

WACO Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
September 27, 2022
The Centennial Hotel
303 W North River Drive; Spokane, WA 99201

Draft Minutes

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

Board Members Present:

Jerry Pettit	Past-President	Kittitas	Auditor
Stacie Prada	President	Jefferson	Treasurer
Jeff Gadman	Vice-President	Thurston	Treasurer
Adam Kick	2 nd Vice-President	Skamania	Prosecutor
Amy Cziske	Secretary/Treasurer	Kittitas	Treasurer
Mike Lonergan	Assessors Trustee	Pierce	Assessor / Treasurer
Milene Henley	Auditors Trustee	San Juan	Auditor
Melissa Beaton	Clerks Trustee	Skagit	Clerk
Craig Morrison	Coroners Trustee	Grant	Coroner
Jon Tunheim	Prosecutors Trustee	Thurston	Prosecutor
Leslie Valz	Treasurers Trustee	Stevens	Treasurer
Linda Hjelle	Trustee at Large Position 2	Snohomish	Assessor
Brenda Chilton	Trustee at Large Position 3	Benton	Auditor
Lisa Frazier	Trustee at Large Position 4	Mason	Treasurer
Ruth Gordon	Trustee at Large Position 5	Jefferson	Clerk
Lisa Henderson	Trustee at Large Position 6	San Juan	Clerk

Staff Present:

Jennifer Wallace	Executive Director
Timothy Grisham	Deputy Director
Tiffin Moreno	Finance and Administration Manager
Cella Hyde	Member Services Manager

Guests Present:

Steve Drew	Thurston County Assessor
Lori Larsen	Stevens County Auditor
Hayley Thompson	Skagit County Coroner
Jackie Brunson	Skagit County Treasurer

1) Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Minutes

Stacie Prada, President called the meeting to order at 8:14 am. Greg Zempel, Immediate Past-President; Rob Snaza, Sheriffs Trustee; and Eddie Cantu, Trustee at Large Position 1 were noted as absent.

Melissa Benton, Clerks Trustee **MOVED** to approve the September 27, 2022 agenda Ruth Gordon, Trustee at Large Position 5 **SECONDED**. The **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

Jeff Gadman, Vice-President **MOVED** to approve the July 20, 2022 Board of Trustees meeting minutes. Breda Chilton, Trustee at Large Position 3 **SECONDED**. The **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

2) New Business

a. Honoring Departing WACO Board Members, Welcoming New Member
President Prada presented service awards to departing members Jerry Pettit, Past-President; Milene Henley, Auditors Trustee; Josie Koelzer, Treasurers Trustee; Trustee at Large Chilton; Trustee at Large Cantu; and Trustee at Large Gordon. President Prada introduced Leslie Valz, Treasurers Trustee.

b. 2023 WACO Priority Legislative Proposals/Affiliate Priority Proposals
Steve Drew, Thurston County Assessor provided the Assessors' legislative update. The Assessors' have no priority legislation proposal. Discussed potential legislative concerns including wind and solar PILT, large personal property tax exemptions, changes to the senior exemption program. Discussed the tax fairness workgroup and homestead exemption. Discussed tax id'ing primary residence and positive impacts on elections and licensing.

Lori Larsen, Stevens County Auditor presented the Auditors legislative priorities. Discussed a voter pamphlets standards bill which the Secretary of State supports. Discussed concerns about threats against elections officials.

Lisa Henderson, Trustee at Large Position 6 presented the Clerks' legislative priorities. Discussed dependency publication. Met with AG Office regarding the issue and will continue a dialog. Discussed the removal of the overpayment refund threshold in 2022. Discussed a bill fix for the overpayment issue which the 2022 bill sponsor supports as it may have been an oversight.

Hayley Thompson, Skagit County Coroner presented the Coroners' legislative priorities. discussed the ongoing forensic pathologist shortage. Sen. Dhingra has agreed to sponsor a study/marketing funding bill. Discussed addressing WSP State Toxicology Lab backlog. Data received – provided important information to a potential sponsor.

Jon Tunheim, Prosecutors Trustee Discussed areas of focus for WAPA related to the criminal sentencing task force in lieu of a policy proposal.

Timothy Grisham, Deputy Director shared that the Sheriffs have no priority bill. Issues they are following are: Blake/Simple Possession, vehicular pursuits, addressing juvenile attorney access prior to interview, cash for recruitment

Jackie Brunson, Skagit County Treasurer presented the Treasurers' legislative priorities. Discussed updating registered warrants. Does not comply with current banking standards.

Vice-President Gadman **MOVED** to recommend the proposals to the membership. Past-President Pettit **SECONDED**. The **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

3) Old Business

a. Final Version of WACO 2023-2027 Strategic Plan

Jennifer Wallace, Executive Director introduced Brian Murphy and Kizz Prusia of Berk Consulting. Brian Murphy and Kizz Prusia presented the final draft 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. The Board discussed the draft content for further conversation and review by the Strategic Plan Committee.

Trustee at Large Gordon **MOVED** to approve the Strategic Plan as presented. Trustee at Large Henderson **SECONDED**. The **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

b. Updates to the WACO Policy Manual

Jennifer Wallace, Executive Director presented changes to the WACO Policy Manual. The changes update the Committees policy to add a Newly Elected Officials Training committee. Additionally, suggested changes to the Annual Report policy include an update on publications timelines allowing an earlier issuance of the report.

Past-President Pettit **MOVED** to approve the Policy Manual changes with an amendment to include language stating the Education Committee Chair shall be Chair of the Newly Elected Officials Training committee. Vice-President Gadman **SECONDED**. The **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

c. NEO Planning Update

Executive Director Wallace provided 2022 NEO planning update. Agenda. Cohorts. Website.

*The Board went on **BREAK** at 8:59 am and **RECONVENED** at 9:17 am.*

4) Committee Reports

a. Audit Committee

Amy Cziske, Secretary/Treasurer presented the Audit Committee report. Discussed streamlining reporting and moving to quarterly meetings rather than monthly.

b. Legislative Committee

Jeff Gadmen presented the Legislative Committee report. Discussed 2022 session recap.

c. Education Committee

Adam Kick, 2nd Vice President presented the Education Committee report discussing planned 2022/2023 trainings and conference education offerings.

a. Nominating Committee

Executive Director Wallace Present the Nominating Committee report discussing the slate of nominees for the 2022 WACO Board of Trustees election and an overview of the election process.

5) Other Business

a. Affiliate Updates

Mike Lonergan, Assessors' Trustee provided the Assessors' update. Discussed public education efforts on average valuation increases. Discussed market cooling in 2022 and potential effects on residential valuation. Discussed the progress of the aerial imaging study conducted by the Department of Commerce. Discussed assessor/treasurer software upgrade needs.

Trustee Henley provided the Auditors' update. Discussed Auditors dealing with attacks on elections and voting integrity by utilizing the public records process.

Melissa Beaton, Clerks' Trustee provided the Clerks' update. Discussed issues regarding identification of juvenile records through initials only implementation issues, civil protection order sealing issues, as well as a Blake refund bureau update.

Trustee Tunheim presented the Prosecutors' update. Biggest issue facing the Prosecutors are workload and recruitment and retention. Prosecutors have communication issues to work on in that regard. Discussed Blake response and addressing simple possession issues including impacts on juveniles.

Trustee Valz and Vice-President Gadman presented the Treasurers' update. Discussed ongoing recruitment and retention issues. Provided a cost recovery workgroup update.

b. Trustee at Large Updates

Linda Hjelle, Trustee at Large Position 2 presented the Trustee group 2 update. Discussed the different needs of counties based on size. Discussed work on the monthly packed lunch breakout sessions.

Brenda Chilton, Trustee at Large Position 3 presented the Trustee group 3 update. Discussed wage compression, supply chain issues impacting counties, public health, and an increase in low level crime.

Lisa Frazier, Trustee at Large Position 4 presented the Trustee group 4 update. Discussed staffing issues and the benefits of the packed lunch series.

Trustee at Large Gordon presented the Trustee group 5 update. Discussed federal covid response funds issues.

Trustee at Large Henderson presented the Trustee group 6 update. Discussed housing issues, recruitment, a lack of public information officers and training needed to fill the void, the cost of risk pool insurance, and the impact of public records requests on staffing and budget.

*The Board went on **BREAK** at 11:08 am and **RECONVENED** at 11:17 am.*

6) Staff Reports

a. Executive Director

Executive Director Wallace presented the Executive Director report. Provided 2020-2022 Strategic Plan process and working toward creating a staff workplan. Discussed county visits, legislative relations, the WACO Scholarship Fund, and the annual report.

b. Deputy Director

Deputy Director Grisham presented the Deputy Director report. Discussed communications analytics and metrics, Know Your County Officials video updates, and external communication methods.

c. Member Services Manager

Executive Director Wallace presented the Member Services Manager report discussing a strong increase in conference attendance. Discussed year-round partnership development.

d. Finance and Administration Manager

Executive Director Wallace presented the Finance report. Discussed reporting only financials vetted by the Audit Committee.

*The Board **ADJOURNED** at 11:28 am*