



## 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 March 26, 2025

1. Call to Order – 2:02pm
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. 2/26/25 minutes approved (Jim move, George second)
5. President's report – Mike Connor
  - a. Mike joined the monthly NATOA call
  - b. Mike is going to NAB
6. Vice President – Ben Skudlarek
  - a. Ben encouraged everyone to attend Post NAB.
7. Secretary's Report – Megan Hutton
  - a. Post NAB Seattle – Tuesday, April 29
    - i. WATOA speaker session
      1. Jim Demmon, Vancouver – council chamber upgrades: Newtek switcher, New Blue graphics, Panasonic AW150, Yamaha audio mixer, Dante audio, NDI video
      2. Ben Ramsey, PCTV - council chamber upgrades. Integrating into AV systems, level of responsibility for room audio. Newtek switchers, testing robotic cameras.
8. Treasurer's report – Alice Lawson (report submitted)
  - a. Previous balance – 1/31/25
    - i. \$4,577.68
  - b. Adjusted ending balance – 2/28/25
    - i. \$21,444.37
      1. Pending payments \$-210 (annual PO Box renewal)
      2. Pending deposits \$300
  - c. U.S. Bank Savings (CD account) Balance

- i. \$16,101.69
      - ii. Interest – \$48.34
    - d. Membership renewals
      - i. Invoices were resent to those who haven't paid yet, on 3/26/25.
  - 9. Committee Reports
    - a. Events
      - i. WATOA Board Retreat in-person – Friday, April 11 in Ellensburg at Hal Holmes Event Center
        - 1. Mike Lynch speaking at WATOA retreat
        - 2. Jessica taking minutes
        - 3. Mike sent out a draft agenda
          - a. Add conversation about the state of PEG funding
        - 4. Mike asked people on committees to note what work that cmte usually does and be prepared to talk about it.
        - 5. Coordinating food
          - a. Ben Faubion – snacks & lunch (Daily Bread Mercantile)
          - b. Approve dollar amount at the March mtg
            - i. Alice motioned not to exceed \$350 for board retreat related costs. Jim second. Unanimously approved.
    - b. Policy/Legislative – Alice Lawson (report submitted)
      - i. **Died in committee- HB 1453:** *Protecting consumers by increasing penalties for scrap metal businesses who purchase stolen copper from telecommunication cables.*
10. New Business
  - a. The Board will combine the Retreat and the regular April meeting into one meeting. The retreat will take the place of the April 23 meeting.
    - i. George Geyer motioned. Ben S 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.
  - b. Scholarship for NATOA
    - i. How much of the cost/which costs would WATOA want to cover? The Board had a short discussion about past experiences. Registration was covered, but it was the travel/hotel costs that people couldn't cover. Or the dollar amount was too small. More discussion to come at the Retreat about how much to cover.
11. Good of the order
  - a. None
12. Next Meeting – April 11
13. Adjournment – 2:54pm