



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT



Eric Johnson
Executive Director



I recently spoke to a group about county government, where I explained that “county government both inspires me and frightens me.” That probably sounds like a strange comment coming from someone that started working for Lewis County in May 1984, some 35 years ago. What inspires me is the fact that citizens, just like you and I, are elected by our fellow residents to lead, administer, and manage county government.

County government is, in fact, the heartbeat of representative democracy. The funny thing is, the same thing that inspires me frightens me. That any citizen, regardless of their knowledge, skills, and abilities, can be elected is where WSAC has a crucial role. To assist our citizen-elected officials – these new county leaders, to learn, find a mentor, ask questions, gain information, and grow to their full potential to serve their county effectively and efficiently as possible.

WSAC has several vital programs and services that help our county elected and appointed officials to carry out their responsibilities, including:

- Advocacy, coordination, and representation with the legislature and executive branch agencies/offices;
- Conferences and trainings to present relevant information and curricula;
- Communication to keep our members informed on Association activities and help the legislature, agencies/offices, and the public better understand county government;
- Represent county government in the judicial system;
- Manage and administer the business of the Association with integrity and efficiency.

To all county elected and appointed officials, I ask that you continue to focus on the policies, the issues, the content. Let’s be good at politics and not get swept into the partisanship. Your public service can be accentuated by the integrity in which you serve by remaining diligent in executing your duties with civility, thoughtfulness, professionalism, and respectful dialogue with your peers and the public who has entrusted you to lead your county.

Eric Johnson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PRESIDENT
Scott Hutsell
Lincoln County



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
Robert Gelder
Kitsap County



SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
Michael Largent
Whitman County



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Stephanie Wright
Snohomish County

The WSAC Board of Directors is responsible for the general supervision over the affairs of the Association per WSAC Bylaws and adopted policies and procedures. The WSAC Board of Directors met at four regularly scheduled meetings in 2019.

MAJOR BOARD ACTIONS FOR 2019

- Reviewed Amicus Filing Requests and Authorized Participation
- Adopted Policy Manual Amendments
- Provided Oversight of WSAC Litigation Program



PREPARING FOR 2020

- Review new Group Purchasing and Non-Dues Revenue Opportunities
- Update of WSAC Comprehensive Policy Manual
- Develop Objective and Key Results for 2021-22

BOARD MEMBERS

Dave Sauter	Klickitat County
Helen Price Johnson	Island County
Chris Branch	Okanogan County
Wes McCart	Stevens County
Jim Johnson	Walla Walla County
Karen Skoog	Pend Oreille County
Kenneth Dahlstedt	Skagit County
Edna Fund	Lewis County
Vickie Raines	Grays Harbor
Dennis Weber	Cowlitz County
Dow Constantine	King County
Joe McDermott	King County
Jim McCune	Pierce County
Nate Nehring	Snohomish County
Mary Kuney	Spokane County
Eileen Quiring	Clark County
John Hutchings	Thurston County
Charlotte Garrido	Kitsap County
Ron Anderson	Yakima County
Jack Louws	Whatcom County
James Beaver	Benton County
Brad Peck	Franklin County
Rich Stevens	Grant County
Robert Jackson	Lewis County
Mark Ozias	Clallam County
Reagan Dunn	King County
Kathy Lambert	King County
Derek Young	Pierce County
Terry Ryan	Snohomish County
Josh Kerns	Spokane County
Gary Edwards	Thurston County
Ed Wolfe	Kitsap County
Norm Childress	Yakima County
Rud Browne	Whatcom County
Jerome Delvin	Benton County

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE



Bridget Lockling
Director, Finance and Administration



The Finance and Administration department is responsible for the financial functions of WSAC, including accounts payable, accounts receivable, reporting, budgeting, contracts, grants, federal and state tax reporting, payroll, and benefits. The Finance and Administration department is also responsible for the management and financial functions of the Washington Counties Building.

STAFF MEMBERS

Lynn Fiorillo-Lowe
Operations and Support
Assistant

Maxx Couch
Finance Assistant

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019

- Leadership transition: A new Director took over the Department in May 2019, replacing long-time Director Karlyn Shannon.
- Three state contracts were renewed for the new biennium 2019-21.
- We have implemented a Fixed Asset system as part of the accounting software program.

Provides financial
oversight for
8 AFFILIATES



**PRODUCES
44 SETS**

of financial
statements
annually

**OVERSEES
\$5.6 MILLION**

in deposits

AND

\$4.8 MILLION

in disbursement

PREPARING FOR 2020

- Finalize and implement the Comprehensive Accounting Policies and Procedures Manual
- Define and revise chart of accounts to streamline budgeting, financial statements, and annual tax reports.
- Reformat Financial Statement Package

COMBINED DUES 2019 ACTUAL

COUNTY	General Dues	Transportation Dues	Public Lands Dues	Human SVCS Dues	SLAC Dues	TOTAL
Adams	5,318	1,988	100	269	3,367	11,042
Asotin	5,656	2,058	206	301	3,471	11,693
Benton	30,292	7,197	1,782	2,652	11,052	52,974
Chelan	13,452	3,684	3,543	1,045	5,870	27,595
Clallam	13,076	3,606	5,936	1,009	5,755	29,382
Clark	70,002	15,479	4,280	6,440	23,271	119,473
Columbia	3,084	1,522	445	56	2,680	7,787
Cowlitz	17,607	4,551	1,276	1,441	7,149	32,023
Douglas	8,429	2,637	130	566	4,325	16,086
Ferry	3,595	1,628	1,325	104	2,837	9,490
Franklin	15,527	4,117	409	1,243	6,509	27,805
Garfield	2,811	1,465	278	30	2,596	7,180
Grant	16,205	4,258	1,044	1,308	6,717	29,532
Grays Harbor	12,863	3,561	2,178	989	5,689	25,279
Island	14,305	3,862	100	1,126	6,133	25,527
Jefferson	6,947	2,328	3,549	424	3,868	17,116
King	248,265	52,661	2,640	29,416	78,125	411,108
Kitsap	40,104	9,243	952	3,588	14,071	67,959
Kittitas	8,919	2,739	1,845	612	4,475	18,591
Klickitat	5,594	2,045	350	295	3,452	11,737
Lewis	13,534	3,701	6,177	1,053	5,895	30,360
Lincoln	4,022	1,717	207	145	2,968	9,059
Mason	11,512	3,280	3,537	860	5,273	24,462
Okanogan	8,482	2,648	3,663	571	4,341	19,704
Pacific	5,515	2,029	959	288	3,428	12,219
Pend Oreille	4,406	1,798	1,472	182	3,087	10,944
Pierce	125,288	27,011	1,003	11,715	40,283	205,299
San Juan	4,866	1,894	100	226	3,228	10,314
Skagit	20,311	5,115	8,247	1,699	7,981	43,353
Skamania	4,174	1,749	4,214	160	3,015	13,311
Snohomish	115,841	25,041	8,398	10,814	37,377	197,470
Spokane	74,007	16,315	100	6,822	24,504	121,748
Stevens	8,839	2,722	791	605	4,451	17,408
Thurston	42,157	9,671	5,710	3,783	14,703	76,024
Wahkiakum	3,077	1,520	961	55	2,678	8,291
Walla Walla	11,200	3,215	100	830	5,177	20,522
Whatcom	33,520	7,870	5,290	2,960	12,045	61,684
Whitman	9,428	2,845	100	661	4,632	17,665
Yakima	38,327	8,873	1,835	3,418	13,525	65,978
TOTALS	1,080,560	259,644	85,232	99,759	400,000	1,925,196

WSAC SUMMARY FINANCIALS

WHERE WSAC REVENUES COME FROM

2018 ONLY

	Total Revenue	% of Total Revenue
Membership Dues	1,891,281	54.3%
Special Assessments	35,000	1.0%
Revenue from Affiliates	591,153	17.0%
Contract Services	625,293	18.0%
Conferences and Events	136,438	3.9%
Endorsements & Other Non-Dues Revenues	194,750	5.6%
Net Investment Income	6,116	0.2%
	3,480,031	

DUES AS PERCENTAGE OF REVENUE

2013	46%
2014	50%
2015	52%
2016	49%
2017	43%
2018	54%
2019*	46%
2020*	46%

*Budgeted

HISTORICAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY

(Dollars in Thousands)

	2016	2017	2018
Revenues	2,754	3,163	3,480
Expenses	2,647	3,096	3,096
Dues	1,327	1,268	1,891
Payroll Costs	1,401	1,568	1,561
Dues as % of Rev	50%	43%	54%
Net Inc as % of Rev	1.2%	2.0%	7.0%
Staff Count	13.0	13.0	13.0

WHERE SPENDING OCCURS

2018 ONLY

	Total Expenditures	% of Total Expenditures
Policy and Legislative	698,245	22%
Member Services/Conferences and Events	566,772	18%
Affiliates and Contract Services	1,201,124	37%
General and Administrative	769,133	24%
	3,235,274	
Net Income	244,757	
Percentage of Net Income to Revenues	7.0%	

NET INCOME & CASH RESERVES

2019 AND 2018 BUDGET, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012

Year	Net Income	Cash
2013	60,660	464,100
2014	(6,408)	482,318
2015	85,432	502,796
2016	106,118	646,280
2017	106,230	851,196
2018	244,757	749,561
2019 Budget	6,719	751,280
2020 Budget	5,288	751,567

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER SERVICES



Derek Anderson
Director of Communications &
Member Services



The Communications and Member Services division is responsible for external and internal communications to members, which includes WSAC's brand awareness and digital media footprint. The division also supports advocacy efforts by developing resources and strategies to support members and staff when engaging with constituents and the legislature. Member services maintains relationships with private business partners and develops marketing plans focused on expanding services for counties while also generating non-dues revenue for the Association.

STAFF MEMBERS

Melissa Archuleta
Senior Conference Planner

Jason Bergquist
Affiliate Services Coordinator

Paige DeChambeau
External Communications
Manager

Tyler Melhart
Graphic/Web Design Manager

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019

- Created two major campaigns I Heart Counties and the Courthouse Pass to bring awareness to county services while also building pride in county government.
- Deployed a new website in partnership with Spry Digital Marketing designed to simplify the user journey and highlight valuable resources for members and those interested in learning more about county government.
- Increased digital media presence with a 275% growth in Facebook audience and a 19% jump in impressions on Twitter. This growth helps expand the reach of educational content and awareness of WSAC and its mission.

PREPARING FOR 2020

- Continue to build on efforts to grow WSAC's brand awareness through the I Heart Counties campaign, National County Government Month and the Courthouse Pass Program.
- Develop new online resources to support advocacy, education and public awareness of county government services.
- Re-launch WSAC Business Partners program in partnership with affiliates to build greater awareness and increased benefits for member counties.
- Expand learning opportunities for members through the County Training Institute by developing a new curriculum and investing in new technologies.

GENERATED
\$700,000 IN
CONFERENCE
REVENUE



COUNTY
COURTHOUSE
PASS

900+ COUNTY COURTHOUSE PASSES
DISTRIBUTED ACROSS THE STATE



LAUNCHED SIX
NEW WEBSITES



OLD



Washington State
Association of Counties
The Voice of Washington Counties

NEW



REFRESHED WSAC BRANDING

MANAGED OVER \$100,000 IN
NON-DUES REVENUE MARKETING



POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS



Mellani McAleenan
Director of Government
Relations & General Counsel



WSAC policy staff assists the LSC by tracking and analyzing legislation, making recommendations to the Committee regarding policy positions and legislative strategy, and meeting with legislators, drafting legislation, testifying before legislative committees, and generally acting in furtherance of WSAC policy on behalf of the LSC.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019

The four top policy priorities for the 2019 legislative session were funding to address fish blocking culverts at the state and local level, funding for foundational public health services, funding the full cost of trial court public defense, and opposition to any changes that will increase county costs without adequate funding provided (unfunded mandates).

- The successful passage of foundational public health legislation and funding appropriations
- The passage of SHB 1406, which allowed local jurisdictions to retain a portion of the State's sales tax to use for affordable housing
- Successfully prevented the passage of additional unfunded mandate legislation, such as additional pension costs

PREPARING FOR 2020

The 2020 legislative session is a supplemental, 60-day session, so it will likely not be a year to advance significant new policy or funding ideas beyond our 2020 Legislative Agenda. Additional priority issues may include vaping – lung injury, youth access, and product safety; affordable housing and homelessness; and environmental issues such as changing the standard for riparian management from no net loss of ecological function to net ecological gain.

STAFF MEMBERS

Jaime Bodden
Managing Director, WSALPHO

Paul Jewell
Policy Director

Juliana Roe
Policy Director

Jane Wall
Managing Director, WSACE

Mike Hoover
Policy Consultant



STRATEGIC LEGAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNICATION PROGRAM

The Association adopted a revised Integrated Strategic Legal Activities, Advocacy, and Communication Program to ensure the use of legal actions is an effective tool to advance the WSAC policy agenda in coordination with legislative advocacy strategies and actions. Our intent is that legal actions should be used sparingly and as a last resort. WSAC members and our affiliate organizations desire to develop and maintain positive, collaborative, and respectful partnerships with organizations we conduct business with, in particular, our important partnership with Washington State legislature and executive branch agencies.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019

- Challenged the constitutionality of Senate House Bill 2887 (2018) requiring Spokane County to elect a five-member, by district, Board of County Commissioners.
- Ask the Courts to hold Senate Bill 5472 (Ballot Drop Box Bill) is a violation of RCW 43.135.060, Prohibition of new or extended programs without full reimbursement.
- Initiated legal action regarding the State's constitutional duty of the state of Washington regarding trial court indigent defense.

PREPARING FOR 2020

During 2020, WSAC will continue to proceed with the active litigation that:

- Challenges the constitutionality of Senate House Bill 2887 (2018) requiring Spokane County to elect a five-member, by district, Board of County Commissioners
- Considers Senate Bill 5472 (Ballot Drop Box Bill) a violation of RCW 43.135.060, Prohibition of new or extended programs without full reimbursement
- Stipulates it is the State of Washington's constitutional duty to ensure adequacy and provide full funding for trial court indigent defense

COASTAL CAUCUS



Brynn Brady
Program Manager

COUNTIES INVOLVED

Clallam	Pacific
Grays Harbor	Pierce
Island	San Juan
Jefferson	Skagit
King	Snohomish
Kitsap	Thurston
Mason	Whatcom

The Washington State Association of Counties created the Coastal Counties Caucus, comprised of 14 counties bordering Puget Sound, Strait of Juan de Fuca, and the Pacific Ocean shortly before the creation of the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) in 2007. The Caucus creates a forum for Counties to interact, engage, and recommend WSAC positions on issues relating to the waters of Puget Sound, Hood Canal, and the Pacific Ocean.

CHAIR OF THE COASTAL CAUCUS

Jamie Stephens
San Juan County
Councilmember

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019

In 2019, the following items were accomplished to ensure coastal county interests and priorities were brought forward to the Legislative Steering Committee, state and federal agencies, tribal nations and other key stakeholders:

- Provided input, coordinated and drafted official WSAC responses and recommendations to the Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force
- Represented and/or coordinated representation in PSP meetings and other state efforts that impact communities along the Puget Sound and Pacific coast
- Monitored and reported on Puget Sound Partnership efforts that involved county policy interests including the Action Agenda Update, Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force, legislative priorities

PREPARING FOR 2020

Continuing efforts from 2019, the Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force recently delivered final recommendations to be considered in the 2020 legislative session. The Coastal Caucus has reviewed and commented on the draft recommendations released to date. Several of the recommendations directly impact counties, and continued representation and participation will be critical to ensure County interests are understood. It is anticipated that a variety of matters will need County attention during the legislative session, including:

- Increasing environmental standards (“net ecological gain”) in multiple statutes
- Revising stormwater/contaminant standards and programs
- Prioritizing fish barrier removal projects.

COLUMBIA RIVER CAUCUS

COUNTIES INVOLVED

Adams	Franklin	Pend Oreille
Asotin	Garfield	Skamania
Benton	Grant	Spokane
Chelan	Kittitas	Walla Walla
Columbia	Klickitat	Whitman
Douglas	Lincoln	Yakima
Ferry	Okanogan	

Neil Aaland
Program Manager



The state Legislature initiated the Columbia River Basin Water Supply Development Program in 2006. The purpose of the program is to seek out and develop new water supply in eastern Washington. New water supplies are intended for both in-stream and out-of-stream use; water from projects funded by the program is allocated 1/3 for in-stream use and 2/3 for out-of-stream use.

CHAIR OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER CAUCUS

Wes McCart
Stevens County
Commissioner

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019

- Continued analysis and advocacy associated with the Columbia River Treaty
- Continued engagement with our local government counterparts in eastern British Columbia, the British Columbia Local Government Committee
- Tracking related water developments including drought response, ecology rulemaking, and federal review of the Columbia River Systems Operation

PREPARING FOR 2020

We anticipate that activities for 2020 will mirror the activities for 2019. We will continue to:

- Engage with the efforts of the Department of Ecology to increase water supply in eastern Washington;
- Monitor the efforts around the Columbia River Treaty, including staying in communication with the BC Local Government Committee
- Engage with related work around water resources including the System Operation Review

TIMBER COUNTIES CAUCUS

**ALL 39 COUNTIES
INVOLVED**



Paul Jewell
Policy Director

Scott Swanson
Program Manager

The timber counties program works diligently to support, advocate for, and represent our member counties with interests in timberland management issues. This includes counties that are beneficiaries of State forestlands and counties with other private, state and federal forestlands utilized for commercial timber harvest, conservation, recreations, and other purposes.

CHAIR OF THE TIMBER COUNTIES CAUCUS

Tom Lannen
Skamania County
Commissioner

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019

Much of the work in 2019 has focused on the expected adoption of the Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy (LTCS). WSAC provided an extensive comment letter to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the LTCS.

Additional and related accomplishment for the Timber Counties program in 2019 include:

- Participated in a 5-day retreat in June with a broad group of stakeholders to renew commitments made several years ago as part of the Forests and Fish Agreement.
- Continue to represent counties on the Solutions Table.
- Continue to represent counties at the Timber/Fish/Wildlife Policy and the Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee of the Adaptive Management Program, working on evaluating the water typing system in the forested environment.

PREPARING FOR 2020

The adoption of the Marbled Murrelet LTCS by the Board of Natural Resources is expected sometime in December 2019. As a result, we may see the first impacts, both positive and negative, from the adoption during the next year. However, there are also several stakeholder groups and individuals considering litigation if there is a decision to adopt the LTCS as it currently is proposed.

FEDERAL ISSUES & PRIORITIES

The Washington State Association of Counties is engaged on federal policy development and advocacy pertaining to National Association of Counties (NACo) Resolutions, proposed federal legislation, agency actions as well as other federal issues and proposals that have direct implication and nexus to the operations and administration of county government in Washington State.

Federal Priorities:

- Infrastructure - Federal funding to meet the tremendous demand for infrastructure investment in Washington State.
- Catastrophic Wildfires - Changes and improvements in federal policy to reduce the threat and effects of catastrophic wildfires.
- Opioid Epidemic - Continued and increased federal support for Local and State efforts to eliminate opioid dependence, overdose, and fatalities.
- Payment in Lieu of Taxes - Full, predictable, and permanent mandatory funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) programs to assure counties receive a property tax like compensation for federal lands within their boundaries.
- Secure Rural Schools - Permanent reauthorization and funding of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program.

WSAC members participated in four advocacy efforts to meet with members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation in Washington, DC:

- January 2019, President Scott Hutsell and WSAC Executive Director, Eric Johnson
- March 2019, NACo Legislative Conference, WSAC Leadership/Members
- May 2019, Puget Sound Day on the Hill, WSAC Coastal Caucus Members
- September 2019, NACo PILT/SRS Fly-In, Timber Counties Committee Members

2019 FEDERAL ISSUES AND RELATIONS COMMITTEE

KEN DAHLSTEDT

Skagit County Commissioner, Chair

DENNIS WEBER

Cowlitz County Commissioner

BRAD PECK

Franklin County Commissioner

HELEN PRICE JOHNSON

Island County Commissioner

KATHY LAMBERT

King County Councilmember

GARY STAMPER

Lewis County Commissioner

JIM DETRO

Okanogan County Commissioner

DEREK YOUNG

Pierce County Councilmember

STEPHANIE WRIGHT

Snohomish County Councilmember

WES MCCART

Stevens County Commissioner

TODD KIMBALL

Walla Walla County Commissioner

ERIC JOHNSON

Executive Director

