



## 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 October 22, 2025

1. Call to Order – 2:09pm
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. 9/24/25 minutes, approved
5. President's report – Mike Connor
  - a. Mike shared out a legislative item from the last NATOA president's meeting
6. Vice President – Ben Skudlarek
  - a. None
7. Secretary's Report – Megan Hutton
  - a. None
8. Treasurer's report – Alice Lawson
  - a. August balance - \$5,104.54
  - b. September adjusted balance - \$11,095.67
  - c. U.S. Bank CD - \$16,211.13
  - d. 31 agencies & 72 members
9. Committee Reports
  - a. Committee Assignments
    - i. Membership & Engagement - Jessica, Patti, Mike  
Covers: website, membership, overall messaging, ListServ, promotional materials
      1. Still looking for someone to fill George's position from the Kitsap area
        - a. Minutes reflect that position is now vacant.
    - ii. Education - Edgar, Megan, Ben S, Jim  
Covers: PEG production, equipment recommendations, events, conferences, webinars

1. Nov 14<sup>th</sup> WATOA annual meeting & conference sessions
  - a. Potentially invite Mike Bradley to talk virtually, but it would cost WATOA
  - b. Schedule
    - i. 9-10am annual meeting
    - ii. 10-12 PEG funding strategies
      1. 10 Mike Lynch – what’s happening nationally (virtual)
      2. 10:30 Policy update with Alice & Candy: 30-min pres on what WATOA is doing
      3. 11-12 one big roundtable, Megan/Shannon moderate
        - a. Sticky pad ideas/answer specific questions
    - iii. 12-1pm lunch and networking
      1. Ask if Chris J can coordinate
      2. Motion by Jessica: to spend up to \$1000 or less for food and beverage at the annual WATOA meeting, Jim D 2<sup>nd</sup>, approved
    - iv. 1-3pm audio description
      1. 1-2pm WATOA panel briefing on what we know
        - a. Jim (provide video)
          - i. Vendors they have tested
          - ii. Educate speakers
        - b. Outline the basic requirements (video & web) & recommended strategies – Kyle Schmidtke (PC)
        - c. Sales rep from 3Play Media  
<https://www.3playmedia.com/>
        - d. 2pm Dana Healy – COO Tightrope (can we provide a video to show an example)
  - iii. Legislative/Policy - Alice, Jon, Ben F, Candy
 

Covers: advocate to State govt, monitor Federal govt, propose bills, lobbying

    1. Streaming Fees – exploring models from Oregon, Minnesota, Massachusetts
      - a. [Massachusetts State Bill H.106](#) – proposal to create a streaming fee & create a state revenue fund that splits it three ways
        - i. general fund state
        - ii. general fund local governments
        - iii. community media organizations
      - b. Waiting on update from Mike Bradley
      - c. There are lobbying efforts to kill the Mass. bill
      - d. Minnesota is looking at a Broadband/ROW bill. 22 lobbyists showed up to defeat it. Industry said it wasn’t clear how money raised would be used, slush fund for govts.
    2. Alice is hearing there’s some movement on \$4 million in funding that would be proposed at the State legislative session.
      - a. Consider lobbying for PEG as a Board
      - b. More likely ask your govt relations staff at your jurisdiction to lobby on your PEG station’s behalf.

## 10. Old Business

## 11. New Business

- a. Cancel November and December regular meetings to avoid holiday conflicts, hold one meeting on Dec. 3 from 2-3pm instead. Was motioned, seconded and approved.



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12. Good of the order
13. Next Meeting – Nov 14 (annual meeting at PCTV 9am-3pm – 2320 S 19<sup>th</sup> ST, Tacoma, WA 98405)
14. Adjournment – 3:06pm