

the Courthouse Journal

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Washington Association of County Officials
Washington State Association of Counties

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*Inside the
Courthouse Journal*

**Courts, Public Safety,
Law & Justice**
Page 2

**Environment,
Land Use & Resources**
Pages 3 - 4

Courthouse Ramblings
Page 5

Calendar of Events
Pages 6 - 7

**Power Council
Schedules
Public Hearings
on
SubBasin Plans**

See Page 4

Excitement in Olympia

The excitement is building in the capital city as Olympia prepares to welcome Governor-elect Christine Gregoire and the 59th Legislature of the State of Washington.

Since the Legislative Building has been closed due to the earthquake in February of 2001, it almost seems preparations for next week have been taking place for over three years. The Washington State Capitol is now reopened and once more looms majestically above Capitol Lake in testimony to the importance the events under the dome play in all our lives.

It is here that laws are made, issues debated, problems resolved and the voice of the people is heard through their duly elected representatives. It is our responsibility to let those representatives know what our voice is saying. Here in the Washington Counties Building, the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) stand ready to assist you in speaking for county government to the Legislature, whether you do so from your desk in the courthouse or in a hearing room in the Legislature. We look forward to the 2005 Legislative Session.

Next week is rich with ceremonies and events to set the stage for Washington's future.

Inauguration Week Highlights

Monday, January 10

9:00 a.m. - Grand reopening of the Legislative Building, featuring remarks by Gov. Gary Locke, choir music and a reception open to the public on the third floor.

9:30 a.m. - Supreme Court justices sworn into office, Temple of Justice courtroom. Some public space available, reception to follow.

Noon - Legislators sworn into office, Senate and House chambers. Chamber galleries are reserved for legislators' families.

Tuesday, January 11

11:45 a.m. - Legislators certify election of statewide officials; debate over governor's race is expected. House chamber - Open to the public; space in gallery limited.

Noon - Gov. Locke delivers his final State of the State Address in House chamber. Open to the public; space in gallery limited.

Wednesday, January 12

11:45 a.m. - Governor and other statewide elected officials sworn into office. House chamber - gallery reserved for families of elected officials.

7:00 p.m. - Governor's Inaugural Ball, Legislative Building. Tickets required.

Federal E-911 Bill Enacted

Just before the 108th Congress adjourned last month, the Senate passed the Enhanced 911 Act (H.R.

5419). The legislation is intended to speed E-911 implementation nationwide and improve existing programs.

The measure provides \$1.25 billion to promote best practices and technology innovations to assure that all public safety answering points can deploy vital equipment.

The Act also includes safeguards that make states ineligible for the federal assistance if they use dedicated E-911 taxes for any non-911 activities.

State EMD Director Wants to Meet You

The new director of the state Emergency Management Division, Jim Mullen, wants to get to know counties and their policymakers, he said at the January 6 meeting of the state Emergency Management Council.

To that end, Mullen, has already visited Benton and Franklin counties and will be meeting with Clallam County commissioners in early January. He said he considers it a priority to visit with local government officials and become more familiar with their respective interests and issues relating to homeland security and emergency management.

He welcomes invitations from all counties. Call (253) 512-7001 to set up a meeting with him in your county.

Mullen was hired in September to lead the EMD. Mullen had previously served as the Emergency Management director for the City of Seattle.

UW offers Criminal Justice Certification

The University of Washington, Tacoma, is continuing its Criminal Justice Certification series this spring. They are committed to offering these workshops for law enforcement professionals.

Here are the two certificates offered by the University:

- Criminal Justice Agency Administration Certificate

Designed for current and potential supervisors and executive-level managers in the criminal justice field. Completion provides 96 contact hours (9.6 CEUs) or 8 contact hours per workshop.

- Law Enforcement Executive Leadership Certificate

Designed for executive-level managers in the criminal justice system.

In this one-week certificate program, career law enforcement officers will expand their knowledge, skills and abilities in the area of executive leadership. Certificate Completion provides 30 contact hours (3 CEUs) or 6 contact hours per workshop. More information? Call: 253-692-4672, E-mail: adionne@u.washington.edu, or visit: www.tacoma.washington.edu/pdc.

Upcoming Hearings

Trial court funding, criminal indigent defense and civil legal services.

House Judiciary Committee/ JLOB-B
1/11 – Tuesday – 10:00 am

Work session on emergency management; homeland security; SIEC; E-911

1/11 – Tuesday – 8:00 am - JAC-2

Schedules are subject to change please check link below.

The Courthouse Journal

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

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NOTE: Legislative Committee schedules and agendas can be found at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm>

Environment, Land Use and Resources

Governor Sanctions Snohomish County

On December 28, Governor Locke sanctioned Snohomish County for ongoing non-compliance with the Growth Management Act. The Governor and the Growth Management Hearings Board was specifically concerned about a piece of property that was in agriculture and was proposed to be changed to commercial. The Governor's sanction recommended withholding the county's gas tax distribution.

Snohomish County is pursuing the issue in court. In the interim, the county passed an ordinance this week restating the property in question is agricultural land. The Governor's office and the Hearings Board will be reviewing the ordinance to see if the sanction can be lifted.

GMA Negotiations Continue with the Workgroup

Over the past six months, the GMA Workgroup has been negotiating on a bill to clarify the "best available science" requirement and a revised update schedule. A draft BAS bill is out for review; comments are due back next week. The proposed bill clarifies what it means to include BAS and provides an option to deviate from BAS. An additional option is being discussed to have the Legislature give the state resource agencies specific direction to develop a range of BAS model ordinances. If a local government used one of the model ordinances and was challenged, the state would be required to defend the ordinance.

The revised update schedule discussion hit a roadblock. The

group has agreed to allow the non-fully planning GMA jurisdictions to defer the update of their critical area ordinance for one review cycle if their CAO meets the best available science requirement. We have been trying to get a similar deferral for cities less than 5,000 and counties less than 50,000. The environmental community will only agree to 1,500 for cities and less than 20,000 for counties. Discussion will continue regarding the deferral limits, although an agreement is not likely.

Stevens County Faces a Sign of the Times – Zoning

ADDY -- This cattle-ranching country with an aversion to Big Brother government has favored an anything-goes approach to development -- one of only three counties in Washington to be largely unfettered with zoning regulations. Change, though, is coming.

* Read the full article at: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/206602_stevens05.html

Ecology Developing Policy to Ensure Quality of Environmental Data

The Department of Ecology is beginning to implement legislation to promote the use of "credible data" in water quality decisions associated with standards, TMDLs and impaired waters listings. The new law is codified in RCW 90.48.570 through 90.48.590.

Ecology already has many procedures and guidance developed to promote the use of sound, defensible data and other information to support water quality

decisions and expects the new policy to a large extent will incorporate these existing policies. The internet site where many of the Quality Assurance-related information can be accessed is at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/qa/index.html>.

The policy will be developed in two phases. The first phase is projected to cover the following items of credible data generation:

1. Sampling protocol
2. Chain of custody
3. Analytical protocol
4. Single project data assessment procedures
5. Development of Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs)
6. Data collection training and experience recommendations

An informal draft policy on the above activities will be available in January. The issue of how the data turns into the basis for decisions on impaired waters-303(d) listing, models and TMDL studies with load allocations, and changes to the water quality standards will be addressed in spring 2005. An internal advisory group at this stage of policy development is focused on the Ecology Environmental Assessment Program activities of QAPPs, data collection, lab analyses, project data assessment and experience and training for individuals who collect credible data.

An external advisory group will discuss the adequacy of the policies, formal and informal, that we now have in place. Ecology is looking for external consultant or lab

Environment, Land Use and Resources (continued)

professionals willing to spend some time with us to compare notes on credible water sampling and data analysis methods. To volunteer, contact Mike Herold, Water Quality Program at 360-407-6434.

Power Council Schedules Public Hearings on SubBasin Plans

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council has scheduled public hearings on the 29 draft subbasin plan program amendments that have been revised since first submitted in May 2004. The schedule is:

- ✓ Clarkston - January 12
- ✓ Vancouver - January 18
- ✓ Hood River - January 24
- ✓ Wenatchee - January 26

For the specific watersheds upon which comment will be heard at specific locations, click on www.subbasins.org. Public comment closes on January 31, 2005.

More Action on Columbia River Initiative

Governor Gary Locke, Colville Tribal Chairman Joe Pakootas and Washington State Fish and Wildlife Director Jeff Koenings this week signed an agreement that will allow the state to obtain intermittent releases of water from Lake Roosevelt when needed, from April to August each year. The agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation is an important component of Locke's Columbia River Initiative, a new proposal for managing Columbia River water resources for the next 20 years.

Under the agreement, water will

be released from the lake to support downstream fisheries, irrigation and municipalities, and to ease the effects of drought. The amount of water released will range from up to 82,500 acre-feet (1 foot of lake elevation) during a normal year to no more than 132,500-acre-feet (1.65 feet of lake elevation) during a drought year. The state's agreement with the Colville Tribes will make water stored in Lake Roosevelt and managed by the Bureau of Reclamation available to farmers whose rights now may be interrupted during drought and for new and future municipal uses. A portion is dedicated to improving river flows for fish migration.

"This new agreement not only offsets further impacts to the Colville Tribes, but also recognizes a meaningful role for the Colville Tribes in Columbia River management policy," Pakootas said.

Governor Locke proposes investment of \$79 million over the next 10 years to improve water conservation, develop new water-storage capacity, and acquire water for economic and environmental purposes in the Columbia Basin. An agreement also has been signed with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, to secure water to jumpstart the Columbia River Water Management Program.

In all, the Columbia River Initiative identifies some 728,000 acre-feet of water to meet the region's needs for the next 20 years. The plan's water acquisition program would meet the needs of all outstanding Columbia River water-right requests pending before the State Department of Ecology and

provide reserve for the region's forecasted water needs.

Ecology has filed a rule proposal to govern how the regulatory portion of the water management program would be implemented. More information on the proposal, agreements and information on the economic and science studies supporting the plan may be found on-line at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cr/crhome.html>.

Upcoming Hearings

A briefing and public hearing on CRI 1/12 – Wednesday - 3:30 pm - JAC-4.

FCAAP Grant Process Now Underway

The State Department of Ecology is now accepting project applications for the 2005-2007 Flood Control Assistance Account Program (FCAAP) grant round. This grant round anticipates \$4 million available for local flood planning efforts and will emphasize Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plans, all hazard mitigation plans, mapping projects, flood warning systems, fish habitat protection and enhancement projects, and acquisition projects.

Applications need to be postmarked or hand delivered by 4:30 p.m., February 1, 2005 to county engineers. County engineers in turn need to submit all applications to Ecology by February 28, 2005.

For an application and more information, visit <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/seagrants/fcaap/intro.html>.

Courthouse Ramblings

Cowlitz County Commissioners have named two new county officials in the last week. **Roni Booth**, a 17-year veteran of the clerk's office will fill the vacancy left by **Teri Nielsen** as County Clerk. Teri accepted a position with the State Office of the Administrator for the Courts. Roni began her career by working part-time in the clerk's office in 1987. Since then she's been a microfilm and jury managing clerk and has most recently has been the collections deputy clerk, collecting money from people ordered by the court to pay restitution.

The new Cowlitz County Assessor is **Terry McLaughlin**, the manager of the county's Geographic Information System. He will replace **Dean Takko**, who resigned after being named 19th District State Representative, following the resignation of Brian Hatfield. McLaughlin has been with the GIS department for 10 years, five as manager. He also worked for the assessor's office as an appraiser and a draftsman for two years.

Spokane County Commissioners have named **Ralph Baker** as the new county assessor, with the retirement of **Duane Sommers** this week. Baker

has served as Sommers chief deputy and is retired from the Air Force.

Former King County Sheriff **Dave Reichert** was sworn in as the Eighth District Congressman, Tuesday, in Washington, D.C., as the 109th Congress was convened. Reichert was elected to the seat vacated by **Jennifer Dunn**, in November.

Two more vacancies in the WACO ranks have not yet been filled. Jefferson County Clerk **Marianne Walters** retired on December 31, and Kittitas County Auditor **David Bowen** was elected as county commissioner. Acting Kittitas County Auditor is **Judy Pless**.

Our best wishes for a speedy recovery to Chelan County Clerk **Siri Woods**, who underwent back surgery December 27. She is recuperating at home.

We are sorry to report long time Adam's County Assessor **Pete Lefevre** passed away on December 15. A four-term Assessor, Pete took office in January of 1975 and served both on the WACO Board as well as

the Executive Board of the Assessors' Association. Pete was also active in the East Adams County Fair board and served as a member of the Communities Fair Board, the Washington State Fair Board, and was a state fair commissioner for six years.

No service will be held. Memorial contributions may be made to the VFW or to the Life Care Center of Ritzville at 506 S Jefferson, Ritzville, WA 99169. Cards and condolences can be sent to his wife Marjorie at 1124 S Fairway Av, Ritzville, WA 99169.

Congratulations (again) to **Trisena M. John-Phelps**. Trisena, a two-time Washington Counties Scholarship winner from Kittitas County, was the only female to graduate from the Washington State Patrol Academy this week. It is not known where the Trooper will be stationed but we hear it won't be in Ellensburg where her dad Steve works at the Kittitas County Fairgrounds.

Calendar of Events

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Information</i>
For your convenience training and workshops are bolded.			
<u>JANUARY 2005</u>			
Washington STATE	Legislature Convenes	January 10	http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm
Washington Association of County Officials Board of Trustees' Meeting	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	January 12-13	(360) 753-7319
WACO/WSAC Joint Officers' Meeting	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	January 13	(360) 753-7319
WSAC Rural Issues Sub-committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	January 13	(360) 753-1886
Urban County Caucus	Mercato Ristorante', Olympia	January 13	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	January 14	(360) 753-1886
Assn of County Human Svcs	Olympia	January 19 - 20	(360) 753-1886
Washington State Association of County Auditors' (WSACA) Licensing Meeting	Comfort Inn, Tumwater	January 18-19	(360) 753-7319
Washington State Association of County Auditors' Legislative Meeting	Comfort Inn, Tumwater & WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	January 19-20	(360) 753-7319
Washington State Association of County Treasurers' Legislative Meeting	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	January 24-25	(360) 753-7319
WSAC Rural Issues Sub-committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	January 27	(360) 753-1886
Urban County Caucus	Mercato Ristorante', Olympia	January 27	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	January 28	(360) 753-1886
<u>FEBRUARY 2005</u>			
Washington State Association of County Assessors' Legislative Meeting	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	February 1-3	(360) 740-1392
WSAC Board of Directors Meeting	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	February 10	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Rally Day	TBD, Olympia	February 10	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	February 11	(360) 753-1886
<u>MARCH 2005</u>			
WSAC Rural Issues Sub-committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	March 3	(360) 753-1886
Urban County Caucus	Mercato Ristorante', Olympia	March 3	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	March 4	(360) 753-1886

Calendar of Events (continued)

National Association of Counties' (NACo) Annual Legislative Conference	Marriot Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, DC	March 4 - 8	www.naco.org
"Your Path to the Marketplace"	Pend Oreille County	Mar. 5 – Apr. 16	(509) 447-2401
WA Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners' (WACME) Medicolegal Training	WA State Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Bldg, Lacey	March 7-11	(360) 753-7319
Washington State Association of County Auditors' Recording Conference	Red Lion Hotel, Wenatchee	March 15-16	(360) 753-7319
Assn of County Human Svcs	Skamania County	March 16 - 18	(360) 753-1886
WCAA Annual Conference – Winter	Enzian Inn, Leavenworth	March 23 – 25	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Rural Issues Sub-committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	March 24	(360) 753-1886
Urban County Caucus	Mercato Ristorante', Olympia	March 24	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	March 25	(360) 753-1886
<i>APRIL 2005</i>			
16 th Annual National County Government Week		April 10-16	
WSAC Rural Issues Sub-committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	April 14	(360) 753-1886
Urban County Caucus	Mercato Ristorante', Olympia	April 14	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	April 15	(360) 753-1886
Washington STATE	Sine Die - 59th Legislative Session Ends	April 25	http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm
<i>After April 2005?</i> Click here http://d30060429.purehost.com/wsac/Calendar/Calendar%20of%20Events-WEB.pdf			