



Washington Association of Telecommunications Officers & Advisors

a professional organization of individuals and organizations serving citizens in the development, regulation, and administration of cable television and other telecommunication systems.

February 28, 2020 - Board Retreat Minutes

1. Call to Order 10:20 AM
2. Roll Call of Officers
 - a. Present – Ben Fabuion, John Delay, Chris Jaramillo, Megan Hutton, George Geyer, Jim Demmon, Alice Lawson, Edgar Riebe, Jon Rauch
 - b. Not present – Jon Funfar, Robin Steel, Mike Connor, Derek Young, Mike Charboneau,
3. Secretary's Report
 - a. Approval of minutes from the 3/1/19 Board Meeting
 - i. Alice motion, Jim 2nd to approve, unanimously approved
4. Treasurer's report as of 2/25/20
 - a. \$20,424.26 beginning balance 1/31/20
 - b. \$18,349.29 ending balance 2/29/20
 - i. Notes: scholarship for 2020 WATOA 3 x \$500 = \$1500
 - ii. Scholarship 2020 WATOA \$1500
5. Committee Assignments and Break Outs
 - a. Communications – Mike Connor, Jon Funfar, Linda Seesz, Robin Steel, Pippa
 - i. Alice is keeping the website updated
 - ii. Consider making a master list of PEG stations in WA State with direct links to all
 - b. Nominating & Membership – Chris Jaramillo, Alice Lawson, George Geyer, Judy Devall
 - i. Approve filling an open board position - Bellingham, Region 1
 1. Ben Skudlarek nominated
 - a. Chris motion, John D 2nd, move to appoint Ben to finish the term. Term ends in 2021. Unanimously approved.
 - ii. Alice handout – 2020 Membership organizations and list of current members
 1. 31 agencies (34 in 2019)
 2. 72 members (94 in 2019)
 - c. Legislative & Policy – Jon Funfar, Alice Lawson, Ben Faubion, Derek Young, George Geyer
 - i. We voted as a board to be part of the FCC Appeal – oral arguments on in-kind benefits and mixed-use networks are March 10th
 - ii. State Broadband fund
 1. Requires public private partnerships
 - a. When Comcast applies for permitting, they must show proof of partnering with local governments
 - iii. Channel in-kind questions – more to come at WATOA conf with Nancy Werner
 - d. Production – Edgar Riebe, Robin Steel, Megan Hutton, Jim Demmon, John Delay, Jon Rauch, Mike Connor
 - i. Emphasis at conference is bringing in Storyteller John Sharify
 - ii. Reach out by letter to all PEG stations recommending conference – Edgar & John westside/eastside
 - iii. Feature videos on WATOA website – email YouTube links to Alice
 - iv. Census content is helpful
 - v. Ask each other when we need broll – i.e. salmon, Mt. Rainier, etc.



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6. Brian Wilson Scholarship
 - a. NATOA conference winner – Alex Klinger, Kent
 - b. All 3 accepted for WATOA
 - i. David Olson, Town of Cathlamet
 - ii. Edgar Riebe, Seattle SPS-TV
 - iii. Judy Devall, Toppenish
7. Legislative Update
 - a. Logan Bahr – Association of WA Cities (handles transportation, infrastructure, telecomm, broadband)
 - i. 2020 short session, 60 days, 2 weeks left
 - ii. No major policy or budget decisions
 1. Exception is transportation budget/car tabs
 - a. Just passed house, headed to Senate
 - b. Neither operating budget has passed yet
 - iii. Telecomm – relatively quiet this year
 1. HB 2629 weighs utility charges – electric water gas
 2. 6240 concerning underground utilities (recommendations from call before you dig)
 - iv. Major bill in 2019 SB5511 expanded broadband service and resources statewide
 1. Establishes goals for broadband, 25/3 download upload standards
 2. Central broadband planning board for the state
 3. Public Works board has hired broadband staff
 - v. Bills that have died
 1. 2414 digital equity in broadband
 2. 2922 pole attachments for PUDs
 - vi. 5G telecomm policy
 1. Really seeing much of that conversation at the federal level
 - vii. Thoughts on Broadband Office
 1. Defining unserved (no broadband at all) vs underserved (in a well-served education)
8. WATOA conference planning
 - a. 25 people registered to date
 - b. Location
 - i. Red Lion Inn & Suites Kennewick Columbia Center
 1. 1101 N Columbia Center Blvd, Kennewick, WA 99336
 2. Change in hotel, other one wasn't ready
 3. Meeting rooms are nicer, inside/outside pool
 4. Alice updated website with new hotel
 - c. Thursday Reception 6 PM – Barnard Griffin Winery
 - i. 2 buses will take everyone at once
 - ii. Shuttles for rides into downtown
 - iii. Wed night – Elana Zana TBD, outside hotel?
 - iv. \$4000 budget, cheaper venue with more money set aside for addtl. food
 - d. Vendors
 - i. Keycode, Comcast, Castus, Tightrope, Verizon



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- ii. Vendor sign cards required for raffle winners at end of conference
 - 1. See if Judy can help, ideas of what to purchase: beers of WA
- e. Leg/policy track changes to current draft
 - i. Swap “So your elected can act” with “PEG roundtable bring us your problems”
 - ii. Add tour of City of Richland new facility - Thursday 4:15-5:15
 - iii. Small cell session – remove Crown
 - iv. Franchise mgmt. for a new decade – bring list of backup questions in case audience questions dies out
 - v. Audio/video equipment handled by Mike Connor and Jon Funfar
- f. 4 Rooms
 - i. PED track needs room with no windows
 - ii. Vendors to be inside a room this year
- g. Questions for the survey
 - i. Favorite/least favorite sessions
 - ii. Quality of hotel
 - iii. Are you interested in being on a WATOA cmte?
- 9. Misc. Notes
 - a. Consider moving board retreat to west side next February, possibly Bellevue
- 10. Old business – none
- 11. New business
 - a. Revitalize committee calls
- 12. Adjournment, John motion, Jim 2nd, 2:57 p.m.