournment 3:00 PM