



## 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 June 25, 2025

1. Call to Order – 2:03pm
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. 5/28/25 minutes approved
5. President's report – Mike Connor
  - a. Mike mentioned video judging for NATOA
6. Vice President – Ben Skudlarek
  - a. Nothing to report
7. Secretary's Report – Megan Hutton
  - a. Nothing to report
8. Treasurer's report – Alice Lawson (report submitted)
  - a. Previous balance – 4/30/25
    - i. \$5,537.82
  - b. Adjusted ending balance – 5/31/25/25
    - i. \$21,793.54
      1. Pending payments \$-105.85
      2. Pending deposits \$100.00
  - c. U.S. Bank Savings (CD account) Balance
    - i. \$16,261.57
    - ii. Interest – Year to date \$261.57
    - iii. CD is up for renewal. Board voted and approved by email to renew the \$16K CD for another 5-months. Rate 3.92%.
  - d. Current membership count:

- i. 30 agencies, 70 members
  - e. Ad for NATOA program
    - i. Motion by Alice, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim to approve up to \$500 for an ad in the NATOA conference program, was approved.
- 9. Committee Reports
  - a. Committee Assignments
    - i. Membership & Engagement
      1. *Jessica, Patti, Mike*
      2. *Covers: website, membership, overall messaging, ListServ, promotional materials*
      3. Website – needs updating, people can update their bios and email Jessica.
    - ii. Education
      1. *Edgar, Megan, Ben S, Jim*
      2. *Covers: PEG production, equipment recommendations, events, conferences, webinars*
      3. The board discussed what, if any webinars WATOA needed this year.
        - a. Roundtable webinar discussion about funding solutions for some WA PEG channels – date TBD
          - i. Megan to check with Seattle Channel, TV Tacoma about participating
      4. Facebook posted on June 18<sup>th</sup> that they're switching to all Reels with no time limit – date to be announced. Any video uploaded will be presented like a reel. Live video will remain 16x9. Facebook live will remove videos after 30 days. [Coming soon! All videos uploaded... - Government Social Media | Facebook](#)
    - iii. Legislative/Policy
      1. *Alice, Jon, Ben F, Candy*
      2. *Covers: advocate to State govt, monitor Federal govt, propose bills, lobbying*
      3. Concern around declining revenue. Can we find a way to draft legislation and float it to gauge interest. Mia Gregerson (D) and Sen. Boenke (R) are the two legislators that WATOA would float a proposal with first, who have an interest and knowledge in the subject.
      4. Viewership numbers continue to decline (affecting revenue) [Survey: 28% of Americans Don't Watch Live TV on an Average Day | TV Tech](#)
      5. Alice mentioned a proposal in Massachusetts to charge a 5% fee on streaming revenue, to be divided by between 1/5 to the State general fund, 2/5 dispersed to local governments, 2/5 to community/regional media centers (PEG stations).
      6. In WA State, streaming services already pay sales tax (Digital Products sales tax). [Digital products including digital goods | Washington Department of Revenue](#)
- 10. New Business
  - a. None
- 11. Good of the order
  - a. None
- 12. Next Meeting – July 23
- 13. Adjournment – 3:03pm