



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 27, 2026

1. Call to Order – 2:05pm
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)	Vacant		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 2026		

3. Approval of the agenda
 - a. Approved
4. Approval of minutes
 - a. 4/17/26 Board meeting & retreat, approved
5. President's report – Mike Connor
 - a. Mike attended the Post NAB Roundup, kudos and thanks to Ben S for speaking on a panel
6. Vice President – Ben Skudlarek
 - a. Ben asked about a Facebook page update
 - i. Jessica confirmed she's now an admin and the page is easier to update. New admins will also be added, as others were no longer on the board. She asked current members to
7. Secretary's Report – Megan Hutton
 - a. Megan asked about having a future discussion on when to hold another WATOA workshop one-day event...looking at January-February 2027. Mike Connor also mentioned the City of Kirkland chambers is available.
8. Treasurer's report – Alice Lawson
 - a. 1/31/26 balance - \$16,945.56
 - b. 2/28/26 adjusted balance - \$16,845.67
 - c. 2026 - 18 agencies & 42 members (58% of 2025)
 - i. A little low, normally in the high 60s at this point
 - d. Former member Jeff Lueders did an audit of financial data and gave a passing grade with no concerns.
 - e. \$216 for post office PO Box fee
 - f. \$600 in revenue in memberships
9. Committee Reports

- a. Committee Assignments, Membership & Engagement - Jessica, Mike, Megan
Covers: website, membership, overall messaging, ListServ, promotional materials
 - i. Patti representing District 2 is no longer with the city and no longer on the board. We need to fill that seat.
 - 1. There was discussion by the membership cmte and the board at large. Another staff member from City of Kent, Kevin Martinez is interested in joining the board and filling that seat. The board feels that Kevin is very active, excited to be on the board and will contribute greatly.
 - 2. Megan motioned, Alice 2nd, unanimously approved. Welcome Kevin.
 - 3. Mike Connor will add him to future mtg appts and request a bio.
- b. Education - Edgar, Megan, Ben S, Jim
Covers: PEG production, equipment recommendations, events, conferences, webinars
 - i. WCAG 2.1 update
 - 1. What info do we want to provide ahead of next April 2027?
 - 2. Megan gave an update on vendor info for Invintus on audio description
 - ii. Candy offered that her manager in part of ACCIS and they'd be willing to teach a session or host WATOA for a session on networking
 - iii. Takeaways from Post NAB
 - 1. Edgar talked about NDI connections to his cameras
 - 2. PCTV is building a one-person flypack
- c. Legislative/Policy - Alice, Jon, Ben F, Candy
Covers: advocate to State govt, monitor Federal govt, propose bills, lobbying
 - i. Local updates
 - 1. There was board discussion around a rumor from Post NAB that Comcast is planning to eliminate cable TV service within seven years.
 - ii. Federal updates:
 - 1. Omnibus bill in federal that would usurp local control...would amend the Telecomm Act
 - a. WATOA sent a letter opposing, lots of opposition around the nation
 - b. Morning that it was to go to the floor, the bill was pulled indefinitely
 - c. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/2289>
 - iii. Letter from NATOA seeking additional funds to support the organization to raise questions and concerns
 - 1. The letter was shared with the board and there was a discussion.

10. Old Business

- a. None

11. New Business

- a. None

12. Good of the order

- a. None

13. Next Meeting –June 24

14. Adjournment – 3:03pm