



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.

WATOA Board Meeting Minutes June 9, 2021

1. Call to Order – 2:04 PM
2. Roll Call of Officers

WATOA Board Position	2021 Board Member	Present	Absent
President	Jeff Lueders, City of Tacoma	x	
Vice-President	Robin Steel, City of Bellevue	x	
Board Secretary	Megan Hutton, Pierce County	x	
Treasurer	Alice Lawson, City of Seattle	x	
Regional Rep: District 1 (North & Puget)	Ben Skudlarek, City of Bellingham	x	
Regional Rep: District 2 (King)	Amber Olds, City of Auburn	x	
Regional Rep: District 3 (Puget & Coast)	Jon Rauch, City of Bremerton	x	
Regional Rep: District 4 (Southwest)	Jim Demmon, City of Vancouver	x	
Regional Rep: District 5 (Rainier Valley)	Derek Young, Pierce County		x
Regional Rep: District 6 (Central)	Ben Faubion, City of Ellensburg	x	
Regional Rep: District 7 (Northeast)	John Delay, City of Spokane	x	
Regional Rep: District 8 (Tri-Cities)	Jon Funfar, City of Pasco	x	
Regional Rep: District 9 (At-Large)	Edgar Riebe, Seattle Public Schools	x	
Past-President	George Geyer, Kitsap County		x
NATO representative	Chris Jaramillo	x	

3. Approval of the agenda
 - a. Motion: Ben 2nd: Robin Approval: yes
4. Approval of minutes from the May 12, 2021 Board Meeting as amended
 - a. Motion: Alice 2nd: Jim Approval: yes
5. President's Report – Jeff Lueders
 - a. None
6. Treasurer's report – Alice Lawson
 - a. Deposits from Richland and Tukwila
 - b. \$700 in deposits will hit in June, on next statement
 - c. Previous balance \$22,411.08
 - d. New balance \$22,511.08
7. Committee Reports
 - a. Conference Cmte – Chris Jaramillo, Robin Steel
 - i. Vendor sponsors
 1. Keycode, Tightrope, anticipate 8-10 vendors
 - ii. Cost
 1. \$175/members, \$200 non-members
 - iii. PEG Track
 1. No storyteller, break into individual sessions during that time
 - a. So your elected can act

- iv. Legislative Track
 - 1. Ken Fellman, Brian Grogan, Nancy Werner confirmed
 - 2. Panel around small cell and right of way management, with local reps from around the state. Please send names for panelists to Alice.
- v. Presidents Reception
 - 1. Tsillan Winery – costs up 2-3x from a few years ago
 - a. Best location for good food, enough food
 - b. Currently restricted to 50 people inside & out
 - c. \$1000 for downstairs/outside area
- vi. Alice Lawson motioned for budget item for conference up to \$2300 to cover up to 6 speakers (hotel stay + meals)
- vii. Robin 2nd, unanimously approved (no cost anticipated for PEG track)
- b. Policy/Legal
 - i. Decision out of 6th circuit regarding broadband in Eugene, OR.
 - 1. FCC order says fair market value for channels, based on the at-cost value. Which can be considered a win.
 - 2. We lost on charging for in-kind services.
 - 3. WATOA supported appeal, so did RCC, Seattle, Tacoma, etc.
 - ii. Broadband Federal programs
 - 1. August deadline for \$5-30 million
 - 2. \$61 billion proposed by President, TBD, grants haven't posted yet
 - 3. Cantwell/State reps have offered some infrastructure updates/broadband too
 - 4. State of WA Bill 1336 PUD & Ports selling Broadband
- c. Production
 - i. Hybrid Council Meetings
 - 1. Anticipate ruling from Governor by June 30 on Hybrid council meetings
 - 2. John D with Spokane is feeling a lot of pressure to cover boards and commissions, open building to general public, analog hybrid + Zoom feed, audio is out of synch, embed video signal with HDMI analog video, comes up as a web cam, then feed back into video system.
 - 3. Edgar with Seattle Schools is covering mostly cmte work, using TEAMS and managing with Administrator function. Will send photos of setup to Listserv.
 - 4. RCC is recommending Avidex for audio work for their cities.
 - 5. City of Vancouver to go hybrid in July, Magewell USB Capture HDMI Gen 2 \$333 from B&H.
- d. Communications
 - i. Share cool videos with the listserv
- e. Membership/Nominating
 - i. 24 agencies (69% of 2020), memberships 74 (86%)
- 8. Old Business
 - a. None
- 9. New Business
 - a. Letter from Comcast – they want to recover the fees/costs from regional sports networks
- 10. Good of the Order
 - a. Mike Charboneau retiring – gift for Mike?
 - b. UW Tacoma is doing a broadband study now – survey, not a speed test
- 11. Next Meeting(s)
 - a. Board Meeting dates uly 14
- 12. Adjournment – 3:03 PM