



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 February 25, 2026

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

WATOA Board Position	Board Member	Present	Absent
President	Mike Connor, City of Kirkland	x	
Vice-President	Ben Skudlarek, City of Bellingham	x	
Board Secretary	Megan Hutton, Pierce County	x	
Treasurer	Alice Lawson, City of Seattle	x	
Regional Rep: District 1 (North & Puget)	Candy Galindo, City of Mount Vernon		x
Regional Rep: District 2 (King)	Patti Belle, City of Kent		x
Regional Rep: District 3 (Puget & Coast)	Vacant- (Kitsap area)		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)	Mark Ingham, City of Richland	x	
Regional Rep: District 9 (At-Large)	Edgar Riebe, Seattle Public Schools	x	
Past-President	None in 2025		

3. Approval of the agenda
 - a. Approved
4. Approval of minutes
 - a. 1/28/26 minutes, approved, as amended
5. President's report – Mike Connor
 - a. WATOA retreat set for Friday, April 17th in Ellensburg
6. Vice President – Ben Skudlarek
 - a. Working on audio description equipment recommendations
7. Secretary's Report – Megan Hutton
 - a. None
8. Treasurer's report – Alice Lawson
 - a. 2025 year-end financial report for net income/loss: -\$3,882
 - b. 12/31/25 balance - \$15,995.56
 - c. 1/31/26 adjusted balance - \$15,695.56
 - d. 2025 - 31 agencies & 85 members (2026 membership renewals went out 2/16/26)
 - e. Consider new way to register members that's online, not paper
 - i. Alice recommended WA Assoc. of Counties – she showed some online examples
 - ii. That led to additional discussion about partnering with their conference to host one session, for example.
9. Committee Reports
 - a. Committee Assignments, Membership & Engagement - Jessica, Patti, Mike
Covers: website, membership, overall messaging, ListServ, promotional materials
 - i. Region 3 still vacant
 - b. Education - Edgar, Megan, Ben S, Jim
Covers: PEG production, equipment recommendations, events, conferences, webinars

- i. Jim Demmon talked about the contract they're going with for audio description – they're going with Audible Sight (\$8800 per year for 500 hours)
 - 1. 3Play Media also a decent option
- ii. There were also questions about web and powerpoint updates happening in jurisdictions related to WCAG.
- c. Legislative/Policy - Alice, Jon, Ben F, Candy
 - Covers: advocate to State govt, monitor Federal govt, propose bills, lobbying
 - i. State updates: WATOA is letting current legislation session end.
 - 1. How did the PEG Media legislation do?
 - a. We know now it was meant to replace the PBS money lost from national govt. It was not successful, didn't make it out of cmte. What can WATOA learn from that to prep our legislation idea.
 - 2. Next steps for us:
 - a. Work on talking points for our draft (at our April retreat)
 - b. Draft the legislation
 - c. Start outreach, look for primary sponsor
 - ii. Federal updates:
 - 1. Nothing new from NATOA
 - 2. FCC: Allowed e-rate funding to be used differently, affecting the ability of schools and libraries to connect to wifi.

10. Old Business

- a. None

11. New Business

- a. None

12. Good of the order

- a. None

13. Next Meeting –March 25 at 2pm

14. Adjournment – 2:59pm