



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 November 29, 2023

1. Call to Order – 2:05 PM
2. Roll Call of Officers

WATO A 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)	Jon Baker, Pierce County	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. Approved
4. Approval of minutes
 - a. 8/30/23 approved
 - b. 9/27/23 approved
 - c. Jeff motioned, Jim second
5. President's report
 - a. Letters have been sent to our congressional delegation, opposing federal HB 3557
 - b. NATOA is using WATO A's letter as a good example
6. Vice President – Chris Jaramillo
 - a. Conference update
 - i. The hotel we liked in Richland is not accepting per diem. Chris reached out to another hotel in Kennewick. Awaiting more info. By next month, have a location picked.
 - ii. For January's meeting, Alice, Chris, Megan to work on list of duties to plan the conference and then divide up the work at that meeting.
7. Secretary's Report – Megan Hutton
 - a. Schedule meeting with small group to address by-law changes and get info ready for board to review
8. Treasurer's report – Alice Lawson
 - a. Previous balance – Sept 30, 2023
 - i. \$21,636.90
 - b. New adjusted balance – 10/31/23
 - i. \$19,092.56

- ii. New renewals coming in, 87% of last year
 - iii. Membership renewal notices/updated form – will go out soon
- 9. Committee Reports
 - a. Conference Cmte
 - i. See Vice President report
 - b. Policy/Legal – Jon Funfar
 - i. Jon is sending out notices from the State Broadband Office as they come out
 - c. Production – Jim Demmon/Edgar Riebe
 - i. None
 - d. Membership – Chris Jaramillo
 - i. None
 - e. Nominating – Jeff Lueders
 - i. Names are on the ballot, ready to go
 - ii. Even regions this year 2/4/6/8 + at large
 - 1. Mark Ingham is running for Position 8, which would fill the last vacancy.
 - f. By Laws – Jeff Lueders
 - i. Chris Jaramillo brought forward one bylaws change for the Board to consider.
 - ii. Change to board of directors: Article 5, section 4
 - iii. Wording: *“A Board member may also be removed by a majority vote of the Board for non-attendance at two consecutive Board meetings.”*
 - iv. Board discussion followed about the reasons why someone would be excused, or not. Discussion transitioned to how board members present bylaws changes, and concerns were raised about differences in the process. Some people are going through the bylaws cmte, and some are not.
 - v. The Board determined that proposals should go before the bylaws committee. This proposal will be included. The Committee will meet to bring them all forward for board review/approval at January’s meeting.
 - g. Brian Wilson Scholarship – George Geyer
 - i. Bring the conversation back up in spring
- 10. New Business
 - a. December 2023 meeting cancelled.
 - b. Setting 2024’s meeting schedule – Keep the 4th Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m.
- 11. Next Meeting – January 24, 2024
- 12. Adjournment – 2:38 pm