



## 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 July 23, 2025

1. Call to Order – 2:04 p.m.
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. 6/25/25 minutes approved
5. President's report – Mike Connor
  - a. Attended NATOA Presidents Meeting (sending follow-up materials)
  - b. Recruited a possible speaker in Mike
  - c. Government Program Awards nominations TBD (following-up with NATOA)
  - d. Talk about having someone attend regular NATOA Legislative meeting
6. Vice President – Ben Skudlarek
  - a. Nothing to report
7. Secretary's Report – Megan Hutton
  - a. n/a
8. Treasurer's report – Alice Lawson
  - i. n/a
9. Committee Reports
  - a. Committee Assignments
    - i. Membership & Engagement
      1. *Jessica, Patti, Mike*
      2. *Covers: website, membership, overall messaging, ListServ, promotional materials*
      3. *NATOA Conference ad has been reworked and approved!*
    - ii. Education
      1. *Edgar, Megan, Ben S, Jim*

2. *Covers: PEG production, equipment recommendations, events, conferences, webinars*
3. *Board discussed Chris' email about an in-person WATOA annual meeting (in-person & virtual)*

iii. Legislative/Policy

1. *Alice, Jon, Ben F, Candy*
2. *Covers: advocate to State govt, monitor Federal govt, propose bills, lobbying*
3. *Streaming Fees – exploring models from Oregon, Minnesota, Massachusetts*
  - a. *adding a tax or*
  - b. *charging for use of right of way*

10. Old Business

11. New Business

- a. Ben S. - Curious about who has graphic designers
  - i. Kent – 3 graphic designers!!
  - ii. Spokane
  - iii. Vancouver
  - iv. Richland
- b. Motion Jim D.: Up to \$500 for appetizers/drinks for Washington State gathering at the 2025 NATOA Conference
  - i. Second: Patti Belle
  - ii. Unanimously approved
- c. Mike C. asking for a list of 2025 NATOA Conference members from Washington State.
- d. Candy invited WATOA Board to join her local production group!
- e. Mike C. – sending updated bylaws. Jessica will update the website.
- f. [Rep'd](#) – AI platform to answer citizen questions via video.
- g. [GPT4All](#) – AI bot that can answer citizen question by monitoring your website.
- h. Candy – Education Committee email idea! – AI Tools
  - i. Share AI tools cities are using
  - ii. Share AI tools cities like
  - iii. Ask what AI tools members use

12. Good of the order

- a. Motion Ben S: Next meeting will be in September because NATAO Conference schedule.
  - i. Second: Candy
  - ii. Unanimously approved

13. Next Meeting – Sept. 24

14. Adjournment – 2:47 pm