



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 November 14, 2025 – WATOA Fall Conference

1. Call to Order – 9:27am
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)	Vacant- (Kitsap area)		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. 10/22/25 minutes, approved
5. President's report – Mike Connor
 - a. Mike prepared a statement looking back over the last year of WATOA's work
 - i. Focus on education and training, legislative and policy work.
 - ii. Update on WATOA membership
 - iii. Members have asked for more trainings
 - iv. Financial health – renewed our CD. Some legislative policy work. No conference this year.
6. Vice President – Ben Skudlarek
 - a. Nothing to report
7. Secretary's Report – Megan Hutton
 - a. Offering more production training content
8. Treasurer's report – Alice Lawson
 - a. September 9/30/25 balance - \$5,104.54
 - b. October 10/31/25 adjusted balance - \$9,949.76
 - c. U.S. Bank CD - \$16,265.22
 - d. 31 agencies & 72 members
 - e. Audits will happen for WATOA annually now, starting this year. The auditor found no issues.
 - f. Legal expertise to draft legislation – not to exceed \$9,300
 - g. Food costs for WATOA Fall Workshop – not to exceed \$1,200
9. Committee Reports

- a. Committee Assignments, Membership & Engagement - Jessica, Patti, Mike
Covers: website, membership, overall messaging, ListServ, promotional materials
 - i. Patti mentioned they're still looking for someone to fill George's vacant position from the Kitsap area – let WATOA know if you know of someone from that area.
 - ii. Chris Jaramillo said more recruitment needed on the east side too
 - b. Education - Edgar, Megan, Ben S, Jim
Covers: PEG production, equipment recommendations, events, conferences, webinars
 - i. Covering PEG funding strategies and WCAG, Post NAB Roundup will be April 2026
 - c. Legislative/Policy - Alice, Jon, Ben F, Candy
Covers: advocate to State govt, monitor Federal govt, propose bills, lobbying
 - i. Jon Baker said we're focusing on declining revenue from cable franchise fees
 - ii. WATOA looked at what other jurisdictions are doing. WATOA in favor of the Minnesota/Boston with a PEG streaming fee approach.
 - iii. Unlikely that current administration will take local government comments seriously
10. Open mic questions to the membership
- a. Edgar Riebe asked WATOA to better define who the organization is and its mission
 - b. There was a brief discussion about travel and training restrictions going out as far as 2027 for some members.
 - c. There was interest in holding something like today's free fall workshop in lieu of a formal conference.
11. Old Business
- a. None
12. New Business
- a. None
13. Good of the order
- a. None
14. Next Meeting –December 3 at 2pm (special day/time)
15. Adjournment – 10:00am