



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.

WATO A Board Meeting Minutes July 21, 2021

1. Call to Order – 9:33 AM
2. Roll Call of Officers

WATO A 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	

3. Approval of the agenda
 - a. Motion: Jim 2nd: George Approval: approved
4. Approval of minutes from the June 9, 2021 Board Meeting
 - a. One change – item 11 misspelling July is missing a J
 - b. Motion to approve as amended: Robin 2nd: Alice Approval: approved
5. President's Report – Jeff Lueders
 - a. Been working with George on the Brian Wilson scholarship information for public release
 - i. The board discussed whether folks selected as the 2020 winners, who did not get to attend conferences that were cancelled because of the pandemic, should get to use it toward 2021. The board decided that folks should be required to reapply for the current year. Wording will be added to scholarship rules in the cover letter to winners that in the event a conference is cancelled, the scholarship will not continue to the following year.
 - ii. Motion to modify application letter and send out today
 1. George motion, Robin 2nd, unanimously approved
6. Vice President's Report – Robin Steel
 - a. None
7. Secretary's Report
 - a. None
8. Treasurer's report – Alice Lawson
 - a. Previous balance 5/31/21 - \$22,411.08
 - b. Adjusted New balance 6/30/21 - \$22,186.76
 - c. Web hosting cost covers three years

- d. Now at 80% of membership/ 90% members compared to 2020
- 9. Committee Reports
 - a. Conference Cmte
 - i. Chris Jaramillo
 - 1. Still working with winery on reception details, limited to 50 people, has call with them next week
 - 2. All good with hotel, food
 - 3. Will reach out to AV cmte on what is needed
 - ii. Robin Steel
 - 1. Finalizing sponsorships
 - 2. Keycode will be major sponsor
 - 3. 7 vendor tables total, 3 remaining tables available
 - 4. Allow vendors to speak during Thursday lunch
 - iii. Alice Lawson
 - 1. 6 people registered so far
 - 2. Special Broadband session on Friday
 - 3. Not limited to 50 people for conference attendance
 - b. Legislative/Policy/Legal
 - i. ACM sent letter to President Biden requesting he appoint 5th member to FCC
 - ii. Alice reminded folks about the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program for households who need help with internet costs
 - iii. [https://www.seattle.gov/tech/services/internet-access/emergency-broadband-benefit-\(ebb\)](https://www.seattle.gov/tech/services/internet-access/emergency-broadband-benefit-(ebb))
 - iv. Pierce County earmarking \$15M in ARP funds for broadband infrastructure
 - c. Production
 - i. Working to finalize PEG track sessions
 - d. Communications
 - i. None
 - e. Membership/Nominating
 - i. CM Derek Young's position will need to be filled at the end of this year. Possibly consider Linda Seesz in University Place.
 - f. By Laws
 - i. Megan ready to work with Jeff and George on By Laws work
- 10. Old Business
 - a. Move that the board authorize one free registration to Mike Charboneau to the 2021 WATO conference.
 - i. Jon F moved, Alice 2nd, unanimously approved
- 11. New Business
 - a. Ben S – dealing with YouTube removing Bellingham council videos for medical misinformation. It's the public comment portion that's causing the issue.
 - b. Megan – Issues with ads being run in front of YouTube video content. Others confirmed they have it too. Megan will look into professional membership that's supposed to get rid of it, but not sure what cost or commitment that requires yet. Will share findings with board.
- 12. Good of the Order
 - a. Board members discussed who is doing hybrid vs. in person meetings now and how they are going. Jeff L mentioned how Tacoma Council is trying a program called The Owl. Mics are built into the camera and speakers. Cameras automatically find who is speaking. From audio perspective it was perfect, but video was not.
- 13. Next Meeting(s)
 - a. Board Meeting dates – August 11 @ 2:00 PM
- 14. Adjournment – 10:33 AM