



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 January 22, 2025

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)	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)	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. 12/18/24 minutes approved (Jim move, Edgar second)
5. President's report – Mike Connor
 - a. NATOA will offer the early bird registration price for
6. Vice President – Ben Skudlarek
 - a. Mike is looking forward to the President's position next year.
7. Secretary's Report – Megan Hutton
 - a. Save the date for the Post NAB Seattle event – Tuesday, April 29
 - i. Time/location TBD (anticipate 10am-3pm)
 - ii. WATOA will be on a panel, possibly two panels TBD
 - iii. One topic will be 2025 production trends
8. Treasurer's report – Alice Lawson
 - a. Previous balance – 11/30/24
 - i. \$18,727.68
 - b. Adjusted ending balance – 12/31/24
 - i. \$19,877.68
 1. Pending payments \$0
 2. Pending deposits \$0
 - c. 2024 total net income/loss \$385
 - d. Board approved a new bank CD in December
 - i. \$16,000
 - e. Update on City/County renewals: Membership renewals went out in January

9. Committee Reports

a. Events

- i. Alice & George are working on a legislative/policy event about copper thieves that are cutting into fiber lines without knowing it's not copper. What can WATO/NATOA do to extend that conversation?
- ii. Patti cautioned about speaking on this, acknowledging the time spent educating citizens its not a city problem, and putting your police dept out there. Preparing messaging carefully before talking about it on social media.

b. Policy/Legislative

- i. There's a few broadband bills, nothing appears problematic yet.
- ii. One is amending the existing code for a PW loan problem. This would allow loans/grants from the state to repair/replace existing public infrastructure broadband projects.

c. Production

- i. See secretary's note about Post NAB Seattle
- ii. Potential webinars + push these
 - 1. Implementation of WK compliant
 - 2. Decline of PEG funds are here

d. Certify 2025 Board Election Results

- i. The 2025 Board Election process is complete, with 55% of voting members casting ballots.
- ii. **The results:** our full slate of candidates was unanimously elected to serve as Board members this year. Starting Jan. 1, 2025 these are the WATO Board Officers and Representatives:

WATO Board Position	2025 Board Members
President	Mike Connor, City of Kirkland
Vice-President	Ben Skudlarek, City of Bellingham
Board Secretary	Megan Hutton, Pierce County
Treasurer	Alice Lawson, City of Seattle
Regional Rep: District 1 (North & Puget)	Candy Galindo, City of Mt Vernon
Regional Rep: District 2 (King)	Patti Belle, City of Kent
Regional Rep: District 3 (Puget & Coast)	George Geyer, Kitsap County
Regional Rep: District 4 (Southwest)	Jim Demmon, City of Vancouver
Regional Rep: District 5 (Rainier Valley)	Jon Baker, Pierce County
Regional Rep: District 6 (Central)	Ben Faubion, City of Ellensburg
Regional Rep: District 7 (Northeast)	Jessica Fisher, City of Spokane
Regional Rep: District 8 (Tri-Cities)	Mark Ingham, City of Richland
Regional Rep: District 9 (At-Large)	Edgar Riebe, Seattle Public Schools

- iii. Alice motion to accept election results, Patti second, unanimously approved.
- iv. Because of the new election, we need to update bank signers:
 - 1. **Remove** outgoing president Jon Funfar as authorized signer
 - 2. **Add** Michael James Connor, president, new authorized signer
 - 3. Alice (Treasurer) will remain an authorized signer
 - 4. Alice motion, Candy second, unanimously approved
- v. Bylaws changes were also unanimously approved on the ballot

10. New Business

- a. None

11. Good of the order



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.

a. None

12. Next Meeting – February 26 at 2:00pm

13. Adjournment – 3:01pm