



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 24, 2026

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)	Kevin Martinez, City of Kent	X	
Regional Rep: District 3 (Puget & Coast)	Vacant- (Kitsap area)		
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 2026		

3. Approval of the agenda
 - a. Approved
4. Approval of minutes
 - a. 5/27/26 Board meeting, approved
5. President's report – Mike Connor
 - a. No report today
6. Vice President – Ben Skudlarek
 - a. Ben is leaving the City of Bellingham and moving to Canada. ☹️ Timeframe TBD, guessing about 6 months.
7. Secretary's Report – Megan Hutton absent, sent her report to Mike
 - a. Spreading the word about [H.R. 2289](#) – shared with RCC and Association of Washington Cities
 - b. Reminder to pass along WATOA letter to your peers
8. Treasurer's report – Alice Lawson
 - a. 5/31/26 checking balance \$16,845.67
 - b. 5/31/26 adjusted balance - \$16,845.67
 - c. 2026 - 18 agencies & 42 members (58% of 2025)
 - d. NATOA dues & website fees coming soon
9. Committee Reports
 - a. Membership, Engagement & Nominating - Jessica, Mike, Megan, Kevin
Covers: website, membership, overall messaging, ListServ, promotional materials
 - i. Welcome Kevin! He is joining this committee.
 - ii. Hope to hold a committee meeting soon focused on
 1. Recruitment – District 3 & Vice President

- a. Exploring suspending the membership fee for new board recruits (\$30 fee goes to NATOA)
 - iii. Wondering if Chris Jaramillo would be interested in joining as Vice President or helping recruit for board positions.
- b. Education - Edgar, Megan, Ben S, Jim
 - Covers: PEG production, equipment recommendations, events, conferences, webinars
 - i. None
- c. Legislative/Policy - Alice, Jon, Ben F, Candy
 - Covers: advocate to State govt, monitor Federal govt, propose bills, lobbying, etc.
 - i. State Updates:
 - 1. Sent proposed PEG legislation to 12 WA legislators on June 15th with no response yet.
 - ii. Federal Updates:
 - 1. U.S. Conference of Mayor's have passed a [resolution](#) opposing [H.R. 2289](#).
 - iii. Telecom Companies/Right of Way Updates
 - 1. AT&T bought Lumen's mass markets fiber internet business. In WA the Lumen services were branded as Quantum Fiber
 - 2. Crown Castle returning to be a tower-focused business; sold fiber (to Zayo) and small cell (to Arium Networks) businesses getting out of fiber and right of way business.
 - iv. WATOA formal email - Advocacy@watoa.org Using this account for legislator outreach.

10. Old Business

- a. None

11. New Business

- a. None

12. Good of the order

13. Next Meeting –July 22

14. Adjournment – 2:33pm