

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Washington State Capitol building at dusk. The building's dome and classical columns are illuminated with warm yellow lights, contrasting with the deep blue twilight sky. A paved walkway leads from the bottom center towards the building, flanked by green lawns, trees, and small garden lights. The scene is framed by lush green trees on both sides.

Annual Report

2021



Letter from President Largent

While there are many valuable services WSAC provides, one should not underestimate the importance of relationship building that happens within our organization. I am particularly thankful for the relationships developed on the WSAC Executive Boards I have served on for the past three years.

We said goodbye to Scott Hutsell as our immediate past president (and one of my personal heroes) who left huge shoes to fill. However, Rob Gelder stepped in as our new immediate past president and continued the legacy of leadership and expertise of Commissioner Hutsell.

I am immensely proud of our current officers as they move up. Jamie Stephens, as our new president, is well prepared for his new role with his attention to detail and experience. Mary moves up to 1st Vice President as she has in my esteem, and friendship, over this past year.

Of particular note in 2021 were the number of boards and councils, 12 out of 39, where newly elected/appointed members were in the majority. What I originally thought was going to be a challenge turned out to be an opportunity in disguise. Our class of 2021 stepped up to the plate and, Covid restrictions or not, engaged with each other and WSAC. Even though our newly elected officials training was virtual, I was so blessed to engage with them and their enthusiasm. They have proved to be a new pool of leadership potential from which to draw.

I am thankful to have the support of WSAC during my tenure, together we have successfully managed a challenging and quickly changing environment. We are truly blessed to have Eric as our Executive Director. He put up with me for weeks straight during courthouse visits. Thanks to our policy staff, the outcome of a remote session for counties was more positive than expected. Thanks to Bridget Lockling, our Director of Finance and Administration, our Exec Team was able to quantify the strategic direction given us by our Board of Directors in May of 2021.

Looking into 2022 our Exec Team, recommended to the WSAC Board of Directors, and now to our membership, a budget that restores resources with better policy research capacity and focus on emerging issues.

It has been an honor to serve you as your WSAC president. It has been anything but “lonely at the top” given the support of our WSAC staff, Exec Board and membership. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Largent".

Michael Largent
WSAC President



Table of Contents

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 4 | Who We Are |
| 8 | Litigation |
| 11 | Member Engagement |
| 12 | Communication & Member Services |
| 13 | Advocacy |
| 14 | Legislative Affairs |
| 18 | Federal Relations and Engagement |
| 20 | Counties Coastal Caucus |
| 21 | Columbia River Caucus |
| 23 | Timber |
| 24 | Financial Health |
| 26 | Contact Us |

Who We Are



Created in 1906, the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) serves the counties of Washington State. Members include elected county commissioners, councilmembers, and executives from all of Washington's 39 counties. WSAC provides a variety of services to its member counties, including advocacy, professional development, public-private business partnerships, and a forum to network and share best practices.

While voting within the organization is limited to county commissioners, council members, and county executives, the Association also serves as an umbrella organization for affiliate organizations representing:

- County Road Engineers
- Local Public Health Officials
- County Administrators
- Solid Waste Managers
- County Human Service Administrators
- IT Directors
- Planning Directors
- Clerks of County Boards

WSAC also works closely with its sister organization, the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO), which serves independently elected non-judicial county officials, including assessors, auditors, treasurers, prosecutors, coroners, clerks, and sheriffs.

The Voice of Washington Counties





Letter from Executive Director Eric Johnson

“Degree of difficulty is a concept used in several sports and other competitions to indicate the technical difficulty of a skill, performance, or course, often as a factor in scoring.”

I watched a bit of the 2021 Summer Olympics this past July/August and was intrigued watching the diving events by the fact the scoring for this event includes not just execution and performance but also the “degree of difficulty”. This got me thinking about WSAC members – the 139 County Commissioners, Councilmembers, and Executives – that lead county government here in Washington State. More precisely, about the challenges you face today compared to those of past county elected officials. I began to draw in my mind the distinct difference in being a county elected official currently and even just 3 years ago: The Degree of Difficulty.

Quite frankly, having been in and around County Government since 1984, I think it is safe for me to say that you each face unprecedented challenges. It is hard to fathom the complexity of the myriad of challenges counties have faced over the past 21 months. It has never been more challenging to be a public administrator or elected official. One silver lining is that county revenue is as strong for county government since the days of federal timber harvesting, federal revenue sharing, sales tax equalization, MVET for criminal justice and public health, and a 6% annual property tax increase limit!

While Counties’ response to the COVID-19 Pandemic has dominated our Association work since February 2020, it does not solely reflect the depth of activities for the organization. Yet without question, aiding counties respond and recover from the pandemic and understand the use Coronavirus Relief Funds and now American Rescue Plan Act funding have dominated our work and support of Counties. Additionally, we continue to work in these core program areas:

Association public policy development:

- **Transportation Funding**
- **Tax Reform**
- **GMA Reform**
- **Forest Resources and Public Lands**
- **Criminal Justice Reform**
- **Blake Decision Implementation**
- **Foundational Public Health Services/System Structure**
- **Public and Behavioral Health**
- **Housing and Homelessness**
- **2022 Legislative Agenda Development and Implementation**

Letter from Executive Director Eric Johnson Continued

Developing and planning to implement 2022-23 Organizational Goals, Objectives, and Actions.

Advocacy, coordination, communication, and representation with the legislature and executive branch agencies/offices.

Changing the manner that we deliver meetings, trainings and conferences from in person to virtual; to hybrid; with return to in-person.

Broadening our communication activities to keep our members informed on issues relevant to county operations.

Finding mechanisms to 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.

Perform affiliate management, coordination and communication.

Provide training through County Development Institute, virtual assemblies, and a myriad of other workshops and online sessions.

I continue to be passionate about county government and the services that you all oversee and deliver. County government is the heart of a system of representative democracy where we elect our fellow residents to govern, administer, and legislate the programs and services that affect our everyday lives. Those closest to us. We welcomed 40 new WSAC members this year. We have worked to provide them basic information on county government, subject matter information, tools to lead, and remind them to serve with integrity and stay focused on executing their duties with civility, thoughtfulness, professionalism. I hope we can continue to push for respectful dialogue with peers and the public who has entrusted us to lead County Government.

While the vast majority of our members stay out of the political fray, there still is an underlying political divide and political divisiveness that makes association management challenging. The ongoing distrust of our election system, continued political rancor, angst, protests, and unrest, adds to the challenges of finding common goals for members, and building a trusting and collaborative organization. It is even more important for us to focus on the policies, the issues, and content important to the operations and governance of Counties. To stay focused on our issues and not swept into the ugliness of divisive partisanship and issues peripheral to those directly relevant to county government.

I have had the honor this year of working with an Executive Committee that is as good as it gets. I cannot thank them enough for their patience and kindness. Their humor and humility. Their pragmatic and thoughtful leadership. For just being decent. I hope you will join me in thanking them for their willingness to commit the time necessary to lead WSAC. They embody the very best that one could ask for in elected officials and leaders of this Association.

Your WSAC staff is committed to serving you and working with each of you. To serve you with integrity. We constantly remember to stay focused on executing our responsibilities to you with civility, thoughtfulness, professionalism, and respectful dialogue. It is an honor to serve you, the elected and appointed county officials whom the public has entrusted to lead county government in Washington State.



Eric Johnson
Executive Director, WSAC

A close-up, high-angle photograph of a wooden gavel with a brass band, resting on a wooden surface. The gavel is positioned diagonally, with the head at the top right and the handle extending towards the bottom left. The wood has a warm, polished finish, and the brass band is a bright, reflective yellow. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

Litigation

Strategic Litigation, Advocacy, and Communication Program ensures that the use of legal actions is an effective tool to advance the WSAC policy agenda in coordination with legislative advocacy strategies and actions. Our legal actions are used sparingly and as a last resort.

...WSAC Board of Directors authorized a legal challenge to require the State to fully fund constitutionally required trial court indigent defense services

Litigation Activities:

On December 11, 2019, WSAC, joined by Kittitas, Snohomish and Whitman Counties, filed a complaint with the Court 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.

On October 14, 2020, King County Superior Court Judge Lee ruled that SB 5472, which mandated County Auditors to significantly increase the number of ballot drop boxes statewide at an estimated capital cost of over one million dollars plus yearly operating and maintenance costs, **“is an unfunded mandate pursuant to RCW 43.135.060.”**

State appealed directly to the Washington State Supreme Court which granted the State’s request for discretionary review and retained the case for a decision on the merits. Oral arguments in front of the State Supreme Court oral arguments are set for November 16, 2021.

On May 5, 2021, the WSAC Board of Directors authorized a legal challenge to require the State to fully fund constitutionally required trial court indigent defense services. WSAC and outside legal counsel are in process of finalizing the complaint, identifying and meeting with potential Co-Plaintiffs (Individual Counties, Groups, Organizations, Associations, Individuals), coordinating with outside experts, and refining the arguments that the State bears the financial responsibility to provide indigent defense services as required under the U.S. and Washington Constitutions.

On October 3, 2021, WSAC formally joined 21 Counties seeking a declaratory judgment providing that the State must reimburse the counties for all Legal Financial Obligation refunds required by the Blake decision as well as all other costs (judicial, clerk, prosecutor, public defense, administration and operations) that counties will incur in implementing the Blake decision refunds, vacations, and re-sentencings.





Over the past 36 months, WSAC staff has worked with counsel and county prosecuting attorneys on amicus briefs on issues that include:

- Personnel and Labor
- Public Works Liability
- Labor and Personnel
- Law Enforcement and Public Safety
- Public Health
- Corrections, Jails and Medical Costs
- Land Use and Zoning
- Taxation, Fees and Charges
- Public Records
- Constitutional and Administrative Authorities for County Elected Officials
- Franchise Agreements
- Juror Pay
- Public Health Responsibilities
- Trial Court Indigent Defense
- County Charter
- Forest Trust Land
- Individual County Commissioner Liability

Member Engagement



100%

of counties
are members
of WSAC and
NACo



100%

of counties were
represented
at the 2020
County Leaders
Conference



28

presidential
leadership
appointments
to NACo
committees,
caucuses, and
task forces



29

**WSAC Member
Meetings**

- 5 Board Meetings
- 21 Legislative Steering Committee Meetings
- 6 Federal Priorities Committee Meetings
- 12 Congressional Delegation Meetings
- 45 Virtual Assemblies

Communications & Member Services

The Communications and Member Services division is responsible for strategic communications, education, networking, member services, and events.



Twitter

1,949 followers

A 3% increase from 2020



Facebook

2,828 page likes

A 8.5% increase from 2020

25,000 User Impressions

Facebook post reach



Website

96,000 website visitors



Email

40+ COVID-19 News Emails

Key Accomplishments

1. Continued partnership with the Washington Counties Risk Pool to develop curriculum, communications, and investments in new technology for the County Development Institute of Washington.
2. Produced 2 in-person, 4 hybrid, and 4 virtual conferences with over 1,000 registrations
3. Merged our Friday 5 newsletter with a monthly installment of The Insider to create better cohesion for readers.
4. Restructured Communications and Member Services department during staff transitions.
5. Adopted hybrid meeting technology to better serve members online and in-person during hybrid meetings.

Advocacy



LSC members met weekly via Zoom



They met with:

- Roger Millar, Secretary, Department of Transportation
- Representative Jake Fey, Chair of the House Transportation Committee
- Representative Bill Ramos, 2nd Vice-Chair of the House Transportation Committee
- Senator Liz Lovelett, Vice-Chair of the Environment, Energy & Technology Committee
- Alice Zillah, Research Services Manager, Local Government Fiscal Notes
- Janea Delk, Executive Director, Community Economic Revitalization Board
- Dr. Umair Shah, Secretary, Department of Health
- Representative Joe Schmick, Ranking Minority Member, House Health Care & Wellness Committee
- Representative Noel Frame, Co-Chair, Tax Structure Work Group
- Senator Keith Wagoner, Co-Chair, Structure Work Group



During the 2021 legislative session **1073 bills** were introduced;



340

passed the legislature



18

were vetoed in whole (2) or in part (16) by the governor



105 Day
legislative session



Legislative Affairs

Every legislative session is unique in its own right, but the 2021 legislative session made history by adjourning in a fully remote atmosphere. Before implementing COVID-19 protocols, remote testimony was done on a trial basis only, so no one knew what to expect from a Zoom-based session. Legislators were encouraged to introduce fewer bills and focus on legislation that addressed COVID-19 challenges, improved racial equity, advanced economic recovery, addressed climate change, and increased revenue.

The remote nature of the session made traditional “lobbying” impossible, leaving staff to rely on 30-second testimony, telephone and video meetings, and email. Despite the difficulties, WSAC staff worked hard and achieved good outcomes for counties.

Priority Policy and Funding Advancements Include:

GOAL

Increased investment in fish passage barrier removal

OUTCOME: The legislature made modest investments for local governments by funding the Fish Passage Barrier Removal Board at \$26.79 million.

GOAL

Preservation and maintenance of county roads and bridges

OUTCOME: Programs administered by the County Road Administration Board were fully funded and received additional one-time transfers to offset losses from the last year. The newly created Emergency Loan Program also received a \$2 million appropriation.

GOAL

Expanded broadband access

OUTCOME: **ESHB 1336** and **2SSB 5383** both authorize expanded retail opportunities for public entities to provide broadband. ESHB 1336 authorizes public utility districts,

port districts, second-class cities, towns, and counties to provide retail telecommunications services. The legislature also provided \$411 million for loans and grants to promote broadband access.

GOAL

Investments in infrastructure and the Public Works Assistance Account

OUTCOME: The legislature allocated \$129 million in the capital budget to be awarded by the Public Works Board to finance loans for sewer, drinking water, solid waste, street, and stormwater projects statewide. For the first time in years, no funds were diverted to the Education Legacy Trust Account. CERB was allotted \$40 million for loans and grants for projects that construct, repair, and acquire local public facilities to encourage business development and expansion in areas seeking economic growth.

GOAL

Fully fund the Local Solid Waste Financial Assistance Account

OUTCOME: The local solid waste financial assistance program (LSWFA) that provides grants to county programs to implement their comprehensive solid waste management plans received \$14 million in increased ongoing funding for a restored funding level of \$24 million per biennium.

GOAL

Improve forest health and wildfire protection

OUTCOME: **HB 1168** provides new funding and authorizations for the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) to implement the 20-year forest health strategic plan, the wildland fire protection 10-year plan, and the Washington state forest action plan, including investments in fire preparedness activities, fire prevention activities, and forest health improvements.

Priority Policy and Funding Advancements Include (Continued):

GOAL

Manage water to meet current and future demand

OUTCOME: Budget provisos direct funding and create instructions for the Dept. of Ecology to develop greater transparency in the development of water banks while also providing grant funds for the creation of water banks for a public benefit in certain qualifying rural counties. The operating budget includes \$9 million in funding for the grant program, and the capital budget includes an additional \$5 million. **SSB 5230** is specific to the Columbia Basin Project and the agreements with the United States to allocate groundwater.

GOAL

Allow counties short-term fiscal flexibility to help weather the pandemic

OUTCOME: To help local governments help themselves, **HB 1069** allows certain existing revenues to be used for broader purposes for a limited time (generally, through 2023). The bill allows revenue from criminal justice sales taxes, the Criminal Justice Assistance Accounts,

and certain King County excess property tax levies to supplant existing funds through December 31, 2023; and reduces restrictions on the allowed use of funds from criminal justice sales taxes and real estate excise taxes through December 31, 2023. It does not increase any revenue or impose any new taxes.

GOAL

Continued support for local public health

OUTCOME: \$147 million was appropriated for Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) in addition to the existing \$28 million ongoing funding, bringing the total FPHS allocation to the governmental public health system to \$175 million ongoing. This allocation will work through the concurrence process outlined in RCW 43.70.515.

GOAL

Allow a person to keep their Medicaid benefits while incarcerated

OUTCOME: **SHB 1348** requires the Health Care Authority (HCA) to seek

a waiver from the federal government to allow incarcerated individuals to maintain their Medicaid benefits for the first 29 days of incarceration at a state or local institution. **E2SSB 5304** requires the HCA to apply for a Medicaid waiver to allow those in confinement to use their Medicaid benefits up to 30 days before the individual's release or discharge. These two bills will save counties money on jail health care costs if the federal government grants the waivers and would provide for a more successful recovery and reentry into our communities.

GOAL

Increase support for mental health and substance use disorder treatment programs

OUTCOME: **E2SHB 1477** establishes the 988 Mental Health Crisis Hotline system that Congress passed last October. The Department of Health (DOH) and the HCA are required to collaborate to establish state crisis call center hubs and an enhanced crisis response system that enables cross-system collaboration to prepare for implementing the 988 crisis

Priority Policy and Funding Advancements Include (Continued):

hotline. It creates a Crisis Response Improvement Strategy Committee to plan for the implementation of the 988 crisis hotline and the crisis response system enhancements. The legislature also provided \$517 million in state and federal funds to increase behavioral health services, including provider rate increases, community supports, and crisis teams. The legislature passed **ESB 5476** in response to the State v. Blake decision that made personal drug possession a misdemeanor until July 2023 and invested heavily in substance use disorder treatment.

GOAL

Continued investment in affordable housing


OUTCOME: The legislature passed **E2SHB 1277**, which establishes a \$100 surcharge on recorded documents to fund various housing services, including the Affordable Housing for All Account for the operations, maintenance, and services costs for permanent supportive housing; a landlord mitigation program; and the Home Security Fund Account.

GOAL

COVID-19 pandemic response support

OUTCOME: The budget includes robust support for public health's ongoing coronavirus response – roughly \$1.5 billion of the state's federal allocation will support vaccine distribution and administration, COVID testing and contact tracing, and general response work. Funding is directed to the DOH, which is required to dedicate funding to local health jurisdictions.





Federal Relations and Engagement

The Washington State Association of Counties participates in federal issue policy development and advocacy while striving to build positive working relationships with federal elected and appointed officials.

Federal Priorities

Federal Advocacy Activities

WSAC members conducted “virtual advocacy efforts” with members and staff of the Washington State Congressional Delegation during 2021. Meeting with members to discuss the linkage between federal policy and legislation and the services that Washington’s 39 counties deliver.

COVID-19 Pandemic Relief and Assistance and Support

Washington’s 39 Counties and 35 Local Health Jurisdictions are the frontline response to population based public health in Washington State and the COVID-19 Pandemic Response. The actions of congress have provided significant resources to our state’s counties and local health jurisdictions including:

- \$950 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds
- \$1.5 Billion in American Rescue Plan

Medicaid Inmate Exclusion

Congress needs to eliminate the “Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy” that does not differentiate between a convicted inmate and a person incarcerated prior to conviction. Congress needs to reinstate federal health care benefits for non-convicted justice involved individuals.

Infrastructure

Federal funding and partnership is necessary to meet the tremendous demand for infrastructure investment in Washington State.

Catastrophic Wildfires

Federal policy and legislation to reduce the threat and effects from of catastrophic wildfires.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes

WSAC supports extending full, predictable, and permanent mandatory funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2019, 37 counties received \$24 million in PILT.

Secure Rural Schools

WSAC supports permanent reauthorization and funding of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program. In Federal Fiscal Year 2019, Washington’s counties (26 of 39) received \$13.9 million in SRS funding.



Counties Coastal Caucus

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. The program also supports members of the Puget Sound Partnership's Ecosystem Coordination Board and Salmon Recovery Council, both of which have County elected official representation. The Caucus works to ensure coastal county interests and priorities are brought forward to the Legislative Steering Committee, state and federal agencies, tribal nations, and other key stakeholders.

Key Accomplishments

1. Monitored and reported on Puget Sound Partnership efforts that involved county policy interests to WSAC policy staff and the Counties Coastal Caucus including the 2022-2026 Action Agenda update (strategies, actions and policy recommendations), Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan Regional Chapters update, and continuation of the Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force recommendations including net ecological gain and climate resiliency policy proposals.
2. Communicated Puget Sound Partnership legislative priorities and the Leadership Council's work with Project Olga, an effort to prioritize salmon recovery actions in the state.
3. Planned and coordinated the annual meeting for the WSAC Leaders Conference to include peer to peer information sharing and engage with state legislators.
4. Updated the WSAC policy statement for the Puget Sound Partnership to incorporate updated information, objectives, and goals in the state's salmon recovery efforts.

Columbia River Caucus

The Columbia River Basin Water Supply Development Program was initiated by the Legislature 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 are allocated 1/3 for in-stream use and 2/3 for out-of-stream use.

WSAC receives funding from the Department of Ecology to provide staff support to eastern Washington county commissioners. This allows commissioners to participate as full partners in the program. The commissioners meet quarterly as the Columbia River Caucus.

Facts about the program:

1. The program was authorized for a ten-year life, beginning in 2006 and is continuing past that limit
2. \$200 million in state bonding capacity was authorized – this has been spent and funding for new projects is allocated each biennium
3. The Program has broad support from most stakeholders
4. As of December 2019, 413,845 acre-feet of new water supply had been made available through the program

Columbia River Caucus Continued



Key Accomplishments

1. Caucus members continue to monitor Columbia River Treaty negotiations between the U.S. and Canada. We have participated in this work from the start of the review process (2011).
2. New members appointed in November of 2020 started their representation on the Columbia River Policy Advisory Group (CRPAG). These members work with others on the CRPAG to advise the Office of Columbia River on administering the Columbia River Program. Counties have been a part of the CRPAG since its creation in 2006.
3. Quarterly meetings of the Columbia River Caucus were held to inform members of issues affecting the Columbia River system and to engage directly with Ecology.
4. Caucus staff and leadership monitored and informed members about proposals to breach the lower Snake River Dams, particularly the well-publicized proposal from U.S. Representative Mike Simpson of Idaho. His proposal is a \$34 billion plan which includes breaching the dams, environmental restoration, and investments in economic development for impacted communities.
5. Assisted the WSAC Federal Issues and Relations Committee with policy language concerning any proposals to breach the lower Snake River Dams. The policy was adopted by the committee.
6. Also assisted with updating policy on Columbia River Treaty negotiations.
7. Negotiated the receipt of funding to develop and implement a new training program for WSAC members focusing on water law, water-related issues, and the Columbia River Program as part of WSAC's funding contract from the Department of Ecology. The training program is under development and should be deployed in 2022.
8. Neil Aaland, long-time facilitator for the Columbia River Caucus, retired in 2021. WSAC has decided to undertake facilitation and management responsibilities within current staff. Paul Jewell, Policy Director – Water, Land Use, Natural Resources, & Environment, has been assigned to work with the Caucus moving forward.



Timber

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, recreation, and other purposes.

Key Accomplishments

1. Successfully partnered with the Washington Family Forestry Association to request a direct appropriation for funding to participate in the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, & Research (CMER) Committee. WSAC received \$160,000 in new funding for 2021 and 2022 state fiscal years.
2. We recruited and retained a new, PhD scientist to represent WSAC members on the CMER Committee and to assist with statewide timber issues.
3. Completed and released the economic impact study on the Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy.
4. Supported the successful passage of HB 1168, providing substantial additional funding for forest health and wildfire preparedness.
5. Implemented bi-monthly meetings with all staff working on timber issues to enhance communication and information exchange.
6. Prepared an amicus brief in the Conservation Northwest v. Hilary Franz case before the Washington State Supreme Court.
7. Attended the Carbon Friendly Forest Annual Conference and presented on wildfire preparedness.
8. Held quarterly meetings with the Timber Counties Caucus members to receive reports from WSAC Representatives on the Board of Natural Resources, Forest Practices Board, TFW Policy Committee, and CMER Committee, updates from DNR, and to provide information on developing topics in forest management.
9. Formed a subcommittee to review the Trust Land Performance Report and develop a written response to DNR on our evaluation of the recommendations by Deloitte. The response was approved by the Timber Counties Caucus. WSAC and DNR met several times, including twice with the Timber Counties Caucus to discuss our evaluation results and a process for taking the next steps on the recommendations.
10. Represented WSAC on each of the Adaptive Management Program (AMP) functions, Forest Practice Board, Policy and CMER. The important issues facing counties currently are fish distribution and protection of water quality, murrelet habitat on private forestland and the opportunities to improve the AMP process.

Financial Health

Accomplishments

1.

Migrated accounting software to the cloud

2.

Integrated communication, member services, operations and administration into one department

3.

Implemented new tracking and reporting process for member reimbursements

4.

Increased level of coding detail for budget tracking, reporting, and forecasting

Financial Dashboard

Total Assets: \$1,419,376

Cash: \$661,591

A/R & Prepays: \$541,284

Fixed & Long-Term Assets: \$216,502

Liabilities: \$404,473

Payables: \$348,846

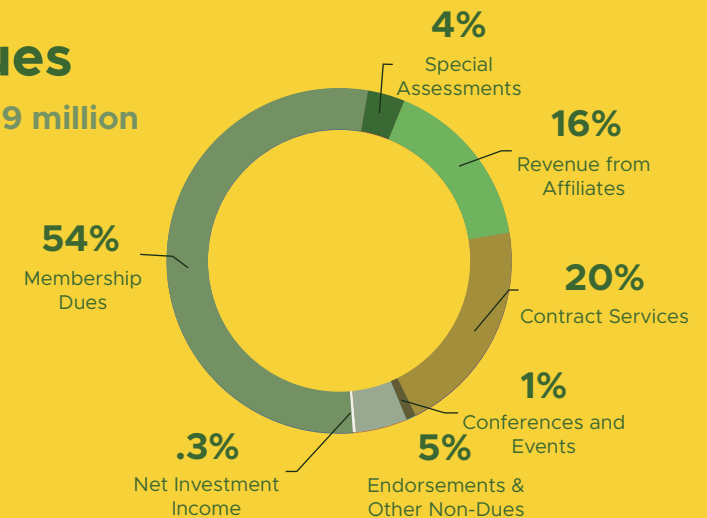
Deferred Rev: \$55,627

Net Assets: \$1,014,903

Change from 2019: (\$26,881)

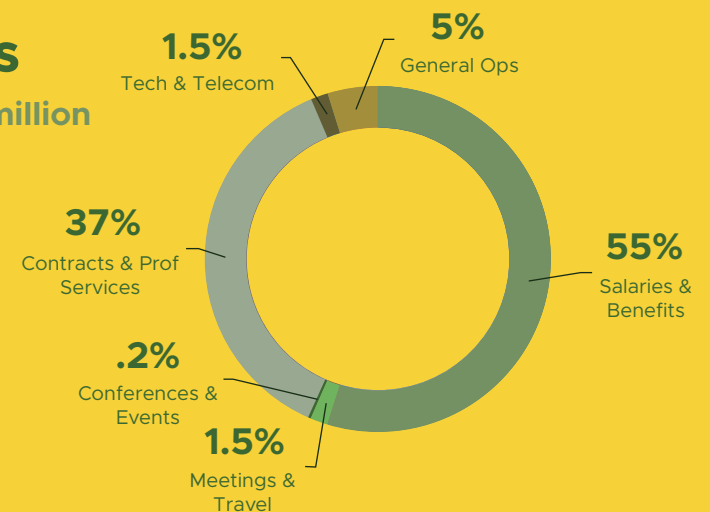
2020 Revenues

Total: \$3.659 million



2020 Expenses

Total: \$3.584 million



Staff

Administration & Finance



Eric Johnson
Executive Director



Lynn Fiorillo-Lowe
Operations and
Support Assistant



Bridget Lockling
Director, Finance
and Administration

Communications & Member Services



Melissa Archuleta
Senior Conference
Planner



Tyler Melhart
Graphic/Web
Design Manager



Mitch Netzer
Communications
Manager

Policy and Legislative Relations



Mellani McAleenan
Director, Government
Relations & General
Counsel



Jaime Bodden
Managing Director,
Washington State
Association of
Local Public Health
Officials (WSALPHO)



Paul Jewell
Policy Director
*Columbia River
Program*



Juliana Roe
Policy Director



Axel Swanson
Managing Director,
Washington State
Association of
County Engineers
(WSACE)



Mike Hoover
Policy Consultant
Mike Hoover
Public Affairs

Program Services



Brynn Brady
Program Consultant
Coastal Caucus
Ceiba Consulting



Court Stanley
Program Consultant
Timber Program
Heartwood
Consulting LLC

Executive Committee

2020-2021



President
Michael Largent
Whitman County



First Vice President
Jamie Stephens
San Juan County



Second Vice President
Mary Kuney
Spokane County



Immediate Past President
Robert Gelder
Kitsap County

Board Members

Chris Seubert, Asotin County
Will McKay, Benton County
Jerome Delvin, Benton County
Mark Ozias, Clallam County
Eileen Quiring O'Brien, Clark County
Temple Lentz, Clark County
Dennis Weber, Cowlitz County
Vicki Raines, Grays Harbor County
Janet St. Clair, Island County
Dow Constantine, King County
Joe McDermott, King County
Kathy Lambert, King County

Reagan Dunn, King County
Charlotte Garrido, Kitsap County
Cory Wright, Kittitas County
Chris Branch, Okanogan County
Ryan Mello, Pierce County
Derek Young, Pierce County
Megan Dunn, Snohomish County
Nate Nehring, Snohomish County
Josh Kerns, Spokane County
Al French, Spokane County
Wes McCart, Stevens County
Tye Menser, Thurston County

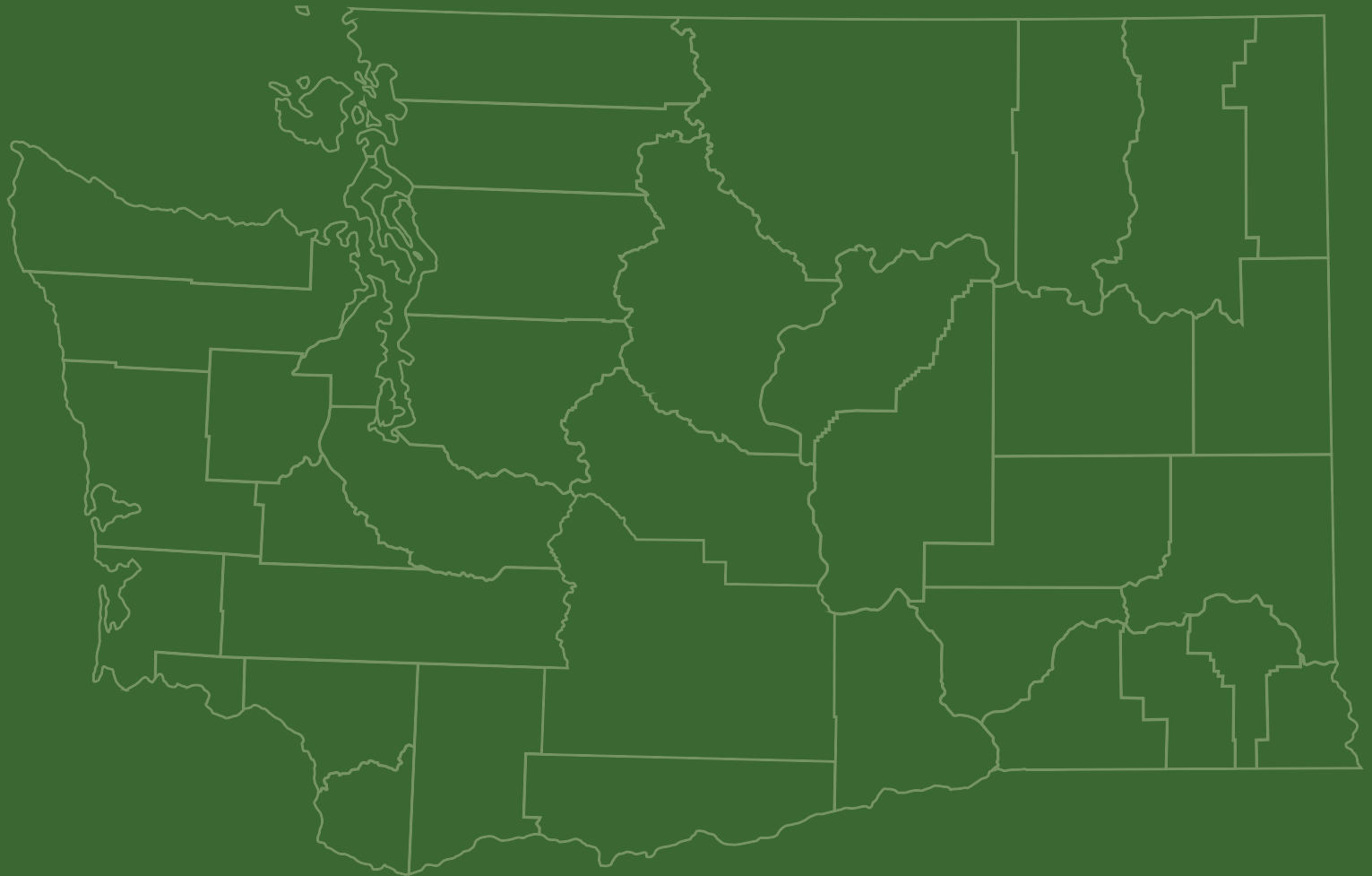
Gary Edwards, Thurston County
Satpal Sidhu, Whatcom County
Rud Browne, Whatcom County
LaDon Linde, Yakima County
Ron Anderson, Yakima County

206 Tenth Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

(360) 753-1886

info@wsac.org

www.wsac.org



WASHINGTON
STATE ASSOCIATION
of **COUNTIES**