



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 April 26, 2023

1. Call to Order – 2:16 PM
2. Roll Call of Officers

WATOA Board Position	2021 Board Member	Present	Absent
President	Jon Funfar, City of Pasco		x
Vice-President	Chris Jaramillo, King County	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)	Patti Belle, City of Kent	x	
Regional Rep: District 3 (Puget & Coast)	George Geyer, Kitsap County		x
Regional Rep: District 4 (Southwest)	Jim Demmon, City of Vancouver	x	
Regional Rep: District 5 (Rainier Valley)	Vacant		x
Regional Rep: District 6 (Central)	Ben Faubion, City of Ellensburg	x	
Regional Rep: District 7 (Northeast)	Jessica Fisher, City of Spokane	x	
Regional Rep: District 8 (Tri-Cities)	Vacant		x
Regional Rep: District 9 (At-Large)	Edgar Riebe, Seattle Public Schools	x	
Past-President	Jeff Lueders, City of Tacoma	x	

3. Approval of the agenda
 - a. Alice motion, Jim D 2nd, Approved
4. Approval of minutes – 3/1/23
 - a. Jim D motion, unanimously approved
5. President's Report – Jon Funfar
 - a. Absent
6. Vice President's Report – Chris Jaramillo
 - a. Jon and Chris have made changes to a few committees to help disperse work.
 - i. Jeff L moving over to Nominating Cmte.
 - ii. Chris J will handle Membership Cmte.
 - iii. Alice L will be Treasurer and Legislative Update Cmte
7. Secretary's Report – Megan Hutton
 - a. By laws work starts this summer
8. Treasurer's report – Alice Lawson
 - a. Previous balance
 - i. 2/28/23 - \$21,819.90
 - b. New balance
 - i. 3/31/23 - \$21,875.90
 - ii. A few renewals came in
 - iii. New city member support for smaller agencies up to \$300
 - iv. Ending year with 71% of agencies and 72% of memberships

9. Committee Reports

a. Conference Cmte

1. Conference has been cancelled.

b. Policy/Legal – Alice Lawson

- i. Creation of a State Broadband Map is the only broadband work that made it through the 2023 legislative session. There's an effort to make sure the FCC maps are a better representation of actual coverage.
- ii. Introduction April 9 in the House – under the Telecomm Act, make it legal for a public entity to have a broadband network. Protect local communities' interest in broadband infrastructure. Allow local governments to own that infrastructure.
- iii. FFC 6409 order
 1. Many local govts sought to appeal, reply comments have just been submitted. Oral arguments this year, as early as July.
- iv. Community Broadband Act of 2023 – HB2552
 1. Natoa sent email supporting it
- v. E-WATOA planning – no topics yet

c. Production – Jim Demmon/Megan Hutton

- i. Thursday, May 11 from 10:30-2:30
 1. We're a sponsor/partner with Keycode's Post NAB Seattle event
 2. 12:30-1:30 WATOA session
 - a. Trends from NAB – Ben Ramsey/Jeremy Acree, Daryl Peck??
 - b. Sever and asset mgmt. tips – Ben Ramsey PCTV, Tom Arenz
 3. Promoting on List Serv – Megan, send Alice flyer for web
- ii. Alice updated the website with new committee lists.
- iii. Alice to work with Jessica on WATOA's web credentials

d. Membership – Chris Jaramillo

- i. Need to fill two vacancies (Tri-Cities and Rainier Valley (Pierce Co))
 1. Chris is working on the Key Peninsula area

e. Nominating – Jeff Lueders

- i. No report

f. By Laws – Jeff/Megan/George

- i. Start on this in summer. One major change – rewrite to clarify how positions were described. George has done this work. We need one meeting to knock it out. Needs to be approved by the Board in November, and on the ballot in December.

g. Brian Wilson Scholarship – George Geyer

- i. Two \$1200 scholarships for NATOA were approved at the last meeting. George to work on the application and promotion on the listserv.

10. Old Business

- a. Alice to work with NATOA on the conference flyer

11. New Business

- a. NATOA sessions heads up
 - i. Broadband will be covered extensively at this year's conference.
 - ii. PEG plan & pivot, big name storyteller, tips for PEG managers

12. Good of the Order

- a. Alice motions up to \$70 of sunshine fund for flowers for Jon.
 - i. Patti 2nd, unanimously approved.

13. Next Meeting – 4th Wednesday of every month (May 24)

14. Adjournment – 3:00 pm