



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 May 28, 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. 3/26/25 minutes approved
5. President's report – Mike Connor
 - a. Fun and successful NAB roundup in Seattle (equipment show). Thanks to the presenters!
 - b. Mike talked about his experience at NAB. He'll provide a video he made from NAB on the listserv for WATOA members.
6. Vice President – Ben Skudlarek
 - a. Nice to see everyone at Post NAB. Ben talked about the AI panel and information shared.
7. Secretary's Report – Megan Hutton
 - a. Megan asked what others are seeing or experiencing related to declines in cable franchise revenue, and how it's impacting their operations.
 - i. A discussion followed with each member talking about what they collect, what percentage or amount, and impacts. Some groups were insulated by the changes if they were general funded and their city prioritized that some. Groups that have separate funds for the cable funding were experiencing the worst declines. There was also discussion about ways to seek new or additional funding.
8. Treasurer's report – Alice Lawson (report submitted)
 - a. Previous balance – 3/31/25
 - i. \$5,652.58
 - b. Adjusted ending balance – 4/30/25
 - i. \$21,339.4
 1. Pending payments \$-105.85

- 2. Pending deposits \$108.60
- c. U.S. Bank Savings (CD account) Balance
 - i. \$16,207.52
 - ii. Interest – Year to date \$207.52
 - iii. CD is up for renewal. Alice will check rates and will seek a vote for approval by email.
- d. Current membership count:
 - i. 28 agencies, 62 members
- e. Mike and Alice discussed an upcoming audit of WATOAs books and how that would be handled.
- 9. NATOA Annual Conference scholarship
 - a. Estimated cost \$3,750, not including airfare
 - b. Mike asked how much interest there was. There was interest from a few members to attend. But it would cost WATOAs 17% of our fund balance to cover one person to go. The Board determined that was too expensive, for a savings account that doesn't recover fast enough.
 - c. The Board would prefer to spend an amount like that on training that could benefit a larger group of WATOAs.
 - d. No motion was brought before the Board for any amount of money. The discussion ended.
- 10. Committee Reports
 - a. Committee Assignments
 - i. Membership & Engagement
 - 1. Jessica, Patti, Mike
 - 2. Website, membership, overall messaging, ListServ, promotional materials
 - ii. Education
 - 1. Edgar, Megan, Ben S, Jim
 - 2. PEG production, equipment recommendations, events, conferences, webinars
 - iii. Legislative/Policy
 - 1. Alice, Jon, Ben F
 - 2. Advocate to State govt, monitor Federal govt, propose bills, lobbying
 - b. Policy/Legislative – Alice Lawson
 - i. Alice is researching Streaming revenue and PEG revenue across other states.
 - 1. In WA state, we already charge sales tax/use tax on streaming services. (This isn't the case in some states, who are looking to start this and funnel a portion to PEG channels)
 - 2. Megan mentioned KLTV (Longview, WA) was looking to put their PEG channel under a utility tax. There's an interest to learn what funding sources cities and counties have in common.
- 11. New Business
 - a. None
- 12. Good of the order
 - a. None
- 13. Next Meeting – June 25
- 14. Adjournment – 3:07pm