



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 July 22, 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)	Kevin Martinez, 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 2026		

3. Approval of the agenda
 - a. Approved
4. Approval of minutes
 - a. 6/24/26 Board meeting, approved
5. President's report – Mike Connor
 - a. Mike sent out an invite to a cmte mtg for recruitment.
 - b. Consider City of Poulsbo IT director for a rep from that area.
 - c. Working on chapter president's report for NATOA
6. Vice President – Ben Skudlarek
 - a. No report
7. Secretary's Report – Megan Hutton
 - a. No report
8. Treasurer's report – Alice Lawson
 - a. 5/31/26 checking balance \$16,845.67
 - b. 6/30/26 adjusted balance - \$16,845.67
 - c. 2026 - 22 agencies & 45 members (71% of 2025)
9. Committee Reports
 - a. **Membership, Engagement & Nominating - Jessica, Mike, Megan, Kevin**
Covers: website, membership, overall messaging, ListServ, promotional materials
 - i. Megan motion to approve full page ad for \$425 for the NATOA conference program, city of Kent can make revisions and add QR code, Jim D second, approved.
 - ii. Cmte mtg 7/23/26
 - b. **Education - Edgar, Megan, Ben S, Jim**
Covers: PEG production, equipment recommendations, events, conferences, webinars

- i. There was a discussion about adding streaming apps for playback systems, who is using what and costs, as some members are seeking quotes for upgrades.
- ii. December WATOA Annual Meeting – virtual tour of Kirkland’s new upgrades, or City of Vancouver’s new council chambers
- iii. New date selected for WATOA Workshop – Friday, January 22 at PCTV from 10am-3pm

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
 - a. Only one response from a rep in 8th District. Consider prompting others one more time.
- ii. Federal Updates:
 - 1. U.S. Conference of Mayor’s have passed a [resolution](#) opposing [H.R. 2289](#).
 - 2. NATOA and other city/county groups met with FCC. Concerns that industry is getting something, while not being expected to provide some public good in exchange. Commissioner Gomez helped with a side letter that could help in a court case.
- iii. 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 –August 26

14. Adjournment – 3:02pm