

# the Courthouse Journal

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Washington Association of County Officials  
Washington State Association of Counties

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Courthouse Journal*

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&

**Have a Safe  
July 4  
Weekend**

## Skamania County Clerk Named “Clerk of the Year”

The most prestigious award given by the Washington State Association of County Clerks (WSACC) was awarded to Skamania County Clerk Rena Hollis last week in Silverdale at the Association’s 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Conference. Snohomish County Clerk Pam Daniels, last year’s recipient, presented the award.

“Rena Hollis is what WSACC is about. She has the hands-on expertise of the work in the office of the county clerk and the “big picture” of the role and responsibility at the county and state level. That coupled with her extraordinary dedication to the organization has singled her out as “clerk of

the year.”

Rena has served the past two years as WSACC President and served for the association in numerous capacities in the past sixteen years. During the past few months, Rena was instrumental in negotiating and implementing the expanded collection of legal financial obligations by the county clerks’ offices.

The “Clerk of the Year” award has been given to nineteen county clerks since 1984. Chelan County Clerk Siri Woods and Rena Hollis have each earned the honor twice.

## WSAC Summer Convention a Big Success!

**WSAC Summer Convention a Big Success!**  
The 2003 WSAC Summer Convention filled two and a half days with new ideas, successful alternative approaches to providing county services, sharing, conversation and fun. WSAC President Harold Moss set a timely theme of “Fiscal Reality and the Future of Government” that attracted much attention and generated lively discussion. Host Spokane County and the staff of the DoubleTree Spokane Valley Hotel all helped to make the convention fun and comfortable.

Carl Neu, Director of the Center for the Future of Local Governance, kicked off the program by talking about building relationships as part of rebuilding public trust and confidence in government. Peter Hutchinson, President of Public Strategies Group and the designer of Governor Locke’s 2003-05 budget proposal led an interesting discussion with WSAC Secretary-Treasurer Betty Sue Morris, Jefferson County Administrator David

Goldsmith, Office of Financial Management Legislative Director Jim Hedrick and conference attendees in looking at budgeting through setting priorities of government. During this discussion, Mr. Hedrick invited Washington’s counties to join with the state in setting the priorities of government for the 2005-07 biennium budget.

Workshops on Wednesday afternoon, Thursday morning and Friday morning provided excellent opportunities to learn from others in county government -- county engineers, human services, planning, emergency management, parks, local public health and county administrators. In the Convention wrap-up, Bev Stein, a senior partner with Public Strategies Group, reflected on many of those programs and innovations shared in the workshops, from Thurston County’s new approaches to human services delivery to Walla Walla County’s use and implementation of a digitized photographic record of county

roads. She reflected that the discussion of the SARS virus in China at our convention in Spokane demonstrates that public policy of importance to county government now crosses international borders. And Yakima County's rebuilt permitting office – with its “money back guarantee” – shows that county government is putting the public first in significant and new ways.

Public Lands Commissioner Doug Sutherland and Secretary of Social and Health Services Dennis Braddock both spoke about new directions and

approaches their agencies are taking, driven by changing needs and the budget situation.

Not all of the agenda was work. We also celebrated our successes. WSAC recognized Spokane County Commissioner John Roskelley with a framed resolution in honor of the first father-son ascent of Mt. Everest this spring. We also acknowledged the first all-woman Board of County Commissioners in state history – with WSAC President Harold Moss, Senate Land Use Committee Chair Joyce Mulliken and House Local Government Committee Chair Sandra Romero presenting “Break the Glass Ceiling” plaques to Kitsap County Commissioners Jan Angel, Chris Endresen and Patty Lent. And, the Washington State Association of County Engineers and the County Road Administration Board (CRAB) thanked Whitman County Commissioner Greg Partch and WSAC Policy Director Scott Merriman for their successful efforts in leading the fight against merger of CRAB with other agencies.

We all had a rockin' good time at the annual barbecue and will always remember with smiles the yodeling skills of President Harold Moss. And, of course, thanks to the Washington Association of County Commissioner/Council Clerks for the first Annual WACCC walk-run on the Spokane Centennial Trail. Check out the pictures from the walk-run on the WSAC website.

## **WSAC Board of Directors Approves WSU Extension Affiliation and Makes Appointments**

The Board of Directors met during the Annual Summer Convention in Spokane Valley last week and approved the newest WSAC affiliate, the Washington State University Extension (WSUE). WSUE represents the county extension chairs from all 39 counties. Ray Faini, Chelan County Extension Chair, will be the first chairman of the group.

WSUE asked the Board to affiliate at the February Board meeting and have worked over the past four months to approve by-laws and organize themselves. Extension has been in place at WSU for over 85 years and they look

forward to being an active participating organization during WSAC conferences.

The Board also delayed action on awarding the 2006 summer convention location because that will be the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association and they decided to create a centennial committee to help celebrate the occasion. President Moss will be appointing the committee soon and they will work with interested counties in developing an appropriate program and site location.

President Moss also announced the creation of a By-Laws Committee to be chaired by Island County Commissioner Mike Shelton. The committee will look at re-writing the by-laws into a single document. Over the past several years there have been several amendments and they want to incorporate those changes as well as look at other issues that may need to be addressed. Also serving on the committee is Diane Oberquell, Thurston County, LeRoy Allison, Grant County, Dave Carey, Walla Walla County, Darcie Nielsen, San Juan County and Perry Huston, Kittitas County.

There were several nominations or appointments to state boards and commissions approved. They appointed Don Scheibe, Asotin County Commissioner, Patty Lent, Kitsap County Commissioner, and Tom Ballard, Pierce County Commissioner to the County Road Administration Board. They also appointed Jeff Monsen, Whatcom County Engineer and Dave Tucker Kitsap County Stormwater Manager to the Stormwater Permit Advisory Committee for Phase II counties (Whatcom, Kitsap, Cowlitz, Thurston, Skagit and Asotin). For Phase I counties (King, Pierce, and Snohomish) they appointed Bill Leif, Snohomish County Public Works Supervisor.

The Board re-nominated to the Governor Jesse Palacios, Yakima County Commissioner, for the Public Works Board. And they also re-nominated to the Governor Mike Doherty, Clallam County Commissioner, for the Municipal Research Council.

Finally, they appointed Greg Partch, Whitman County Commissioner, to be the alternate Eastern Washington representative to the State Enhanced 911 Advisory Committee.

## **The Courthouse Journal**

Published weekly by the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC).

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly deadline is noon Wednesday.

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## Legislative Steering Committee to Review WSAC Policy Statement and Policy Areas

At the first meeting of the 2003-04 WSAC Legislative Steering Committee, the LSC voted to continue the successful Tri-Association legislative effort, working together with the Washington Association of County Officials and the Association of Washington Cities. It also decided to use the 2003 WSAC Legislative Package as the starting point for developing the 2004 Legislative Package and adopted the following schedule for review of the WSAC Policy Statement and discussion of issues for the Legislative Package.

While the schedule may change slightly to better address member needs, all counties with ideas for revisions to

the policy statement or issues to bring before the Legislative Steering Committee should contact the appropriate WSAC staff as soon as possible to raise those issues or to send language suggestions.

The schedule, as it stands today, will address the following topics on the following dates, leading up to the adoption of a 2004 Legislative Package on October 2, 2003. The page numbers refer the pages in the WSAC Policy Statement:

### August 8 LSC Meeting Oxford Suites, Yakima 10 am – 2 pm

- Pension & Labor p. 5
- Law & Justice pp. 6-8
- Social Services pp. 9-12
- Housing p. 14
- Emergency Mgmt p. 23

### September 5 LSC Meeting West Coast Wenatchee Hotel 11 am – 2:30 pm

- Public Health p.13
- Growth Mgmt & Land Use p. 15
- Natural Resource Management pp. 16-19
- Transportation p. 20
- Public Infrastructure p. 21
- Economic Development p. 22

### October 1 LSC Meeting Doubletree, SeaTac

- General Legislative Policies pp. 1-2
- Intergovernmental Relations p. 3
- Fiscal Matters p. 4

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## Budget, Finance and Taxes

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*The following excerpt is from a 1963 Supreme Court decision. Some might wonder if these words came from the Mason County Chamber of Commerce or the typewriter of Justice Hale ...*

678 MASON CY. OVERTAXED, INC. v. MASON CY. [62 Wn. (2d)

Bryon E. McClanahan, The Attorney General, Henry W. Wager and James A. Furber, Assistants, for respondents.

HALE, J. -

There are few things of which the courts may take judicial notice, but of

one we are certain - the beauty and charm of the Hood Canal country of Mason County. It is a place set apart by a shining inland sea that sweeps southward at the feet of the snow-mantled Olympics then curves to the north through towering hills of fir, hemlock, spruce and cedar, to be met by lush carpets of salal, huckleberry, fern, alder, rhododendron and the luxuriant wild shrubbery of the country. A wide reach of water, dappled with quiet coves and inlets, it is ever-changing and changing by the swift-flowing, sometimes peaceful, sometimes turbulent, Skokomish, Lilliwaup,

Hamma Hamma, Duckabush and Dosewallips that enter it. Marked by broad and friendly beaches, flanked to the east by the rugged, eternal peaks of the Cascades and the verdant San Juan Islands to the north, it is truly a land of charm and beauty. We take no risk in pronouncing it a place of enchantment.

Came one day into this verdant place, the assessor of Mason County in 1958, and, struck by the wonder of it all, he did what any assessor would do, he promptly raised the taxes in this wonderland...

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## Elections, Licensing and Recording

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### Local Records Grant Program

Secretary of State Sam Reed announced the 2003 - 2005 Local Records Grant Program designed to preserve and protect the records of local government in Washington State.

The Washington State Archives Local Records Grant Program supports local public records management and preservation efforts. Grants are funded with fees collected by county auditors. This is a competitive grant program; the

number of grant applications and the requested level of grant funding generally will exceed the total award amount available per grant cycle. The grant program project duration will be from January 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005.

"Preserving government records is a vital part of our democracy," said Secretary of State Sam Reed. "The grants program will assist local government agencies in protecting our valuable legal and historical records."

Last year, this pilot program provided

\$100,000 in competitive grants to seven local government agencies to improve management of their public records.

Applications for the 2003 - 2005 grant program are due August 1, 2003. The Local Records guidebook and application can be downloaded at [www.secstate.wa.gov/archives](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/archives).

# Environment, Land Use and Resources

## Legislative Steering Committee Asks President Moss to Appoint Two Land Use Related Advisory Committees

At the June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003, the Legislative Steering Committee (LSC) discussed issue papers on annexation and growth management. The LSC recommended that President Moss appoint advisory groups that consist of elected members and appointed staff. The work groups would develop recommendations and assist with the negotiations with stakeholders.

The first work group will work with staff and the Association of Washington Cities to resolve the remaining annexation issues. At a minimum those issues will include: outside utility agreements and the transition issues as a result of annexations and incorporations. It is anticipated that this group will meet later this summer and through the fall.

The second work group will focus on growth management issues. The Governor vetoed the two sections of 2ESSB 5659 that amended the Growth Management Act (GMA.) One section would have allowed Ferry County to remove itself from the full planning requirements of the GMA and the other section would have granted Jefferson and Clallam counties an additional year to update their comprehensive plans. In his veto message, he instructs his staff and the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development to work with stakeholders to develop more thoughtful recommendations for the legitimate issues. In addition to this veto message, the Washington Chapter of the American Planning Association published a ten year review of the GMA.

The LSC asked President Moss to appoint the advisory group to review the APA document, develop county specific recommendations and to work with the stakeholders.

Please contact Scott Merriman at WSAC if you are interested in serving on either work group. The work groups should include elected and appointed staff from around the state.

## DNR to Meet With Counties on Sustainable Harvest Calculations

The Department of Natural Resources notified the counties via e-mail of a July 18 meeting to discuss the ongoing efforts to calculate a new sustainable harvest level for DNR managed trust lands.

The purpose of the meeting on July 18th is to review and explain the six alternatives under consideration and the estimated volume from each alternative by County. Some counties have a greater dependence on the income from Forest Board Land management than others, so this issue may vary in importance to each county. Both elected officials and staff are encouraged to attend.

This multi-year effort is scheduled for completion in early 2004. The Board of Natural Resources (BNR) is considering six alternatives of forestry practices and policies. The amount of timber harvested has a direct correlation on income generated for the trusts. Information relative to the calculation of the sustainable harvest is available at the following address on the web: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/fr/sales/sustainableharvest/ppt/alternatives.pdf>

In late summer the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be open for comments. DNR hopes counties will take the time to comment on the DEIS. The BNR will be selecting their preferred alternative or combination of alternatives following the comment period.

The date is July 18, 2003 10 am to 4 pm in Room 172 of the Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington St SE, Olympia WA. Please call or email Judy Wilson with questions at: Phone: 360-902-1006 E-mail: [judy.wilson@wadnr.gov](mailto:judy.wilson@wadnr.gov)

## Ecology Adopts New Water Quality Standards

The Department of Ecology last week announced the adoption of changes to the surface water quality standards for the state of Washington (Chapter 173-201A WAC). This represents

completion of the first comprehensive revision to the standards in over a decade and reflect the latest scientific information and federal requirements pertaining to keeping Washington waters clean and safe for people, fish and wildlife.

Ecology received over 1,400 comment letters or testimonials during the public hearing phase of the rulemaking. In response to these comments and suggestions, several issues were withdrawn from the final rule package, and many changes were made to those that remained. Some of the highlights of the new standards include:

### Temperature Criteria Revisions:

- The adoption of temperature criteria to protect bull trout and Dolly Varden, two of our state's most temperature sensitive fish species.
- Modest increases in the summer temperature criteria for most of the state's waters that support salmon and trout.
- A directive to apply temperature criteria to protect spawning where it is determined the summertime criteria by themselves would not be likely to protect this sensitive life stage.

### Water Quality Antidegradation:

- A process for ensuring that degradation of the state's high quality waters is allowed only where it is in the public interest and less degrading alternatives are not readily available.
- A program that can be used to set aside from future degradation some of the most pristine waters in the state where there is strong community support.

### Bacterial Criteria:

- A new indicator of bacteria contamination that will protect humans who boat, fish, and play along some of our more industrialized marine waters (i.e., existing Class B and C waters).
- Clarification of the requirement to protect the state's shellfish resources.

# Environment, Land Use and Resources (continued)

## **Restructuring the Water Quality Standards:**

- A new format for the standards that clarifies the uses protected in water bodies and criteria to protect those uses. This format will accommodate customizing the standards in the future for specific water bodies where it makes sense to do so.

The issues dropped from the proposed changes included agricultural supply water criteria, dissolved oxygen criteria, and revised bacterial criteria for freshwaters systems.

The new regulation along with all the supporting information can be found on Ecology's webpage at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/swqs>

The following staff has been assigned to help answer any questions you may have on the water quality standards:

### **General issues:**

Mark Hicks (360) 407-6477  
mhic461@ecy.wa.gov

### **Antidegradation:**

Andrew Kolosseus (360) 407-7543  
akol461@ecy.wa.gov

### **Toxics:**

Cheryl Niemi (360) 407-6440  
cnie461@ecy.wa.gov

## **WEC Files Referendum to Repeal MVID Legislation (SB 5028)**

The Washington Environmental Council, has filed a referendum to remove section 1 of ESSB 5028--the water quality/water quantity bill (also know as the MVID bill.) Initial paperwork was filed on June 24 and a Referendum title has now been prepared by the Attorney General's Office and transmitted to the Secretary of State's Office.

If you go to the Secretary of State's web site, you will see the referendum listed as Ref. 54. - water pollution. WEC will have 90 days after the end of the special session (until September 8) to collect 98,867 signatures. Like all referendums, a YES or ACCEPTED vote is the vote to keep the law in place. A NO or REJECTED vote would remove

the law. The voters get to second guess the legislature.

## **Independent Science Panel Gives Okay to 2001 Western Washington Stormwater Manual**

The Independent Science Panel (ISP), created by the legislature to provide scientific oversight of the state's salmon, steelhead and trout recovery efforts, has issued a report reviewing the 2001 Western Washington Stormwater Manual. In the 1999 Statewide Strategy to Recover Salmon, issues associated with management of urban stormwater runoff were identified as factors contributing to the decline of the state's salmon resources.

In response to a September 2002 request by the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office asking the ISP to review the 2001 Stormwater Management Manual for Western Washington, the ISP has recently completed a report (Report 2003-1) of findings. The documents are currently downloadable from the web at: <http://www.governor.wa.gov/gсро/science/documents.htm>

If you would like to receive a hardcopy of the report and/or appendix please contact the GSRO (360/902-2216; [salmon@esa.wa.gov](mailto:salmon@esa.wa.gov)).

## **County Members Needed for Surface Mining Committee**

In response to many ongoing issues related to surface mines, the 2003 Legislature passed SB 5305. This bill calls for a nine-person committee to study the state's need for aggregate, land-use policies related to mining, and permitting requirements for mines.

Three members are to represent counties:

- one from a county east of the Cascade crest
- one from a highly urbanized county with aggregate supplies and affiliated industries within its urban area; and
- one from a rural county with aggregate supplies and affiliated industries within its agricultural, forest or rural areas.

The report is due December 15, 2003. If your county fits the description in the bill please contact Paul Parker at WSAC ([pparker@wacounties.org](mailto:pparker@wacounties.org)) and let him know you or a designee from your county is interested. This group will need to begin meeting by September. For additional information contact Ron Teissere, DNR, at (360) 902-1440.

Counties interested in participating in this committee should notify Paul Parker at WSAC no later than July 17, 2003 with names and resumes of those interested. The appointments will be made by the WSAC Executive Committee.

## **Ecology Begins the Rulemaking Process for Shoreline Guidelines**

Ecology has signed the paperwork to begin the formal shoreline guidelines rule adoption process. Please ask your staff to take the time to review the draft guidelines and offer your county's comments to the Ecology. Your planning departments have been e-mailed the draft guidelines and environmental documentation separately. It is very important that you do this. Once the draft rules are adopted, they are the ones that you will have to develop your master program to.

Regarding the process, there are a number of activities that you should keep in mind:

Ecology is providing workshops for your planning staff that are presented by Ecology's SEA Program staff, in the following four locations:

### **Monday, July 14**

Ecology Headquarters Auditorium  
10-2pm (catered lunch provided)

### **Wednesday, July 16**

Eastern WA Planners Forum  
Moses Lake

### **Thursday, 17**

Ecology Eastern Regional Office, 2nd floor large conference room  
Spokane 10 am to 12 noon

### **Monday, July 21**

Ecology NWRO, Rooms 1A, B and C  
10-2pm (catered lunch provided)

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## ***Environment, Land Use and Resources (continued)***

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Please have your planning staff contact Ecology's regional offices if they have any questions.

Ecology will be holding public hearings. This will be the opportunity for the public to provide their input. We know that the environmental community is gearing up to provide comments at each of the hearings. It will be important that you provide your comments too. The hearings are at the following locations and dates:

(All locations)

Open House 5:30pm

Public Hearing 7:00pm

**Tuesday, August 5**

Seattle Center - Shaw Room  
305 Harrison St.  
Seattle, WA 98109

**Wednesday, August 6**

Public Utility District of Cowlitz  
County Auditorium  
961 12th Avenue  
Longview, WA 98632

**Tuesday, August 12**

WA State University -  
Phase 1 Classroom  
668 North River Point  
Spokane, WA 99202

**Wednesday, August 13**

Chelan County Public Utility  
District No. 1  
327 N. Wenatchee Ave.  
Wenatchee, WA 98801

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## General Government Issues

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### Has Your County Met New Harassment Training Requirements?

*Training with Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) – Approved Content Now Available from International City/County Management Association (ICMA)*

The Supreme Court of New Jersey has recently ruled that anti-harassment training at government entities now, "must be mandatory for supervisors and managers and must be available to all employees" - in order to successfully avoid legal charges of negligence. [Gaines v. Bellino, 173 N.J. 301, 2002.] To create an Affirmative Legal Defense for your government body, the EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) and federal courts have similarly mandated that all such training be "aggressive," "meaningful" and "regular" and that it have an impact county-wide. Your staff training should also be comprehensive; the latest and largest lawsuits being filed are now race, color, disability, and national origin harassment cases. Accordingly, effective employee training must cover ALL forms of prohibited harassment -not just sexual harassment.

In response to these requirements, the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) is, for the first time, offering a complete web-based harassment-prevention training system for counties, nation-wide. This program, which utilizes only EEOC-approved content, can be accessed by your employees at work or home. The system already includes a template harassment-prevention policy on which your county can, if desired, model or update its own policy.

To help simplify compliance, the program includes a Learning Management System (LMS) which automatically tracks the progress of each employee/trainee and certifies course completion -then generates an ICMA Completion Certificate. The system also automatically sends e-mail reminders to help ensure that all of your employees actually take the course within a legally appropriate time frame. Given the recent

Supreme Court ruling, the ICMA system also produces and maintains clear and complete documentation to demonstrate your entity's good faith compliance efforts -critical if you ever need to produce it.

# Transportation and Public Works

## Ross Dunfee is Awarded 2002 County Engineer of the Year

Benton County Engineer Ross Dunfee has been honored as the 2002 County Engineer of the Year by the Washington State Association of County Engineers (WSACE). The award was presented by Walt Olsen, County Road Administration Board Deputy Director on June 25<sup>th</sup> in Spokane at the Annual Convention of the Washington State Association of Counties.

County Engineers are nominated by their respective Councils and Boards of Commissioners for the award. A statewide peer review committee makes the final selection. Candidates for the award must have demonstrated outstanding skill in areas of leadership, management, public relations, engineering, public works, and community activities, both within their counties and on behalf of the WSACE.

Benton County Commissioners noted that:

“Mr. Dunfee has been Chair of the Eastern Washington Storm Water Policy Advisory Committee for two years. Ross, as key task leader, set the example of hearing federal guidelines and then working to create a solution that was not confrontational but clearly met criteria that can work for all entities. Much to Ross’s credit, Washington State now has a policy base put together on reason and cooperation that can work for all geographic areas of the state.”

“Mr. Dunfee is in the advanced stages of reorganization of the Benton County Public Works Department. With our public works service areas divided around three population centers, it was necessary to redefine our public works staff in these areas for meeting public services activity to the highest levels of public safety and service. Two years into this process, Benton County now has greatly increased road scheduling upgrades through expanded and combined county road programs.”

“Mr. Dunfee has initiated a new Public Works Cost Accounting program. From feedback through Washington counties on the need for updated cost

accounting, it is highly likely that the system will become a statewide model utilized by many counties to streamline and improve on current systems.”

Ross was the 2000/2001 WSACE Eastern District President, and previously served as the Eastern District Secretary. Congratulations to Ross and Benton County.

## TEPAC Gears Up

Transportation Permit Efficiency Accountability Committee (TPEAC) was created by the legislature in 2001, as a two year endeavor to develop and demonstrate efficiency and accountability measures that would improve the permitting process and outcomes for state transportation projects. The 2003 legislature extended the TEPAC until 2006. The reauthorization legislation (ESB 5279) contains several specific directions and expectations for TPEAC’s work. The transportation budget (ESHB 1163) provides specific funding to TEPAC. The budget provides funding, through DOT, to WSAC and AWC to carry out the new expectations. This is a brief list of the key activities that we will be working on over the next two years:

- The legislation directs TEPAC to appoint a task force of representatives from cities and counties “to identify one or more permits for activities for which uniform activities can be developed for application by local governments.” This will be they key activity for local governments
- A pilot project to test local government collaborative review under the GMA for a transportation project that crosses more than one boundary.
- Participating on committees that are developing programmatic permits for activities that lend themselves to these types of permits. Developing activities and resources to utilize watershed-based mitigation decision making.

WSAC is in the process of negotiating with DOT on a scope of work and

contract. There will be an opportunity for WSAC to subcontract with individual counties to assist in the work required by this legislation. Staff will be contacting individual counties to see if they are interested in participating. For more information, please contact Scott Merriman.

## Transition to the International Building Code in Washington State

In 2003, the Washington State Legislature passed SHB 1734, updating the State Building Code. Governor Locke signed the bill on May 14, 2003. The legislation amends the State Building Code Act to implement national model codes for consistency across the United States.

### State Adoption

To implement the model building codes in Washington State, the State Building Code Council (Council) will adopt the 2003 editions of the International Code Council (ICC) building, mechanical and fire codes and the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) plumbing code.

The Council adopts new editions to the State Building Codes, including state amendments that are deemed necessary, through rulemaking procedures. Amended rules become effective statewide as Washington Administrative Code (WAC) after sitting through a regular legislative session.

Public hearings will be held in October 2003 to receive testimony on the 2003 codes and proposed state amendments. The “State Building Codes” are the ICC / IAPMO codes and the Washington State Energy Code, as adopted and amended by the Council.

### Effective Date of State Building Codes WAC

By December 1, 2003, the Council will make a decision on final adoption of the 2003 editions and state amendments. The permanent rule will be filed prior to the 2004 legislative session and effective on July 1 2004.

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## ***Transportation and Public Works (continued)***

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### **State Amendments**

Technical advisory groups (TAGs) are reviewing current state amendments to the State Building Codes to determine how they apply to the ICC / IAPMO codes. The Council will determine which amendments are appropriate by December 1, 2003, based on public input at the October hearings.

### **Local Amendments**

Counties should review local amendments to determine how they apply to the new codes. New local amendments to local building codes affecting one- to four-unit residential buildings under three stories and 5,000 square feet must be approved by the Council.

Local ordinances to adopt the new model codes earlier than the state rule may be considered by cities and counties. The adopting ordinance must integrate current state amendments, such as regulations for barrier free design and residential care facilities. Additionally, the ordinance would need to be updated when the state rules take effect on July 1, 2004.

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## Association News

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### **WACME Meets in Spokane**

Franklin County Coroner Dan Blasdel, Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (WACME) President, presided over a business meeting and training course of the organization recently in the Spokane Valley.

Coroners, medical examiners and deputies totaling 35 attended a one day session that included segments on differential diagnosis with case studies, new resources for locating next-of-kin, and briefings by the Mexican consulate and the Northwest Tissue Team.

In the course of business, the need for homicide investigation training and an advanced death investigations course was discussed and planning done. WACME is offering training in October at SeaTac in conjunction with the WACO/WSAC Joint Annual Conference that will include presentations by the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service Cold Case Homicide Unit, Fire Fatalities by the State Fire Marshal and Island County Coroner Robert Bishop, and, a variety of cases from the State Toxicology Laboratory by Laboratory Manager Ann Marie Gordon.

Complete information on WACME is available at [www.wacme.org](http://www.wacme.org).

### **WSACC 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Conference**

Kitsap County Clerk Dave Peterson and Jefferson County Clerk Marianne Walters co-hosted the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Conference of the Washington State Association of County Clerks in Silverdale last week. Twenty-seven counties were represented.

Jefferson County Commissioner Glen Huntingford and Kitsap County Prosecuting Attorney Russ Hauge welcomed the group to the area followed by guest speakers: the Honorable Brian Sonntag, State Auditor; Dean Logan, Director of Elections for the Office of the Secretary of State and former Kitsap County Clerk. Attorney Wayne Blair and State Court Administrator Mary McQueen gave an overview of the Trial Court Funding Project.

Work sessions included child support,

collection of legal financial obligations, passports, ineligibility to possess firearms, and demonstrations of enhancements to the Judicial Information System. A tour of the Women's Correctional Facility was also on the agenda.

At the Thursday night banquet Skamania County Clerk Rena Hollis was named "Clerk of the Year" and new officers were sworn. They are: President Betty Gould, Thurston County Clerk; King County Clerk Barb Miner, Director of Committees; Franklin County Clerk Mike Killian, Director of Communications; Snohomish County Clerk Pam Daniels, Director of Legislation; Cowlitz County Clerk Teri Nielsen, Director of Education and Conferences; and, Chelan County Clerk Siri Woods, WACO Representative. A Treasurer will be appointed.

Dave Peterson and his wife Carolyn hosted the conferees at their home on Wednesday evening and awed them all with majestic views of Hood Canal and the Olympic Mountain Range, their own boxwood maze and Victorian Garden to say nothing of Dave's culinary accomplishments. Hosts Marianne and Dave also arranged a fashion show and a trip to Blake Island to complete a memorable week.

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## **Boards and Commissions**

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### **Position Open on State Communications Interoperability Committee**

With the adoption of Substitute House Bill 1271 (C18 L03), the Legislature re-established and slightly modified the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC). The Committee provides a forum for state and local governments to work toward statewide radio interoperability, a continuing problem for state and local emergency services agencies.

WSAC is being asked to submit nominees to represent the interests of county government on the revamped committee. The state Information Services Board (ISB) will make the final appointment. Several other positions will be filled by local emergency managers and communications experts, thus the ISB is encouraging WSAC to nominate commissioners, council members, executives or high-level policy staff. Some Committee recommendations ultimately could impact county policies and budgeting decisions.

Beginning in September the SIEC will meet monthly in Olympia. Travel reimbursement likely will be available. Persons interested in the SIEC position should contact WSAC staff Sophia Byrd at [sbyrd@wacounties.org](mailto:sbyrd@wacounties.org) or 360-753-1886, by July 18.

To view the full text of SHB 1271, including the SIEC's full membership, powers and duties, see [http://www.leg.wa.gov/pub/billinfo/2003-04/House/1250-1274/1271-s\\_sl\\_04222003.txt](http://www.leg.wa.gov/pub/billinfo/2003-04/House/1250-1274/1271-s_sl_04222003.txt)

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## ***Training and Upcoming Events***

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### **Mark your Calendars** **CPO 2003 - Hold the Dates**

### **2003 CPO Scheduled Courses**

<b><u>July</u></b>	<b>RESOLVE Conflicts and Build Relationships</b> (Full day Elective course – 4 credits)	July 30, Spokane
<b><u>September</u></b>	<b>Ethical Dilemmas: Integrity as a Tool for Successful Public Officials</b> (Full day Core course – 4 credits)	September 30, SeaTac
	<b>Conducting and Managing Effective Meetings</b> (Half day Elective course – 2 credits)	September 30, SeaTac
<b><u>October</u></b>	<b>Making a Difference in County Communication: Speak and Write More Confidently</b> (Full day Elective course – 4 credits)	October 30, Eastern WA Location TBD
<b><u>November</u></b>	<b>Making a Difference in County Communication: Speak and Write More Confidently</b> (Full day Elective course – 4 credits)	November 6, Western WA Location TBD

**CPO Credit Update:** Your CPO Transcripts have been updated with the 2003 course credits for all classes held to date. If you would like to check your credit totals, request your transcript. We have several county officials who will receive their CPO designation at the Joint Fall Conference. An awards ceremony is being planned for those who have completed the requirements. There is still time to complete your requirements. Those officials currently needing the Ethics class to complete their core requirements can register attend and receive their certification at the conference.

Early in September you will all receive a new training needs assessment. This assessment will be very important as we plan the 2004/2005 training calendar. Always, if you have suggestions or comments about the program, please share them with us.

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## Good Things

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### Pierce County Programs Win National Awards

Pierce County has been named winner of three 2003 National Association of Counties Achievement Awards, which recognize efforts of counties to promote responsible, responsive and effective government. The award will be presented during the 68th annual NACo Conference in Milwaukee next month.

The winning entries were submitted by: Assessor-Treasurer/Communications, Human Services, and Public Works and Utilities (Solid Waste) departments. Here are brief descriptions of the honored programs:

#### \* *"Not a Penny More"*

Assessing and collecting property taxes is the responsibility of the Assessor-Treasurer's Office. It's not the most popular job in the county. However, it is an important role because the collection of taxes is essential to the function of county government. The "Not a Penny More" direct-mail program, developed in cooperation with the Department of Communications, was created to help property owners and citizens of Pierce County understand

how property taxes are determined, how the proceeds are used and what the county is doing to insure that collections are equitable. Information about property tax exemptions also was provided. Response to the informational mailings, citizen contacts to the office website and requests for community presentations showed the program is achieving the intended results.

- Sloan Clack, Assessor-Treasurer's Office, 253-798-7144.

#### \* *"Puget Sound Behavioral Health"*

In 2000, Pierce County purchased Puget Sound Behavioral Health, a 43-bed inpatient psychiatric facility which had filed for bankruptcy. As access to beds at the state psychiatric hospital decreased, PSBH has provided an alternative community-based resource and developed effective mental health treatment, which reduces the need for long-term stays at the state hospital.

- Fran Lewis, Director, Department of Human Services, 253-798-6100.

#### \* *"Pierce County Responds"*

Pierce County was at a crossroads in the management of illegally dumped wastes. The pressures of a large and

quickly growing population resulted in illegal dumping, nuisance vehicles and illegal businesses stockpiling waste products in the guise of recycling or wrecking yards. In cooperation with citizens serving on the county's Solid Waste Advisory Committee, the Pierce County Solid Waste Division developed Pierce County Responds. The aggressive program involves active participation of numerous Pierce County departments and operates with a strategy based on coordination, cleanup, prevention/outreach, enforcement and funding. After a year of operation 10 of 14 priority dump sites were cleaned up or headed toward clean up by a date certain and 4,000 calls were made to the program hotline.

- Steve Wamback, Solid Waste Division, 253-798-2179

#### CONTACT:

Ron Klein, Director, Communications Department, 253-798-7159; or Dick Ferguson, Media and Community Relations, 253-798-3979

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## Courthouse Ramblings

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**Charles O. "Chuck" Carroll** a former 22 year King County prosecutor died June 26<sup>th</sup> at Swedish Hospital in Seattle at the age of 96. After earning a law degree from the University of Washington in 1932, Mr. Carroll briefly entered private practice before becoming King County prosecutor from 1948 to 1970.

Mr. Carroll was an All-American running back in 1927-28 and in 1964 became the second UW player inducted to the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame. He was also one of only three

Huskie football players to have his number retired by the school – his was #2 – and still holds the school record for points in a game with 36 against Puget Sound in 1928. Nicknamed the "Iron Man," he was said to have missed only six minute of play during his three years at the UW.

The family is planning a private service.

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The thoughts and prayers of all county officials in Washington are with the Chelan County Sheriff's Department and

the family and friends of **Deputy Saul Gallegos**. Deputy Gallegos was killed last week during a routine traffic stop near Chelan. We all share in their loss.

\* \* \* \* \*

We extend our sympathies to the family of former Adams County Auditor **Kim Yerxa** who died this morning after a lengthy battle with cancer. Kim served from 1978 to 1986. His memorial service is scheduled for 11 am, Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup> in Kennewick.

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## *July County Calendar*

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- 1 Final day for taxpayers to file valuation appeal petitions with the county board of equalization (or within 30 days after the date an assessment or value change notice has been mailed, whichever is later). RCW 84.40.038
- 4 Independence Day - Legal Holiday. RCW 1.16.050
- 14 The county auditor shall notify, in writing, each elective and appointive county official to file with the auditor's office, on or before the second Monday in August, an estimated budget for the ensuing fiscal year, including receipts from sources other than taxation. RCW 36.40.010
- 15 Assessment rolls to be filed with the county board of equalization, by the county assessor. RCW 84.40.320
- 15 The county board of equalization shall meet. Minimum session, three days; maximum session, four weeks. RCW 84.48.010
- 28 – Aug. 1 Declarations of candidacy shall be filed for the September primary election. RCW 29.15.020
- 31 Every county official must report to the Public Disclosure Commission, on an L-5 form, their lobbying activities for the previous quarter (April-June). It is recommended that these L-5 forms be accumulated in the office of the county commissioners and forwarded on behalf of the entire county. RCW 42.17.190 NOTE: ". . . in-person lobbying by any elected official of such agency on behalf of such agency or in connection with the powers, duties or compensation of such official" need not be reported.
- 31 New construction for which a building permit has been issued shall be valued for assessment purposes as of this date. Such values may be added to the tax roll up to August 31. RCW 36.21.080
- 31 Mobile homes for which building permits have been issued shall be valued for assessment purposes as of this date. Such values may be added to the tax roll up to August 31. RCW 36.21.090

## Calendar of Events

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Information</i>
<b>2003</b>			
NACo Annual Conference	Milwaukee, WI	July 11 - 15	www.naco.org
Association of County Human Services (ACHS)	Vancouver	July 16 - 18	(360) 786-5585
IACREOT Conference	Denver, CO	July 29 - August 3	www.iacreot.com
Western Councils of Governments Annual Conference	Mt. Bachelor Village Resort, Bend, OR	August 12 - 15	(360) 577-3041 Steve Harvey or (509) 943-9185 Gwen Rasmussen
WCIP Board of Directors Rate Setting	Wyndham Gardens, SeaTac	August 21	(360) 586-0466
Washington State Association of County Assessors' Fall Conference	Red Lion, Kennewick	September 8 - 11	(360) 336-9370
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 9 - 12	www.geocities.com/wsacrpdc
WSAC Fall Eastern District Meeting	Marcus Whitman Center, Walla Walla	September 11 - 12	(360) 753-1886
Association of County Human Services (ACHS)	Moses Lake	September 17 - 19	(360) 786-5585
WCIF/WCIP Insurance Advisory Committee 2004 Renewal Meeting, WCIP and WCIF Board of Directors	WestCoast Hotel, SeaTac	September 18	(360) 586-0466
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac	September 29 - October 3	(360) 753-7319
WCIF Board of Trustees	DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac	October 1	(360) 586-0466
WSAC Fall Western District Meeting	DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac	October 2	(360) 753-1886
WCIF/WCIP A.C.E. Committee Meeting	Yakima	October 15	(360) 586-0466
L & I Retro Fall Meeting	TBD	October 16	(360) 753-1886
WASPC Fall Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	November 17 - 20	(360) 486-2380
Association of County Human Services (ACHS)	Seattle	November 19 - 21	(360) 786-5585
<b>2004</b>			
NACo Legislative Conference	Hilton Washington & Towers, Washington, DC	February 27 - March 2	www.naco.org
WSAC Spring Eastern District Meeting	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	April 8 - 9	(360) 753-1886

## ***Calendar of Events (continued)***

WSAC Spring Western District Meeting	Heathman Lodge, Vancouver	April 22 - 23	(360) 753-1886
WASPC Spring Conference	Yakima Convention Center, Yakima	May 24 - 27	(360) 486-2380
National Sheriffs' Association	Seattle	June (TBD)	www.sheriffs.org
WSAC 98 <sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Convention	Pierce County, Sheraton, Tacoma	June 22 - 25	(360) 753-1886
WAPA Summer Conference	Chelan	June 23 - 25	(360) 753-2175
NACo Annual Conference	Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ	July 16 - 20	www.naco.org
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 14 - 17	www.geocities.com/wsacrpdc
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	Spokane	October 4 - 8	(360) 753-7319
WASPC Fall Conference	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	November 15 - 18	(360) 486-2380
<b>2005</b>			
NACo Legislative Conference	Marriot Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC	March 3 - 4	www.naco.org
WASPC Spring Conference	WestCoast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee	May 23 - 26	(360) 486-2380
WSAC 99 <sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Convention	WestCoast Hotel at Columbia Center, Kennewick	June 13 - 16	(360) 753-1886
WAPA Summer Conference	Chelan	June 22 - 24	(360) 753-2175
NACo Annual Conference (City & County of Hawaii)	Honolulu, HI	July 15 - 19	www.naco.org
County & Regional Planning Directors/City Planning Directors Joint Conference	Campbell's Resort, Chelan	September 13 - 16	www.geocities.com/wsacrpdc
WACO/WSAC Joint Fall Conference	Ocean Shores	October 3 - 7	(360) 753-7319
<b>2006</b>			
WSAC 100 <sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Convention	TBD	June TBD	(360) 753-1886
NACo Annual Conference	Denver, CO	July 21 - 26	www.naco.org
<b>2007</b>			
NACo Annual Conference (Sponsored by the counties in the Metropolitan Richmond Area)	Richmond, VA	TBD	www.naco.org