

November 18, 2025



BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

**The Davenport Grand Hotel
Spokane County
Spokane, Washington**

Count	ByLaws Ref	Population	Executive Board Seat	Title	First Name	Last Name	County
12	< Quorum						
1	3.4a		President	Commissioner	Robert	Coffman	Lincoln
2	3.4a		1st Vice-President	Commissioner	Mark	Ozias	Clallam
3	3.4a		2nd Vice-President	Commissioner	Gunner	Fulmer	Walla Walla
4	3.4b, 3.17.2		IP-President	Commissioner	Lisa	Janicki	Skagit
			Board Seat	Title	First Name	Last Name	County
	3.4f	2,347,800	King County Executive		INACTIVE MEMBERS		
	3.4e 1	2,347,800	King County Council		INACTIVE MEMBERS		
5		946,300	Pierce (<i>Jaime Smith</i>)	Executive	Ryan	Mello	Pierce
6	3.4e 2	946,300	Pierce	Councilmember	Jani	Hitchen	Pierce
7		859,800	Snohomish (<i>L.Harper / A.Vaughn</i>)	Executive	Dave	Somers	Snohomish
8	3.4e 3	859,800	Snohomish	Councilmember	Megan	Dunn	Snohomish
9	3.4e 4	554,600	Spokane	Commissioner	Mary	Kuney	Spokane
10	3.4e 5	527,400	Clark	Councilor	Matt	Little	Clark
11	3.4e 6	303,400	Thurston	Commissioner	Tye	Menser	Thurston
12	3.4e 7	283,200	Kitsap	Commissioner	Katie	Walters	Kitsap
13	3.4e 8	261,200	Yakima	Commissioner	Amanda	McKinney	Yakima
14	3.4e 9	235,800	Whatcom	Executive	Satpal	Sidhu	Whatcom
15	3.4e 10	215,500	Benton	Commissioner	Will	McKay	Benton
16	3.4d 1		Eastern Region	Commissioner	Mark	Burrows	Stevens
17	3.4d 2		Eastern Region	Commissioner	Dan	Sutton	Douglas
18	3.4d 3		Eastern Region	Commissioner	LaDon	Linde	Yakima
19	3.4d 4		Eastern Region	Commissioner	Art	Swannack	Whitman
20	3.4c 1		Western Region	Councilmember	Jane	Fuller	San Juan
21	3.4c 2		Western Region	Commissioner	Sean	Swope	Lewis
22	3.4c 3		Western Region	Commissioner	Carolina	Mejia	Thurston
23	3.4c 4		Western Region	Commissioner	Sharon	Trask	Mason
			Board Alternate Seat	Title	First Name	Last Name	County
	3.4f	2,347,800	King County Executive	#N/A	INACTIVE MEMBERS		
	3.4e 1	2,347,800	King County Council	#N/A	INACTIVE MEMBERS		
1	3.4e 2	946,300	Pierce	Councilmember	Robyn	Denson	Pierce
2	3.4e 3	859,800	Snohomish	Councilmember	Jared	Mead	Snohomish
3	3.4e 4	554,600	Spokane	Commissioner	Al	French	Spokane
4	3.4e 5	527,400	Clark	Councilor	Glen	Yung	Clark
5	3.4e 6	303,400	Thurston	Commissioner	Vacant		Thurston
6	3.4e 7	283,200	Kitsap	Commissioner	Christine	Rolfes	Kitsap
7	3.4e 8	261,200	Yakima	Commissioner	Vacant		Yakima
8	3.4e 9	235,800	Whatcom	Councilmember	Kaylee	Galloway	Whatcom
9	3.4e 10	215,500	Benton	Commissioner	Michael	Alvarez	Benton
10	3.4d 1		Eastern Region	Commissioner	Chris	Seubert	Asotin
11	3.4d 2		Eastern Region	Commissioner	Scott	Hutsell	Lincoln
12	3.4c 1		Western Region	Commissioner	Vicki	Raines	Grays Harbor
13	3.4c 2		Western Region	Commissioner	Janet	St. Clair	Island
Affiliate Presidents			Board Affiliates (Non-voting Mbrs)		First Name	Last Name	County / City
			ACHS		Malissa	Shaughnessy	Pierce
			WACCC		Jennifer	Roll	Island
			WACSWM	Co-Chair	Becci	Piepel	Douglas
			WACSWM	Co-Chair	Margo	Gillaspy	Skagit
			WCAA		Matt	Rasmusson	Benton
			WSACE		Susan	Eugenis	Cowlitz
			WSACRPD		Michelle	Mercer	Benton
			WSALPHO		Carla	Prock	Benton-Franklin
			WSEMA		Alysha	Kaplan	King
			WSUEXT		Anthony	Gromko	Snohomish



**WSAC Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
2025 County Leaders Conference
Spokane – Spokane County
Tuesday, November 18, 2025 – 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

Lunch is available from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm – Grand Ballroom C

**The Davenport Grand Hotel
333 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. - Cedar Ballroom
Spokane, WA**

Zoom Meeting

<https://wsac-org.zoom.us/j/84883813366?pwd=T3Vjs5tVdhSdx3XbmGqOh90L9u58D9.1&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 848 8381 3366

Passcode: 920084

TIME*	Encl.	PRESENTER(s)	AGENDA	TYPE
Noon		President Coffman	CALL TO ORDER and Introductions; Establish Quorum	
	✓	President Coffman	1. APPROVE Agenda	Action
	✓	President Coffman	2. APPROVE MINUTES: September 18, 2025	Action
		President Coffman	3. President's Report	Report
		President Coffman	4. Public Comment Limited to Items on Agenda	
LEGAL AFFAIRS				
12:15 pm	✓	Derek Young	5. Potential or Pending Litigation 6. Amicus Update	Report
WSAC BUSINESS				
1:00 pm	✓	Derek Young	7. Proposed 2026 WSAC Board of Directors Meeting Schedule <i>Action: Consider Adopting the 2026 WSAC Board of Directors Meeting Schedule</i> Resolution: #2025-20	Action
1:10 pm	✓	Jessica Strozewski	8. Boards and Commissions (Nominations and Appointments) <i>Action: Consider Adopting Nominations and Appointments</i> Resolutions: #2025-21- #2025-24	Action
WRITTEN STAFF REPORTS				
	✓	Derek Young	9. Executive Director	Report

	√	Derek Young	10. Business Finance & Operations Report	Report
	√	Paul Jewell	11. Policy and Legislative Relations	Report
OTHER BUSINESS				
2:30 pm		President Coffman	12. WSAC Board of Director Reports from activities on Statewide Boards and Commissions <i>Presentation by WSAC Board Members on current issues relating to Statewide Boards and Commissions they serve/represent WSAC on</i>	Report
		President Coffman Commissioner McKinney Others	13. NACo Reports	Report
3:00 pm		President Coffman	ADJOURN	

***ALL times are approximate only**

NEXT MEETING of the WSAC Board of Directors

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 - 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Washington Counties Building – Thurston County – Olympia/Hybrid

Legislative Reception follows from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Uptown Grill – 514 Capitol Way S. – Olympia, WA

Washington State Association of Counties
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 18, 2025

Opening

The Board of Directors of the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) met on Thursday, September 18, 20225, at 8:30 am at the Windrow Hotel, Kittitas County, Ellensburg, Washington, via Zoom. According to Association Bylaws, all directors and alternates were notified of the meeting appropriately.

Board members present: President Rob Coffman, 1st Vice President Mark Ozias, 2nd Vice President Gunner Fulmer, Immediate Past President Lisa Janicki, Mark Burrows, Jane Fuller, Scott Hutsell, Kaylee Galloway, Jani Hitchen, Mary Kuney, LaDon Linde, Matt Little, Will McKay, Amanda McKinney, Carolina Mejia, Tye Mensner, Vicki Raines, Christine Rolfes, Janet St. Clair, Chris Seubert, Jaime Smith (Pierce County Executive), Dan Sutton, Art Swannack, Sharon Trask, Annika Vaughn (Snohomish County Executive), and Katie Walters. A quorum was present.

Staff and others present: Derek Young, Bridget Lockling, Travis Dutton, Lynn Fiorillo-Lowe, Marty Hall, Paul Jewell, Mitch Netzer, Brian Nichols, Ian Rogers, Mike Shaw, Curtis Steinhauer, Jessica Strozewski, Axel Swanson, and Josh Weiss

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda: The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am President Coffman determined a quorum was present to conduct business. It was moved, seconded to approve the agenda as proposed. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes of the previous meetings: A motion was made by Commissioner Art Swannack and seconded to approve the minutes of May 8, 2025, WSAC Board of Directors Regular Meeting as drafted. The motion passed.

President's Report: President Coffman reported on several activities and meetings that he has attended and participated in the past few months, as well as the Executive Retreat that was held in August.

An opportunity for public comment was provided—no public comments.

SOLUTIONS CENTER

Solutions Center Updates: Derek Young updated the members on the current news and updates regarding the Solutions Center, as well as the Health Trust. Both continue to be a work in progress.

LEGAL AFFAIRS

The WSAC Board announced an **EXECUTIVE SESSION** in compliance with RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to Discuss current and potential litigation at 9:20 am for twenty minutes. WSAC's legal counsel, Ian Rogers, was present and provided updates. The **EXECUTIVE SESSION** concluded at 9:40 am. No decisions were made.

WSAC BUSINESS

2026 Proposed WSAC Budgets: President Coffman, First Vice President Ozias, Second Vice President Fulmer, Immediate Past President Janicki, Derek Young, and Bridget Lockling presented the Proposed WSAC 2026 Budgets, which include the Proposed 2026 Operating Budget, 2026 Special Fund Budget, 2026 Strategic Litigation and Communication Program Budget, 2026 General, Transportation, Public Lands, Human Services, Solid Waste, County & Regional Planning & Strategic Litigation and Communication Program Dues Assessment Schedules.

*A motion was made by Commissioner Sharon Trask, and was seconded, to approve **Resolution #2025-16**, which recommends approval of the 2026 WSAC Operating Budget, recommends 2026 Special Fund Budget, urges the support of the 2026 WSAC Strategic Litigation and Communication Program Budget, and recommends the approval of the 2026 WSAC General, Transportation, Public Lands, Human Services, Solid Waste, County and Regional Planning, and Strategic Litigation and Communication. The recommendations will be presented to the WSAC membership for consideration and approval at the November 20, 2025, meeting. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed.*

2025-2026 Federal Issues and Relations Committee Roster: President Coffman and Derek Young presented the membership composition criteria and the nominees for consideration by the Board.

Resolution #2025-17: A motion was made by Commissioner Art Swannack, seconded by Commissioner Dan Sutton, to approve **Resolution #2025-17** as amended, which supports the slate of nominees and recommends in the resolution and authorizes President Coffman or the incoming WSAC President, with confirmation from the Executive Committee, to fill roster vacancies. The motion carried.

Statewide Board and Commissions: Jessica Strozewski reported on the nominations received for open county and local government-represented statewide boards and commissions positions.

Resolution #2025-18: The Emergency Management Council for an Alternate vacancy exists. A motion was made by Commissioner Carolina Mejia and seconded by Commissioner Tye Menser to approve **Resolution #2025-18** to appoint Commissioner Wayne Fournier, Thurston County Commissioner. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution #2025-19: Commissioner LaDon Linde made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dan Sutton, to approve **Resolution #2025-19** and transmit both Commissioner Wayne Fournier, Thurston County, and Commissioner Cory Wright, Kittitas County nominations, to the Community Economic Revitalization Board. The motion passed unanimously.

2024 Financial Audit: Bridget Lockling and Johnson, Stone & Pagano staff presented the contents of the 2023 Financial Audit Report.

Resolution #2024-20: A motion was made by Commissioner Dan Sutton and seconded by Commissioner Art Swannack will approve **Resolution #2024-20** to accept the WSAC Audit, Investment, and Finance Committee recommendation to approve the 2024 Financial Report and Governance Letter that Johnson, Stone & Pagano prepared. The motion unanimously passed.

Reports

Member Reports & Staff Reports: Member and staff reports were made available in the board packet.

Closing

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be on Tuesday, November 18, 2025.

Adjourn: There being no further business, President Rob Coffman adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted:

Rob Coffman, WSAC President

Gunner Fulmer, WSAC Second Vice President

AUTHORIZED AND ACTIVE LITIGATION**DCYF Intake Suspension – Pierce County et al. v. Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families – King Co. no. 24-2-17331-5**

On July 5, 2024, without prior notice, DCYF stated its intention to stop complying with its statutory obligation to admit juvenile offenders into Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) facilities “effective [that day].” As a result, youth have been forced to remain indefinitely in county detention facilities that vary in their capacity levels and program capabilities from county to county and often lack the treatment and enrichment programs the Juvenile Justice Act requires. The result risks the safety of youth in the justice system and transfers the current overcrowding and safety issues experienced in JR facilities directly to the counties. While DCYF has admitted that it acted “too abruptly” and “did not adequately consider the entire juvenile justice system as a whole,” it has nonetheless continued to violate its clear statutory obligation. Because DCYF’s conduct will result in irreparable harm to the affected youth and the counties, WSAC and co-plaintiff counties filed a motion for preliminary injunction in King County Superior Court on July 31, 2024, asking the court to require DCYF to comply with its statutory obligations. While there are many reverberating costs and complications related to this act, the main legal arguments included are:

- DCYF has a duty to comply with its statutory and legal obligations.
- Courts do not have the discretion to directly commit juvenile offenders to county facilities.
- The Juvenile Justice Act specifically obligates only DCYF to provide required rehabilitative facilities to juvenile offenders, and DCYF is denying them necessary rehabilitation, and public safety is negatively impacted by this suspension.

The preliminary injunction hearing was scheduled for August 14, 2024, in front of King County Superior Court Judge Whedbee. Once the suit was filed, the State reached out and asked if WSAC and its co-plaintiff counties would be willing to strike the preliminary injunction and come to an agreement on juvenile admissions to JR. On August 8, 2024, an agreed order was filed in which DCYF agreed to initiate the admission of juvenile offenders to DCYF facilities on or by August 9, 2024, and to provide transportation for such offenders, to the extent possible, to these facilities within three business days. DCYF also agreed to provide advance notice of at least ten judicial days to WSAC and its co-plaintiff counties of any future restrictions on admissions.

Since then, WSAC staff have continued communicating with DCYF and the Governor's Office to ensure continued compliance with the agreement.

WSAC is working with co-litigants on an agreement with the State to settle this case.

Civil Conversion – Pierce County et al. v. DSHS et al., No 3:23-cv-5775

Following repeated violations of court orders by the State, a coalition of 28 counties (Coalition) and WSAC (represented by Pacifica Law Group) filed a lawsuit in Pierce County Superior Court against the Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) on August 23, 2023, over DSHS's decision to stop providing initial evaluation and subsequent treatment for a rising number of patients in need of behavioral health support when exiting the criminal legal system.

The Coalition has also filed a motion for preliminary injunction to compel DSHS's immediate compliance with state law and court orders. The Coalition includes Asotin, Clallam, Cowlitz, Douglas, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln, Pacific, Pierce, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Spokane, Thurston, Whatcom, and Yakima Counties. Six additional counties have now joined the Coalition, including Chelan, Clark, Columbia, Garfield, Stevens, and Okanogan Counties, representing over 7 million of the State's residents.

When a person with a severe mental health condition or cognitive disability has their charges dismissed because they cannot understand the charges, DSHS is ordered by the Court to evaluate that individual and, if necessary, provide effective behavioral health treatment. This system, called a civil conversion commitment, focuses on people with severe behavioral health conditions whom the crisis and outpatient behavioral health system have not adequately served.

Despite court orders and state laws requiring them, DSHS has asserted that it is no longer obligated to evaluate or treat patients whose criminal charges are dismissed, citing a federal judge's orders in a separate case. To date, the agency has repeatedly argued that it will not follow what appear to be precise statutory and court-ordered legal requirements, leaving hundreds of individuals across the State to lose their chance for mental health treatment that might break the cycle of re-offense.

Charges are dropped against individuals when they are determined incompetent to stand trial, and the State fails to provide restoration services or cannot restore their competency. The individuals are then released into the community without facing justice or receiving the treatment courts have ordered. When DSHS fails to provide restoration services, individuals are referred back to their home counties to designated crisis responders, placing the burden of care on counties despite a state law requiring the State to do so. These releases compound a harmful cycle where the State does not meet its responsibility of care and leaves individuals at risk of re-offending, repeating the legal process without any interruption for care and treatment.

In the *Trueblood* case, after failing to follow its legal obligations, DSHS was held in contempt, and the Federal Court imposed a \$100 million fine. DSHS now claims that its refusal to follow state law with conversion patients is the fault of the Federal Court. However, nothing in the Court's order interferes with DSHS's obligation or ability to provide evaluations and restorative services.

While the State invested heavily in behavioral health in the 2023 legislative session and purchased a former behavioral health hospital in Tukwila to address a capacity shortage, DSHS has refused to provide the care ordered by courts and required by state law.

The request for preliminary injunction filed on the 23rd asked the Court to immediately order DSHS to comply with its obligations under state law. It created a pathway for the Court to instantly determine the underlying legal issue and restore the civil conversion commitment process.

The Coalition's motion for preliminary injunction was scheduled to be heard in front of Judge Alicia Burton on September 8, 2023, in Pierce County Superior Court. However, the State filed a notice of removal that moved this case to the federal court, which, in turn, canceled the September 8th injunction hearing to sort out jurisdictional issues with the federal court. In response to the notice of removal, the Coalition and WSAC moved to remand the matter back to Pierce County Superior Court as we believed the State improperly removed the matter to federal Court. Removal to Federal Court is only permitted when the complaint is founded on a claim or right that arises under federal law. However, our complaint was based solely on the State's causes of action for declaratory judgment, injunctive relief, and mandamus based on DSHS's violation of duties under a state statute and court orders. DSHS argued that the complaint was subject to removal because its defense rested on its interpretation of the recent *Trueblood* contempt order. However, we believed the case was not subject to removal from state court because DSHS planned to raise a federal claim in defense of state law action. Thus, the federal court was not the appropriate venue.

Because of the impacts of DSHS's improper delay tactics on patient well-being and public safety, WSAC filed an emergency motion for remand or, in the alternative, a temporary restraining order pending the determination of the motion for remand. This was filed on August 31, 2023. The case was assigned to Judge Pechman (the *Trueblood* judge), who declined to address the motion for remand on an emergency basis and noted the motion on her regular schedule, set for September 22, 2023. The Court refused to consider the interim request for a temporary restraining order.

On September 26, 2023, US District Court Judge Pechman granted Counties an Emergency Motion to remand the case:

"to Pierce County Superior Court for resolution of the underlying dispute between the Counties and DSHS. The issues presented in the Counties' lawsuit have only tangential relation to the rights at issue in Trueblood. Without a federal claim or substantial federal question, the Court lacks jurisdiction to preside over this lawsuit. The discrete and unique state law issues concerning civil commitment evaluation and notice must instead be decided by the Pierce County Superior Court, the forum in which the Counties initially filed this lawsuit. For these reasons, the Court GRANTS Plaintiffs' Motion to Remand and REMANDS this action to Pierce County Superior Court."

On October 6, 2023, Pierce County Superior Court Judge Michael Schwartz granted the Counties' Motion for a Preliminary Injunction. Under the terms of the order, DSHS was immediately required to perform its statutory obligation under RCW 10.77.086 to evaluate all new conversion patients. These are patients for whom criminal charges were dismissed after they were found incompetent and non-restorable. The Court further enjoined DSHS from releasing existing conversion patients without providing statutorily sufficient notification. The

Court indicated that it would have issued a Writ of Mandamus if injunctive relief was unavailable. DSHS immediately asked the court to stay the injunction for 90 days. The Court denied this request because the harm to patients and the community caused by DSHS's "dilatatory" actions was ongoing.

The preliminary injunction will stay in place until after a trial on the matter. Because there are no disputed facts, subsequent proceedings are really a formality.

In January 2024, the Coalition and the State were working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to settle the case that includes the following elements:

1. The receipt of patients by the State referred there by court order under RCW 10.77.086(7);
2. Advance notice by the State of the release of committed persons under RCW 71.05.425;
3. Assistance to the State by the Counties to limit or avoid overcrowding of state hospitals, regional treatment facilities, and other facilities and to improve the State's ability to meet its obligations under state law, federal law, and federal court orders;
4. The Counties' providing information and documents under RCW 10.77.075 to the State to improve the State's ability to proceed under RCW 10.77.086(7); and
5. Assistance is given to DSHS evaluators who seek good cause extensions from the court for time, under RCW 10.77.068(5), to conduct competency evaluations.

All counties signed the MOU by the deadline.

WSAC staff opposed legislation that violated the terms of the agreement and successfully amended the bill to achieve an acceptable outcome. We will continue to monitor and enforce the agreement as necessary.

Indigent Defense - Washington State Association of Counties et. al. v. State of Washington, No. 23-202911-24

In 2018, WSAC began to study the feasibility of potential legal action regarding the State's constitutional duty to provide trial court indigent defense funding.

- Pacifica Law Group researched and analyzed potential and likely claims – statutory and constitutional.
- WSAC filed an Amicus Brief on a case that asks if the State of Washington or the Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD) has an actionable duty to cure claimed systemic and significant deficiencies in a county's indigent defense services to juveniles charged with criminal offenses. (Davison v. State of Washington and Washington State Office of Public Defense, Supreme Court, No. 96766-1)X
- In 2017, the plaintiff, supported by the ACLU, sued the State, alleging that Grays Harbor County systemically failed to provide a constitutionally adequate indigent juvenile defense. Grays Harbor County was not named as a party to the suit. Davison asked Thurston County Superior Court to declare that the State and OPD must act when they become aware of a systemic failure by a county to provide a constitutionally adequate indigent juvenile defense.

- The trial court ruled that the State must act if it knows of a county's systemic failure to provide constitutionally adequate indigent juvenile defense without regard to whether the County could remedy the problem more appropriately.
- The State filed a motion for direct review to the Supreme Court on January 28, 2019, and the Court accepted the review.
- The Grays Harbor Board of County Commissioners formally requested WSAC to submit an Amicus Curiae Brief.
- The WSAC Executive Committee approved amicus involvement on April 7, 2019.
- The Pacifica Law Group, on behalf of WSAC, submitted an Amicus Curiae Brief on September 27, 2019, that made the following points:
 - The State of Washington has an *affirmative constitutional duty* to ensure the adequacy of indigent defense; and
 - The Court should not rule on who (State or county) is responsible for funding indigent defense because it was improperly before the Court.
- On November 12, 2019, oral arguments were made before the Washington State Supreme Court.
- The Supreme Court filed its ruling on 6/25/20 - <https://www.courts.wa.gov/opinions/pdf/967661.pdf>.
- The Washington State Supreme Court confirmed that the State must ultimately provide indigent defense services as required under the U.S. and Washington Constitutions. While the State has the discretion to delegate to local governments responsible for providing these services, *in so doing, the State must provide local governments with the authority and means necessary to furnish constitutionally adequate indigent defense*. The Court remanded the case to consider whether the systemic and structural deficiencies in the current state system, as alleged by the plaintiffs and described in WSAC's amicus brief, violate the State's constitutional duties.
- The plaintiff sought Supreme Court reconsideration.
 - WSAC prepared an amicus brief to support reconsideration.
- The Supreme Court asked the State to respond to the request for reconsideration (9/1/2020)
 - The Supreme Court denied reconsideration on 10/20/2020.
- WSAC reviewed potential concurrent or subsequent legal actions.
- WSAC initiated work on data gathering associated with indigent defense and county expenditures, systems of delivery, county revenues and expenses, etc.
- WSAC staff reached out to secure contact points for each county regarding this potential litigation as necessary.
- WSAC staff established a data/information steering committee with county budget and policy staff.
- WSAC contractor established an indigent defense data set and dashboard for counsel to refer to.
- WSAC explored/identified potential co-plaintiffs as part of potential litigation, including individual counties.
- WSAC counsel worked on an indigent defense complaint.
- WSAC completed a political and environmental scan on filing complaints and timing.

- WSAC considered intervening in Davison v. State of Washington and Washington State Office of Public Defense Supreme Court, No. 96766-1, on remand in Thurston County Superior Court should it proceed.
- WSAC Legal Committee and Legislative Steering Committee both recommended the following to the WSAC Board of Directors:
 - There are merits and reasonable grounds to support a legal challenge to require the State to fully fund trial court indigent defense services; and
 - The WSAC Legislative Steering Committee and the Board of Directors should consider recommending and authorizing a legal challenge requiring the State to fully fund trial court indigent defense services.
- On May 5, 2021, the WSAC Board of Directors authorized a legal challenge requiring the State to fully fund trial court indigent defense services.
- WSAC and Pacifica Law Group identified and met with potential co-plaintiffs (individual counties, groups, organizations, associations, and individuals).
- WSAC updated data and information.
- WSAC worked with a public defense expert to provide context for the lawsuit from a state and national perspective.
- WSAC identified potential "budget" coordinators to aid in the litigation. WSAC was in discussions with the potential contractor and in contact with Stellar Associates to provide support on budget analysis.
- In 2022, Kitsap County, Lincoln County, and Yakima County joined as co-plaintiffs.
- Pacifica Law Group worked with co-plaintiff counties on the final preparation for filing the complaint.
- WSAC prepared communication materials for the case to provide to both members and the media.
- A decision was made to file the complaint in Thurston County Superior Court.
- In late November 2022, Kitsap County informed WSAC it would no longer be a co-plaintiff in the case. WSAC staff discussed with the WSAC Executive Committee and counsel the need to postpone filing the complaint and take time to discuss and potentially locate another co-plaintiff county.
- WSAC staff discussed with several western Washington counties about joining as a potential co-plaintiff.
- In June 2023, Pacific County joined as a co-plaintiff in the case.
- On October 31, 2023, the State of Washington filed its response seeking to dismiss the Counties' lawsuit based on the argument that counties lack standing and cannot assert claims on behalf of indigent criminal defendants.

The Court set a schedule to hear the State's request to dismiss the case:

- 8/6/24 – Disclosure of Fact Witnesses
- 9/5/24 – Disclosure of Plaintiff's Expert Witnesses
- 10/5/24 – Disclosure of Defendant's Expert Witnesses
- 11/4/24 – Disclosure of Rebuttal Witnesses
- 1/3/25 – Discovery Cutoff
- 3/7/25 – Dispositive Motions Heard (on or before this date)
- 3/7/25 – Mediation/ADR Settlement Conference (on or before this date)

- 5/2/25 – Pre-Trial Conference
- 6/2/25 – Non-Jury Trial

Informal Settlement Discussions began in January 2024.

At the Motion to Dismiss hearing held on March 22, 2024, Thurston County Superior Court Judge Allyson Zipp dismissed WSAC's lawsuit. WSAC and its co-plaintiff counties had 30 days from the date the decision was finalized to appeal Judge Zipp's ruling.

- On April 18, 2024, WSAC appealed the ruling directly to the Supreme Court.
- WSAC's Statement of Grounds for direct review was submitted May 3, 2024.
- WSAC Board of Directors authorized continuing the appeal on May 15, 2024.
- WSAC won the appeal, and the State petitioned the Supreme Court for review.
- We continue to wait for a decision on the State's petition and expect one during their December conference.

AUTHORIZED AND ACTIVE AMICUS CURIAE

City of Sammamish v. John Titcomb, Jr. and Linde R. Behringer, Washington State Supreme Court, Number 101894-1.

The City of Sammamish filed for condemnation of Mr. Titcomb's and Mrs. Behringer's property on July 21, 2021, and subsequently moved for an order adjudicating public use and necessity. In February 2022, the superior court denied the city's motion and dismissed the condemnation action. On March 13, 2023, Division One of the Court of Appeals reversed the superior court's decision. The Washington State Supreme Court granted review which has been tentatively scheduled for oral argument during the 2024 Winter Term. King County prepared the amicus brief.

- 9/12/2024 Supreme Court affirmed the Court of Appeals and held that the City is statutorily authorized to condemn property for stormwater projects, pursuant to RCW 8.12.030, and remanded the case to the trial court for further proceedings.

State of Washington, et. al., Respondents, vs. DSHS, COA No. 57573-6-II.

The WSAC Board of Directors authorized an amicus curie brief in State of Washington, et. al., Respondents, vs. DSHS, COA No. 57573-6-II. The issue is whether counties can seek compensatory contempt sanctions against the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) when DSHS fails to timely transport Trueblood class members from jail, for admission at a state hospital for competency restoration, leaving counties to cover the costs of incarceration until the class members are transported. There is also a question as to whether a county may intervene in an underlying matter in order to pursue contempt sanctions against DSHS. The new schedule for this case is as follows:

- 12/4/23 – Opening Brief of Appellant
- 1/3/24 – Opening Brief of Respondent

- 2/17/24 – Brief of Amicus Curiae – After a motion under RAP 10.6 granting permission to file the brief, the brief must be filed no later than 45 days after the filing of the last brief of Respondent.

On February 28, 2024, Appellant (DSHS) and the Respondent-Cross-Appellants (45 individual defendants) filed their opening briefs. Pierce County will likely file its brief on June 28, 2024.

METHOW VALLEY CITIZENS COUNCIL v. OKANOGAN COUNTY, COA No. 407471

The WSAC Board of Directors authorized an amicus curie brief in METHOW VALLEY CITIZENS COUNCIL v. OKANOGAN COUNTY, COA No. 407471, and joined the Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys (WSAMA) to file.

The Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW (the“PRA”), serves an important public interest: providing the public with access to public records in furtherance of government transparency and accountability. But that transparency is not absolute, and in adopting the PRA, the legislature struck a balance between transparency and the needs of Washington’s public agencies to engage with and rely on confidential legal advice.

As a result, the PRA does not permit the public to access records protected by the attorney-client privilege. Washington’s public entities are permitted to consult with attorneys and obtain legal advice to best serve the public by understanding and evaluating the legal risks associated with their policies and decisions and to preserve that advice from disclosure under the PRA.

Based on the plain language of the PRA as interpreted and applied by the courts, legal advice given to public entities is not subject to the watered-down protections urged by MVCC. Instead, the PRA confirms that a confidential attorney-client relationship is fundamental to the efficient and effective function of government and the same protections afforded to advice given an individual or business.

The County’s redactions to the Memorandum for attorney-client privilege are fully consistent with the PRA’s directives and policies. By contrast, MVCC’s arguments ignore the PRA and the law governing attorney-client privilege. Accepting MVCC’s theories would erode public agencies’ ability to obtain protected legal advice to the public’s detriment.

Motion and brief filed November 7, 2024.

Jamie Beenen, Appellant v. Lewis County, et al. No. 59591-5 (Wash. Ct. App. Jan. 17, 2025)

WSAC Executive Committee authorized the filing of an amicus brief due to the possibility of a negative outcome, which would dramatically increase liability for counties as property owners and lessors. Jamie Beenen was in a skydiving accident with a company operating out of an

airport owned by Lewis County. Beenen asserts that Lewis County, as a government agency, has a special premises liability duty that would turn existing law and precedent on its head.

The trial court correctly dismissed on summary judgment, and we are asking the Appeals Court for the same.

- Motion and brief filed January 17, 2025.
- On 11/14/2025, the Court issued an order indicating that it will decide this case without oral argument. Ordinarily, although not universally, the decision of the Court to decide the case without argument means that the Court intends to affirm the trial court's decision.

November 18, 2025



BUSINESS ACTION AND REPORTS

November 18, 2025

TO: WSAC Board of Directors & Alternates

FROM: Derek Young, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Proposed 2026 WSAC Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

BACKGROUND

The Washington State Association of Counties Board of Directors historically schedules four Regular Meetings per year:

- One during the legislative session in conjunction with a Legislative Steering Committee Meeting
- One in the spring in conjunction with the selection of the WSAC Executive Director.
- One in the fall to review and approve the proposed annual operations and special fund budgets.
- One in November in conjunction with the WSAC Annual County Leaders Conference.

The WSAC Bylaws provides the following guidance on meetings of the Board of Directors:

3.7 Meetings

Meetings of the Board shall be open to all members of the Association, except for personnel matters or consideration of an emergency which requires otherwise.

3.7.1 Regular Meetings

By Resolution, the Board may specify the date, time, and place for the holding of regular meetings without any other notice than such Resolution.

3.7.2 Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board or any committee designated and appointed by the Board may be called by or at the written request of the President or two-thirds of the Directors in office or, in the case of a committee meeting, by the chairperson of the committee. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings may fix any place as the place for holding any special Board or committee meeting called by them.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. All **2026 WSAC Board of Directors** meetings will be conducted hybrid—person with a Zoom option unless otherwise directed by the WSAC Executive Committee.
2. The **2026 February WSAC Board of Directors** meeting will be conducted in conjunction with a Legislative Reception and Legislative Steering Committee Meeting.
3. May **2026 WSAC Board of Directors meeting** shall be conducted in conjunction with the biennial Legislative Steering Committee Legislative Agenda Development meeting.

4. The **September 2026 WSAC Board of Directors meeting** will primarily focus on reviewing the Executive Committee's proposed 2027 Budget and Dues Assessments.
5. The **November 2026 WSAC Board of Directors meeting** will be in conjunction with the WSAC Annual County Leaders Conference in Pierce County.

The following dates are recommended for the 2026 Regular Meetings of the WSAC Board of Directors:

Date	Day	Tentative Time(s)	Location
February 4, 2026	Wednesday	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	In-person with Zoom option Washington Counties Building Thurston County Olympia, Washington
May 13, 2026 Legislative Steering Committee Planning Meeting May 14, 2026 May 15, 2026	Wednesday Thursday Friday	5:00 pm – 8:00 pm 9:00 am – 5:00 pm 8:00 am - noon	In-person with Zoom option for Board of Directors Meeting only The Marcus Whitman Hotel Walla Walla County Walla Walla, Washington
September 17 – TBD	Thursday	8:30 am – noon	In-person with Zoom option TBD – Location
November 17, 2026	Tuesday	Noon – 3:00 pm	In-person with Zoom option WSAC Annual County Leaders' Conference Hotel Murano Pierce County Tacoma, Washington

In advance of the Association Board meeting on **November 18, 2025**, please check your calendars, other organizational events, and activities to ensure we have avoided potential conflicts.

Approve the attached Resolution to establish the **2026 WSAC Board of Directors** Regular Meeting schedule and distribute and publish the Regular Meeting scheduled to WSAC Members and the public.



Resolution #2025-20

WHEREAS, the Washington State Association of Counties Board of Directors desires to provide notice to WSAC members and the public of the 2026 Regular Meetings of the Washington State Association of Counties Board of Directors, and

WHEREAS, the WSAC Bylaws permit the Board of Directors to specify the date, time, and place for holding regular meetings and

WHEREAS, the following dates are proposed for the 2026 Regular Meetings of the WSAC Board of Directors:

Date	Day	Tentative Time(s)	Location
February 4, 2026	Wednesday	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	In-person with Zoom option Washington Counties Building Thurston County Olympia, Washington
May 13, 2026 Legislative Steering Committee Planning Meeting May 14, 2026 May 15, 2026	Wednesday Thursday Friday	5:00 pm – 8:00 pm 9:00 am – 5:00 pm 8:00 am – noon	In-person with Zoom option Board of Directors Meeting only Marcus Whitman Hotel Walla Walla County Walla Walla, Washington
September 17- TBD	Thursday	8:30 am – noon	In-person with Zoom option TBD – location
November 17, 2026	Tuesday	Noon – 3:00 pm	In-person with Zoom option WSAC Annual County Leaders' Conference Hotel Murano Pierce County Tacoma, Washington

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the WSAC Board of Directors establishes the following 2026 regular meeting schedule as provided for in Article 3.7.1 of the WSAC Bylaws:
The following dates are recommended for the 2026 Regular Meetings of the WSAC Board of Directors:

Date	Day	Tentative Time(s)	Location
February 4, 2026	Wednesday	1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	In-person with Zoom option Washington Counties Building Thurston County Olympia, Washington
May 13, 2026 Legislative Steering Committee Planning Meeting May 14, 2026 May 15, 2026	Wednesday Thursday Friday	5:00 pm – 8:00 pm 9:00 am – 5:00 pm 8:00 am - noon	In-person with Zoom option for Board of Directors Meeting only Marcus Whitman Hotel Walla Walla County Walla Walla, Washington
September – TBD	Thursday	8:30 am – noon	In-person with Zoom option TBD – location
November 17, 2026	Tuesday	Noon – 3:00 pm	In-person with Zoom option WSAC Annual County Leaders' Conference Hotel Murano Pierce County Tacoma, Washington

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WSAC staff is directed to publish and advise WSAC members and affiliates of the 2026 Regular Meeting schedule.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the Washington State Association of Counties on November 18, 2025.

Rob Coffman, WSAC President

Gunner Fulmer, WSAC Second Vice President

November 18, 2025

TO: WSAC Board of Directors

FROM: Derek Young, Interim Executive Director

PREPARED BY: Jessica Strozewski, Member Experience Manager

SUBJECT: Appointments and Nominations to Statewide Boards & Commissions

The following nominations were received for an open county, or local government represented positions on statewide boards and commissions. Attached are applications from each candidate.

WSAC Policy on Board Appointment/Nomination Process

For Boards or Commissions where the WSAC Board of Directors is responsible for nominating individuals, the following process will be used:

The Board of Directors may approve that all nominees be forwarded to the appointing authority for further review via voice vote.

For Boards or Commissions where the WSAC Board of Directors has appointing authority, the following process will be used:

For positions receiving two statements of interest, the Board of Directors shall conduct a hand vote to determine which candidate is the nominee/appointee. For positions receiving more than two statements of interest and where it is necessary to reduce the number of nominees, the board shall conduct an exhaustive ballot voting system until it is determined which candidate(s) are the nominee/appointee.

The exhaustive ballot voting system provides that each board member casts a single vote for their selected nominee. If no candidate is supported by a majority of votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and a further round of voting occurs. This process is repeated for as many rounds as necessary until one nominee has a majority of the Board of Directors present to vote. If more than one nominee needs to be selected, the Board shall continue to vote until a second nominee has a majority, and so on.

Nominations to the State Auditor

Local Government Advisory Committee

Eligibility: Representative of WSAC

Number of Positions: One | Applications Received: One

Grace Jimenez, Chief Accountant, Lewis County (incumbent)

Nominations to the Governor

Building Code Council (East)

Eligibility: County Elected Legislative Body Member or Elected Executive - Eastern region

Number of Positions: One | Applications Received: One

Tom Handy, Commissioner, Whitman County (incumbent)

Nominations to WSDOT Local Programs

Bridge Advisory Committee

Eligibility: County Engineer with knowledge and interest in bridges

Number of Positions: Two (1 East, 1 West) | Applications Received: Four

East

Michael Duke, Bridge Program Manager, Spokane County

James Wege, County Engineer, Lincoln County

West

John Becker, County Engineer, Grays Harbor County

Doug Ranney, County Engineer, Whatcom County



Resolution #2025-21

WHEREAS, the Washington State Association of Counties' Board of Directors is charged with making recommendations and/or appointments to numerous Washington State boards, commissions, and committees, and

WHEREAS, it is vital that county governments' interests are fully represented on statewide boards, commissions and committees; and

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy on the Local Government Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the following county representative has sought nomination for this vacancy:

Grace Jimenez, Chief Accountant, Lewis County

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Association of Counties' Board of Directors nominates the following county representative to the Local Government Advisory Committee:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WSAC staff be directed to immediately transmit the nominee's name(s) to the State Auditor's Office; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WSAC staff is directed to contact the nominees of their selection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that applicants not selected be notified and thanked for their commitment and interest in representing county government.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the Washington State Association of Counties on November 18, 2025.

Rob Coffman, WSAC President

Gunner Fulmer, WSAC 2nd Vice President



Resolution #2025-22

WHEREAS, the Washington State Association of Counties' Board of Directors is charged with making recommendations and/or appointments to numerous Washington State boards, commissions, and committees, and

WHEREAS, it is vital that county governments' interests are fully represented on statewide boards, commissions and committees; and

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy on the Building Code Council for an Eastern Region representative; and

WHEREAS, the following county representative has sought nomination for this vacancy:

Tom Handy, Commissioner, Whitman County

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Association of Counties' Board of Directors nominates the following county representative to the Building Code Council:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WSAC staff be directed to immediately transmit the nominee's name(s) to the Governor's Office; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WSAC staff is directed to contact the nominees of their selection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that applicants not selected be notified and thanked for their commitment and interest in representing county government.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the Washington State Association of Counties on November 18, 2025.

Rob Coffman, WSAC President

Gunner Fulmer, WSAC 2nd Vice President



Resolution #2025-23

WHEREAS, the Washington State Association of Counties' Board of Directors is charged with making recommendations and/or appointments to numerous Washington State boards, commissions, and committees, and

WHEREAS, it is vital that county governments' interests are fully represented on statewide boards, commissions and committees; and

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy on the Bridge Advisory Committee for an Eastern Region representative; and

WHEREAS, the following county representatives have sought nomination for this vacancy:

Michael Duke, Bridge Program Manager, Spokane County
James Wege, County Engineer, Lincoln County

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Association of Counties' Board of Directors nominates the following county representative to the Bridge Advisory Committee:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WSAC staff be directed to immediately transmit the nominee's name(s) to WSDOT Local Programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WSAC staff is directed to contact the nominees of their selection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that applicants not selected be notified and thanked for their commitment and interest in representing county government.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the Washington State Association of Counties on November 18, 2025.

Rob Coffman, WSAC President

Gunner Fulmer, WSAC 2nd Vice President



Resolution #2025-24

WHEREAS, the Washington State Association of Counties' Board of Directors is charged with making recommendations and/or appointments to numerous Washington State boards, commissions, and committees, and

WHEREAS, it is vital that county governments' interests are fully represented on statewide boards, commissions and committees; and

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy on the Bridge Advisory Committee for a Western Region representative; and

WHEREAS, the following county representatives have sought nomination for this vacancy:

John Becker, County Engineer, Grays Harbor County
Doug Ranney, County Engineer, Whatcom County

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Association of Counties' Board of Directors nominates the following county representative to the Bridge Advisory Committee:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WSAC staff be directed to immediately transmit the nominee's name(s) to WSDOT Local Programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WSAC staff is directed to contact the nominees of their selection; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that applicants not selected be notified and thanked for their commitment and interest in representing county government.

Approved by the Board of Directors of the Washington State Association of Counties on November 18, 2025.

Rob Coffman, WSAC President

Gunner Fulmer, WSAC 2nd Vice President

Member Nomination Form

Position of Interest: Local Government Advisory Committee

Name Grace Jimenez

Title Chief Accountant

County: Lewis County

Have you contacted the Board or Commission of interest or visited their website to review the meeting schedule and to determine if you are able to meet their requirements? Yes

As an appointee or nominee of WSAC, you will represent the interests and positions of the Association and act in the best interests of all counties. You may be required to report back to the WSAC Board verbally or in writing, upon request, about activities and decisions of the Board or Commission on which you serve. Do you agree to these responsibilities? Yes

Statement of Interest:

I am writing to express my interest in continuing to serve on the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) for another term. It has been a privilege to participate on the committee and contribute to the discussion and review of guidance in the BARS manual.

As Lewis County’s audit liaison, I work closely with the SAO throughout the year. Participation in the LGAC has provided me an opportunity to collaborate with the SAO in a capacity that extends beyond our annual audits. Serving on the LGAC has allowed me to provide practical input from a local government perspective, test new tools such as the SAO’s annual reporting portal, and offer feedback on SAO resources.

In the coming year, local governments will face a significant change in financial reporting due to GASB 103. I would like to remain on the committee to contribute to the review and development of implementation guidance and to assist my peers in navigating this transition.

I would be honored to continue serving and to build on the progress the LGAC has achieved in strengthening communication and collaboration between the SAO and local governments. Thank you for your consideration.

Member Nomination Form

Position of Interest:

Building Code Council

Name

Tom Handy

Title

County Commissioner

County:

Whitman County

If elected official, your current term ends?

Sunday, December 31, 2028

Have you contacted the Board or Commission of interest or visited their website to review the meeting schedule and to determine if you are able to meet their requirements?

Yes

As an appointee or nominee of WSAC, you will represent the interests and positions of the Association and act in the best interests of all counties. You may be required to report back to the WSAC Board verbally or in writing, upon request, about activities and decisions of the Board or Commission on which you serve. Do you agree to these responsibilities?

Yes

Statement of Interest:

I currently serve on the Building Code Council representing the Eastern Washington Counties, and am Chair of the SBCC Legislative Committee. I wish to continue to provide a rural Eastern Washington border county perspective on building codes as they are developed. I bring an understanding of the code development process, having served for the past three years, and a broad mechanical background with a common-sense approach to accomplishing goals.

Member Nomination Form

Position of Interest: Bridge Advisory Committee

Name Michael Duke

Title Bridge Program Manager

County: Spokane County

Have you contacted the Board or Commission of interest or visited their website to review the meeting schedule and to determine if you are able to meet their requirements? Yes

As an appointee or nominee of WSAC, you will represent the interests and positions of the Association and act in the best interests of all counties. You may be required to report back to the WSAC Board verbally or in writing, upon request, about activities and decisions of the Board or Commission on which you serve. Do you agree to these responsibilities? Yes

Statement of Interest:

Selection committee,

I am writing to express my interest in serving as a representative for WSAC on the Bridge Advisory Committee. With over 30 years of experience in bridge planning, design, construction, engineering and condition evaluation for Spokane County’s bridges. I bring a deep understanding of the structural, logistical, environmental and funding challenges which are not unique to my region.

As the Bridge Program Manager for Spokane County, I have been involved with all phases of our bridge program. From planning through construction of many bridge projects, spanning rural, urban, and environmentally sensitive areas, continually prioritizing repairs and projects based on condition, public safety, route type, ADT and more with the ongoing challenge of tight budgets and limited funding opportunities. This body of work has given me a comprehensive perspective on both the technical and policy aspects of bridge infrastructure from aging rural spans to high-capacity arterials. I have helped ensure safety, resilience, and long-term serviceability in the face of funding challenges and

evolving standards.

Having worked closely with WSDOT Local Programs, adjacent counties, contractors, and the many regulatory agencies, I recognize the importance of collaborative planning and evidence-based decision-making—key attributes I would bring to the Bridge Advisory Committee. I have years of experience with prioritizing and funding challenges for bridge repair, rehabilitation and replacement projects faced by many if not all the other counties in Washington. I am also deeply invested in advocating for all the counties regarding their infrastructure needs, knowing today’s budget constraints and I believe it is vital that they have a voice in bridge funding priorities.

I am passionate about advancing safe, efficient, and sustainable bridge infrastructure across the state, and I would be honored to contribute my experience and unbiased insight to the committee. Thank you for considering my application. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how my background aligns with the goals of the WSAC Bridge Advisory Committee.

Michael J Duke Jr., P.E.

Bridge Program Manager

Spokane County Public Works

509-477-7689

mduke@spokanecounty.gov

Member Nomination Form

Position of Interest:

Bridge Advisory Committee

Name

James Wege

Title

County Engineer

County:

Lincoln County

Have you contacted the Board or Commission of interest or visited their website to review the meeting schedule and to determine if you are able to meet their requirements?

Yes

As an appointee or nominee of WSAC, you will represent the interests and positions of the Association and act in the best interests of all counties. You may be required to report back to the WSAC Board verbally or in writing, upon request, about activities and decisions of the Board or Commission on which you serve. Do you agree to these responsibilities?

Yes

Statement of Interest:

I'm interested in serving on the [Bridge Advisory Committee](#) to help fund infrastructure improvements in Washington communities.

Creating the infrastructure that enhances communities is best managed by the local agencies, who know their specific needs and requirements. These eligible applicants often do not have local revenue sufficient to self-fund their projects. As a member of the Bridge Advisory Committee, I will collaboratively evaluate and score proposals, leveraging my decades of experience in public sector bridge engineering, to distribute funds to those projects with the greatest benefit and chance of success.

From 2001 to 2021, I worked for WSDOT inspecting an aging infrastructure of bridges, ferry terminals, tunnels, overhead signs, radio towers, and other structures. I've seen firsthand how deferred maintenance has negative effects on steel, concrete, and wood, and the electrical and mechanical components that keep our modern world in motion. Now, as a County Engineer with experience in two rural counties, I see the financial challenges our local communities face. Costs rise, while revenue stagnates

we will each bring our unique experience and perspective to evaluating funding applications. In this era of declining funding, difficult choices must be made, and engineers can dispassionately and responsibly match the greatest benefit with the greatest need.

Thank you for the opportunity!

Member Nomination Form

Position of Interest:

Bridge Advisory Committee

Name

John Becker

Title

County Engineer

County:

Grays Harbor County

Have you contacted the Board or Commission of interest or visited their website to review the meeting schedule and to determine if you are able to meet their requirements?

Yes

As an appointee or nominee of WSAC, you will represent the interests and positions of the Association and act in the best interests of all counties. You may be required to report back to the WSAC Board verbally or in writing, upon request, about activities and decisions of the Board or Commission on which you serve. Do you agree to these responsibilities?

Yes

Statement of Interest:

I am interested in serving on the Bridge Advisory Committee out of a desire to better understand the work the committee performs. My understanding is the committee provides valuable recommendations for funding cycle priorities, selection criteria and ultimately aids in the selection of funded projects. From the perspective of Grays Harbor County, we have a significant interest the funding cycle selection as we are the County with the 5th most bridges. We would like to see an emphasis on the replacement of timber bridges as they are style of construction no longer being designed. Our agency has many timber structures beyond their design life with limited funding options to support repair and replacement.

I would be interested to hear the Committee's opinion on timber structures as an emphasis of replacing them could likely aid both Counties and Cities. It is true that timber is an easy material to repair defects, but this comes at the expense of the local agency. Grays Harbor County is experiencing this firsthand as we are funding repairs with Road fund dollars, taking away from other maintenance or funds that could be saved for future project matches.

Although my interests are biased towards the needs of Grays Harbor County, I would take into account priorities relayed to me by other agencies or the Washington State Association of Counties. The Association of County Engineers, in particular, does a good job of gathering input from the members. Working with WSACE, I would have a clear consensus of top needs of Western Washington Counties as well as Counties statewide.

Additional information that may be pertinent is that I have a Washington State Bridge Inspector Number, G1610. I obtained this certification in October of 2016. I have a background in both construction and design. Construction has included both civil projects as well as structural bridges, including prestressed concrete bridges and corrugated metal structures. My design emphasis has primarily been Stormwater, roadway and fish passage. This diverse background may be a valuable perspective to the Bridge Advisory

Committee.

Member Nomination Form

Position of Interest: Bridge Advisory Committee

Name Doug Ranney

Title County Engineer

County: Whatcom County

Have you contacted the Board or Commission of interest or visited their website to review the meeting schedule and to determine if you are able to meet their requirements? Yes

As an appointee or nominee of WSAC, you will represent the interests and positions of the Association and act in the best interests of all counties. You may be required to report back to the WSAC Board verbally or in writing, upon request, about activities and decisions of the Board or Commission on which you serve. Do you agree to these responsibilities? Yes

Statement of Interest:

Statement of Interest

Application for Appointment to the Washington State Bridge Advisory Committee

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the Washington State Bridge Advisory Committee. As a licensed Professional Engineer since 2008 and currently serving as a County Engineer in the Pacific Northwest, I bring over 20 years of experience working with bridges in a variety of roles, including inspection, design, rehabilitation, and program management.

My professional background includes a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Purdue University with a structural engineering focus, and certification as an NBIS-qualified bridge inspector. Throughout my career, I have worked

closely with local, state, and federal partners to improve the safety and longevity of bridge infrastructure across diverse communities and landscapes.

In addition to traditional bridge management, I have been involved in efforts to address fish passage barriers through the replacement of culverts and other stream crossings. These projects, while rooted in transportation infrastructure, also support broader environmental and regulatory goals, particularly in ecologically sensitive areas of our region. I believe this integrated perspective—balancing structural needs with environmental considerations—aligns well with the values and responsibilities of the Bridge Advisory Committee.

I would welcome the opportunity to contribute my experience and field-based insight to the Committee’s work. I am particularly interested in supporting efforts that improve bridge safety, promote practical solutions for local agencies, and ensure that state policies and funding programs reflect both current challenges and long-term needs.

Thank you for considering my application. I would be honored to serve and help advance Washington State’s bridge infrastructure in a meaningful way.

Sincerely,

Doug Ranney

November 18, 2025



STAFF REPORTS



November 18, 2025

TO: WSAC Board of Directors & Alternates
FROM: Derek Young, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director Report

Dear Board Members,

Since our September Board Meeting, staff have been busy planning your conference, developing a new communications plan, making significant progress in finalizing plans for the short session, navigating some challenging policy areas with our partners, and managing transitions within our team.

We understand these are very tough budget times for everyone, and we are dedicated to finding ways to improve your bottom line daily. To achieve this, we're also reevaluating our strategic direction to ensure that WSAC continues to find ways to add value for you.

We also have some staff transitions to announce in support of this mission.

Jessica Roth has joined as Business Development and Communications Manager. She will primarily be focused on adding new corporate partnerships for the Solutions Center and has already revamped the Corporate Membership program. Jessica previously worked in a similar role with the Idaho Association of Counties.

We have also promoted Mitch Netzer to Senior Manager of Business Development & Communications, and Jessica Strozewski to Senior Manager of Member Experience. After Bridget's departure, both were prepared to take on more responsibilities and leadership roles. We have reorganized those departments to better serve member needs.

And finally, while we're not ready to make a public announcement yet, we recently submitted an offer for a new Director of Finance and Administration, which was accepted. We expect them to start before the end of the year, allowing for some transition time.

Activities

In addition to participating in and supporting other work outlined in other WSAC Division Reports, my primary activities have focused on the following since the September WSAC Board of Directors Meeting:

- Groundwork for the 2026 session

- Courthouse Briefings with Members
- Federal Priority Agenda Development
- New Business Partnership Development
- Completion of the Health Trust
- Member Communication and Technical Assistance to County Elected Officials
- Litigation Program Implementation
- Public Defense Caseload Standards, Litigation Management, and Legislative Response

Partnership Activities

- White House Intergovernmental Affairs
- Washington State Auditor's Office
- Washington Attorney General's Office
- Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys
- Washington State Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs
- Association of Washington Cities
- Washington Association of County Officials
- Association of Washington Business
- Washington Public Ports Association
- Office of the Governor
- Department of Children, Youth, and Families
- Office of Financial Management
- Washington State Association of County Engineers
- Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials
- Foundational Public Health Services Steering Committee
- Washington County Administrators Association
- Business Partner Meetings
- County Road Administration Board
- Department of Commerce
- Health Care Authority
- National Association of Counties
- NACo Edge

November 18, 2025

TO: WSAC Board of Directors

FROM: Derek Young, Executive Director

PREPARED BY: Bridget Lockling, Operations and Administration Director

SUBJECT: Business, Finance, and Operations Report

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

2025 Third Quarter

Cash

WSAC ended the third quarter of 2025 with a total cash position of \$5,331,404. This is \$273k more than the ending cash position of the second quarter. This is because of the additional funds received from our Energy audit grant. Cash is over \$3,387,349 more than at the end of the third quarter of 2024, this is because of the Energy Audit grant as well. We are able to request funds ahead of the expenses because we would not be able to cover the payments and wait for reimbursement. Of this amount, almost \$3.8 million is invested in eConnectDirect CDs. To take advantage of the increased interest rates, we moved as much funds as possible into short term CD's. Investment earnings should stay high in 2025.

Liabilities

3rd quarter total liabilities are at \$3.35 million, which are higher than second quarter. While most deferred revenue decreases throughout the year and "earned" as the year progresses, the increase in deferred revenue from the extension of the Energy Audit grant creates an offset to that trend.

Budget to Actual Activity

The combined All Funds Actual vs. Budget Summary 2025 report shows a positive bottom line of \$498k. This is better than budgeted, some due to timing of expenses and revenues and some expenditures over budget. Variances highlighted in the financial report include:

- Payroll & Benefits – This is close to target. Expenses should be lower than budget for the year due to timing of the Executive Director hire, staff using PFML, and delaying the addition of a policy staff person.
- Meetings & Travel – Staff and board travel is coming in under budget. There are small variances across many activities. This expense will be closer to budget next quarter with the addition of the summer regional meetings.
- Conferences & Events – the variations in the revenue and expenses in this category is related to the WACSWM conference.
- Contract Services & Professional Services– This category is currently overspent related to the timing of state contract spending. Two state contracts were wrapping up so there is always a push at the end to spend down. The timing of the expenses for the Energy grant will be off since the contract was extended. Litigation activity is not as high as expected the first half of the year. Also, the BEAD project came in under budget. Some counties did not spend their full allotment and the overhead was less than expected.
- Professional Services – These expenses are under budget mainly due to less communications and marketing costs than budgeted at this time. .

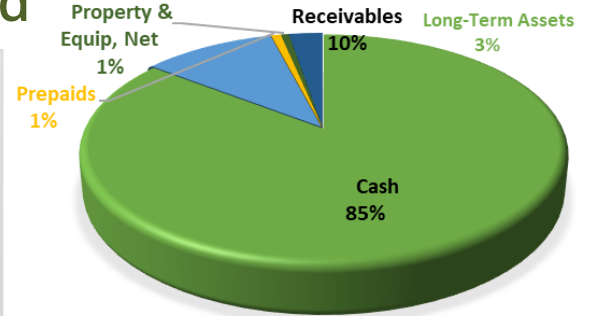
September 2025 Financial Dashboard

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

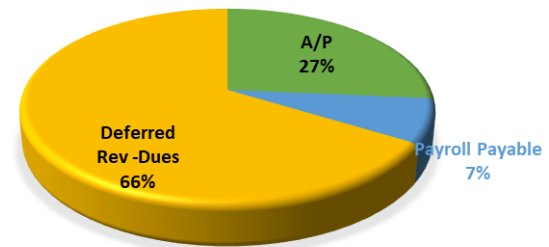
AS OF 9/30/2025

Litigation \$947,162	Litigation \$126,346	Litigation \$760,154
Special \$1,294,616	Special \$18,773	Special \$1,313,234
Operating \$4,703,564	Operating -\$3,207,556	Operating \$813,707
Total Assets, \$6,239,770	Total Liabilities, \$3,352,675	Net Assets/Equity, \$2,887,095

ASSET COMPOSITION

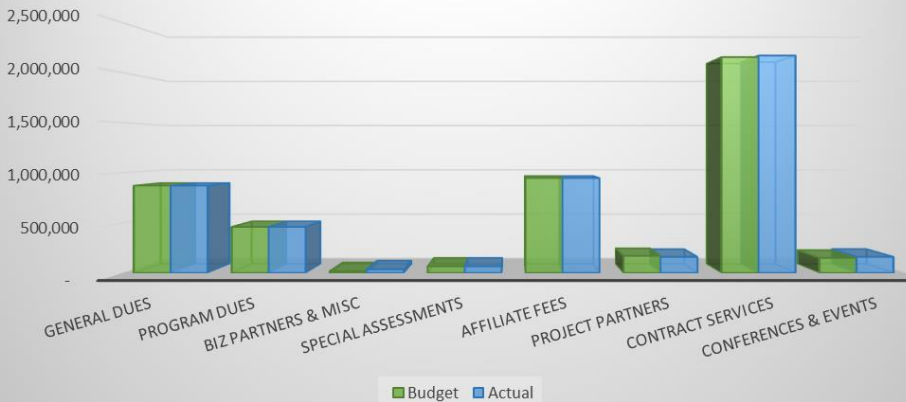


LIABILITIES COMPOSITION



2025 Revenues Budget to Actual

as of 09/30/2025



2024 Operating Fund

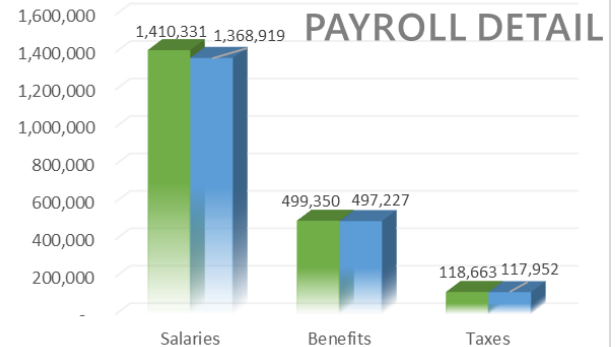
Revenues are 95% of Budgeted YTD
Expenses are at 99% of Budgeted YTD
Revenue variances reflect absence of King County dues.
Contract expenses are off due to the timing of activities compared to budget offset by unbudgeted projects.

2025 Expenses Budget to Actual

as of 9/30/25



PAYROLL DETAIL



Statement of Financial Position, by Fund
 For the Current Ending Period and 3 Years Prior

	Operating Fund	Special Fund	Litigation Fund	Total 9/30/25	12/31/2024	12/31/2023	12/31/2022
Assets							
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 3,150,329	\$ 1,300,575	\$ 880,500	\$ 5,331,404	\$ 1,424,767	\$ 1,378,891	\$ 1,783,018
Receivables & Other Current Assets	624,715	31,182	-	655,897	2,002,715	1,661,514	626,608
Prepays	41,439	250	6,000	47,689	23,750	39,818	12,149
Property & Equipment, Net	38,906	-	-	38,906	38,906	55,892	66,991
Long-Term and Other Assets							
Counties Building Partnership	165,874	-	-	165,874	162,514	146,330	146,330
NACo RMA LLC Partnership	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Assets	\$ 4,021,263	\$ 1,332,007	\$ 886,500	\$ 6,239,770	\$ 3,652,652	\$ 3,282,446	\$ 2,635,096
Liabilities & Unrestricted Equity							
Accounts Payable	\$ 840,784	\$ 18,773	\$ 25,294	\$ 884,851	\$ 494,872	\$ 664,335	\$ 243,025
Payroll Payable	225,368	-	20,583	245,951	208,951	245,786	225,034
Deferred Revenues	2,141,404	-	80,469	2,221,873	956,178	471,161	528,661
Net Assets							
Undesignated	813,707	1,193,234	760,154	2,767,095	1,872,651	1,781,164	1,518,376
Board Designated	-	120,000	-	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000
Total Net Assets	\$ 813,707	\$ 1,313,234	\$ 760,154	\$ 2,887,095	\$ 1,992,651	\$ 1,901,164	\$ 1,638,376
Total Liabilities & Unrestricted Equity	\$ 4,021,263	\$ 1,332,007	\$ 886,500	\$ 6,239,770	\$ 3,652,652	\$ 3,282,446	\$ 2,635,096

Key factors for changes in WSAC's Assets and Equity between 2022 and 2025:

- Cash –Cash flow is higher in the beginning of the year and is reduced as it is used throughout the year on general expenses. Cash remained stable from previous year as expenditures were lower than anticipated.
- Receivables & Other Current Assets - Quarterly receivables in the first quarter are mostly from pending dues payments, but also from State Contracts and Affiliate reimbursements.
- Liabilities – Deferred Revenues will typically decrease throughout the year as Dues are earned quarterly. With the addition of the Energy Audit grant this will fluctuate more because we can pull funds ahead of reimbursement.

Actual vs. Budget in Summary
 For the Current Ending Period and 3 Years Prior

Operating Fund	Total Budget	Budget 09/30/25	Actual 09/30/25	Variance (unfavorable)	12/31/2024	12/31/2023	12/31/2022
Revenue							
Dues-General	\$ 1,161,192	\$ 870,894	\$ 870,894	\$ -	\$ 1,127,374	\$ 1,871,101	\$ 1,773,470
Dues-Program	\$ 612,500	\$ 459,375	\$ 459,375	\$ -	\$ 628,807		
Business Partner Fees	10,000	7,500	24,725	\$ 17,225	15,000	9,625	8,125
Special Assessments	87,500	65,625	65,625	\$ -	87,500	127,500	127,500
Affiliate Assessments	1,262,127	946,595	946,230	\$ (365)	1,248,223	1,013,991	916,569
Project Partners	226,040	169,530	160,005	\$ (9,525)	180,040		
Contract Services	2,871,539	2,153,654	2,168,884	\$ 15,229	960,135	1,099,676	771,222
Conferences and Events	198,000	150,000	161,075	\$ 11,075	240,605	206,485	185,678
Other Miscellaneous Revenues	12,600	9,450	12,421	2,971	12,711	5,620	10,000
Total Revenue	\$ 6,441,498	\$ 4,832,624	\$ 4,869,234	\$ 36,610	\$ 4,500,395	\$ 4,333,999	\$ 3,792,564
Operating Expense							
Payroll and Benefits	\$ 2,856,864	\$ 2,028,373	\$ 1,984,098	\$ 44,276	\$ 2,780,970	\$ 2,381,870	\$ 2,153,433
Meetings, Travel and Hosting	176,850	132,638	97,398	35,239	142,398	167,835	152,981
Conferences and Events	200,460	25,000	24,491	509	199,270	192,943	230,016
Contract Services	2,739,950	2,054,963	2,100,992	(46,029)	927,873	881,437	666,895
Professional Services Other	191,000	143,250	124,891	18,359	171,283	187,815	139,806
Technology and Telecom	91,786	68,840	65,771	3,068	88,672	114,863	65,052
General Operating	183,713	137,785	157,634	(19,849)	146,564	417,388	278,730
Total Operating Expense	\$ 6,440,623	\$ 4,590,848	\$ 4,555,276	\$ 35,572	\$ 4,457,030	\$ 4,344,152	\$ 3,686,913
Changes in Net Assets	\$ 875	\$ 241,776	\$ 313,958	\$ 72,182	\$ 43,365	\$ (10,153)	\$ 105,651
Dues as a % of Total Revenue	18.0%		17.9%		25.1%	43.2%	46.8%
# of Permanent Staff	18		18		18	16	15
Payroll Exp as % of Total Exp	44%		44%		62%	55%	58%
Net Income as % of Revenue	0%		6%		1%	0%	3%

Actual vs. Budget in Summary
 For the Current Ending Period and 3 Years Prior

Special Fund	Total Budget	Budget 09/30/25	Actual 09/30/25	Variance (unfavorable)	12/31/2024	12/31/2023	12/31/2022
Revenue							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marketing and Royalties	159,200	119,400	103,342	(16,058)	147,075	152,179	155,060
Other Miscellaneous Revenues	500	375	-	(375)	-	-	-
Interest Earnings	27,000	20,250	43,771	23,521	63,860	69,711	7,783
Total Revenue	\$ 186,700	\$ 140,025	\$ 147,113	\$ 7,088	\$ 210,935	\$ 221,890	\$ 162,844
Operating Expense							
Meetings, Travel and Hosting	65,000	48,750	58,504	(9,754)	46,861	52,295	13,191
Conferences and Events	20,000	1,500	-	1,500	13,133	12,756	11,228
Professional Services Other	7,500	5,625	12,856	(7,231)	7,500	7,500	7,500
Technology and Telecom	5,500	4,125	4,118	8	50	3,937	5,282
General Operating	16,750	12,563	11,736	827	11,886	15,743	15,966
Total Operating Expense	\$ 114,750	\$ 72,563	\$ 87,214	\$ (14,651)	\$ 79,429	\$ 92,230	\$ 53,167
Changes in Net Assets	\$ 71,950	\$ 67,463	\$ 59,899	\$ (7,564)	\$ 131,505	\$ 129,660	\$ 109,677
Dues as a % of Total Revenue	0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
# of Permanent Staff	18		18		18	16	15
Payroll Exp as % of Total Exp	0%		0%		0%	0%	0%
Net Income as % of Revenue	39%		41%		62%	58%	67%

Actual vs. Budget in Summary
For the Current Ending Period and 3 Years Prior

Litigation Fund	Total Budget	Budget 09/30/25	Actual 09/30/25	Variance (unfavorable)	12/31/2024	12/31/2023	12/31/2022
Revenue							
Dues	\$ 321,875	\$ 241,406	\$ 241,406	\$ -	\$ 321,875	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000
Special Assessments	-	-	-	-	-	175,000	175,000
Total Revenue	\$ 321,875	\$ 241,406	\$ 241,406	\$ -	\$ 321,875	\$ 575,000	\$ 575,000
Operating Expense							
Payroll and Benefits	\$ 82,422	\$ 59,344	\$ 39,268	\$ 20,076	\$ 86,381	\$ 76,080	\$ 88,669
Meetings, Travel and Hosting	7,500	5,625	-	5,625	-	-	16
Conferences and Events	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legal Services	300,000	225,000	60,578	164,422	238,198	-	-
Professional Services Other	75,000	56,250	11,837	44,413	10,734	260,071	180,378
Technology and Telecom	254	191	163	28	393	8	1,556
General Operating	4,887	3,665	5,311	(1,646)	4,665	40,668	20,672
Total Operating Expense	\$ 470,063	\$ 350,075	\$ 117,157	\$ 232,918	\$ 340,371	\$ 376,828	\$ 291,290
Changes in Net Assets	\$ (148,188)	\$ (108,668)	\$ 124,249	\$ 232,918	\$ (18,496)	\$ 198,172	\$ 283,710
Dues as a % of Total Revenue	100.0%		100.0%		100.0%	69.6%	69.6%
# of Permanent Staff	18		18		18	16	15
Payroll Exp as % of Total Exp	18%		34%		25%	20%	30%
Net Income as % of Revenue	-46%		51%		-6%	34%	49%

The Litigation (SLAC) fund started in 2018. Total fund balance as of 9/30/25 is \$760,154. The budgeted negative fund balance will draw down available cash reserves.

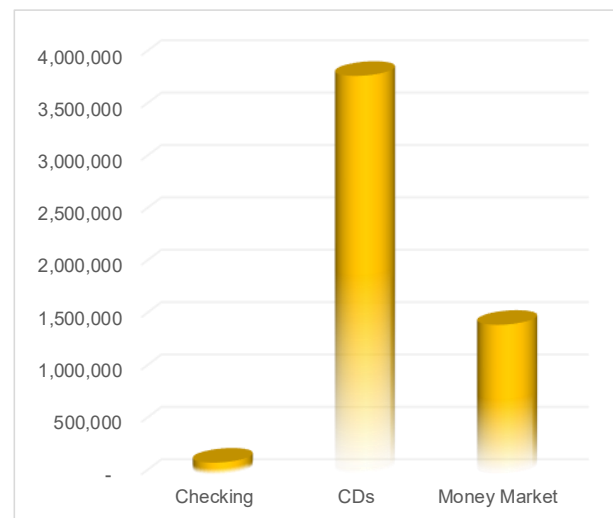
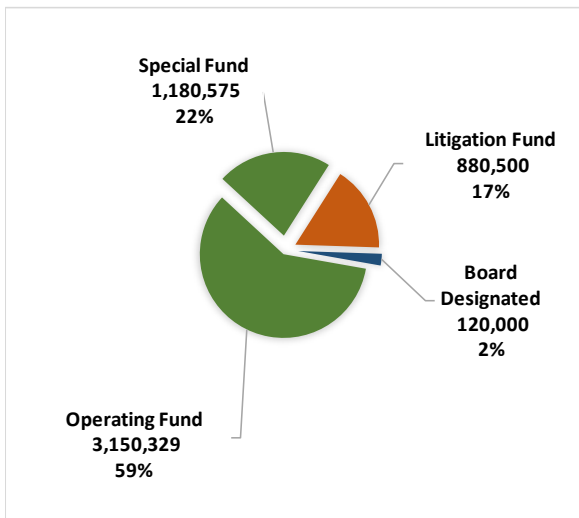
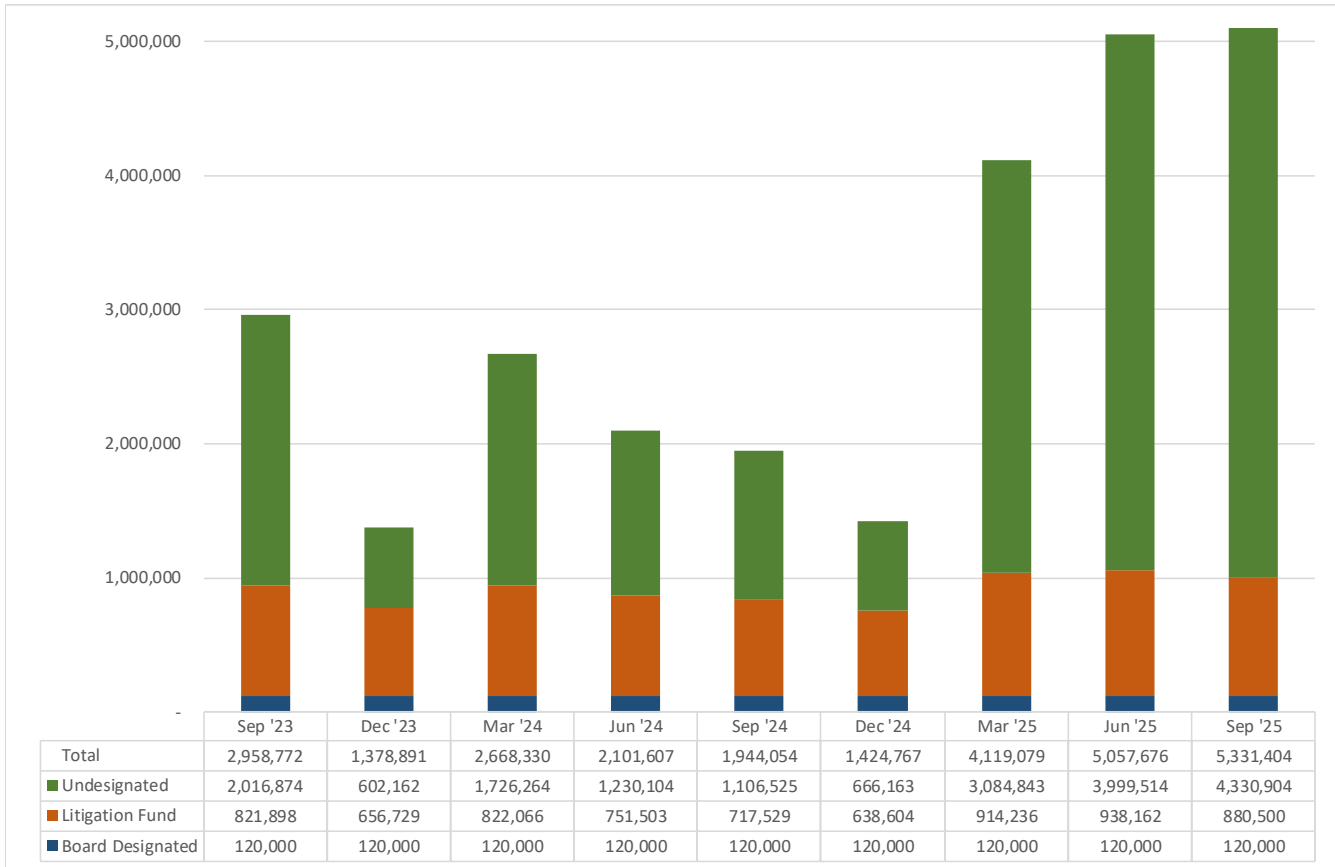
Actual vs. Budget in Summary
 For the Current Ending Period and 3 Years Prior

Combined Funds-ALL	Total Budget	Budget 09/30/25	Actual 09/30/25	Variance (unfavorable)	12/31/2024	12/31/2023	12/31/2022
Revenue							
Dues-General	\$ 1,483,067	\$ 1,112,300	\$ 1,112,300	\$ -	\$ 1,449,249	\$ 2,271,101	\$ 2,173,470
Dues-Program	\$ 612,500	\$ 459,375	\$ 459,375	\$ -	\$ 628,807		
Business Partner Fees	10,000	7,500	24,725	17,225	15,000	9,625	8,125
Special Assessments	87,500	65,625	65,625	-	87,500	302,500	302,500
Affiliate Assessments	1,262,127	946,595	946,230	(365)	1,248,223	1,013,991	916,569
Project Partners	226,040	169,530	160,005	(9,525)	180,040		
Contract Services	2,871,539	2,153,654	2,168,884	15,229	960,135	1,099,676	771,222
Conferences and Events	198,000	150,000	161,075	11,075	240,605	206,485	185,678
Marketing and Royalties	159,200	119,400	103,342	(16,058)	147,075	152,179	155,060
Other Miscellaneous Revenues	13,100	9,825	12,421	2,596	12,711	5,620	10,000
Interest Earnings	27,000	20,250	43,771	23,521	63,860	69,711	7,783
Total Revenue	\$ 6,950,073	\$ 5,214,055	\$ 5,257,753	\$ 43,698	\$ 5,033,205	\$ 5,130,889	\$ 4,530,408
Operating Expense							
Payroll and Benefits	\$ 2,939,286	\$ 2,087,717	\$ 2,023,366	\$ 64,352	\$ 2,867,351	\$ 2,457,950	\$ 2,242,102
Meetings, Travel and Hosting	249,350	187,013	155,902	31,110	189,260	216,609	166,188
Conferences and Events	220,460	25,000	24,491	509	212,403	205,699	241,244
Contract Services	3,039,950	2,279,963	2,161,569	118,393	1,166,071	881,437	666,895
Professional Services Other	273,500	205,125	149,585	55,540	189,517	455,386	327,684
Technology and Telecom	97,540	73,155	70,052	3,103	89,116	118,808	71,890
General Operating	205,350	154,013	174,681	(20,669)	163,115	473,982	315,367
Total Operating Expense	\$ 7,025,436	\$ 5,011,985	\$ 4,759,646	\$ 252,338	\$ 4,876,831	\$ 4,809,871	\$ 4,031,370
Changes in Net Assets	\$ (75,363)	\$ 202,070	\$ 498,107	\$ 296,037	\$ 156,374	\$ 321,018	\$ 499,038
Dues as a % of Total Revenue	21.3%		21.2%		28.8%	44.3%	48.0%
# of Permanent Staff	19		18		18	16	15
Payroll Exp as % of Total Exp	42%		43%		59%	51%	56%
Net Income as % of Revenue	-1%		9%		3%	6%	11%

Key factors for changes in WSAC's income and expenses between 2022 and 2025:

- Revenue categories were changed in 2024 so there will be inconsistencies in year over year comparison.
- Affiliate assessment revenues are based on actual expenses from the affiliates WSAC manages (recorded within Operating Expense) with a 12% overhead charge added.
- Payroll and Benefits – Fluctuations each year are due to a variety of staffing vacancies as well as some restructuring of positions.
- Contract Services – Contract service expenditures vary each year depending on the contract awards and where we are at in the cycle of the two year term.

Total Cash & Investment Position - All Funds
For The Quarter Ended Sept 30, 2025





November 18, 2025

TO: WSAC Board of Directors and Alternates

FROM: President Rob Coffman, Lincoln County Commissioner

PREPARED BY: Paul Jewell, Policy Director & Interim LSC Coordinator

SUBJECT: Policy and Legislative Update

HIGHLIGHTS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Organized LSC members in an exhaustive process to review, update, and amend the WSAC Statement of Policy and Core Principles document.
- Secured an additional \$1 million and continued managing the process for providing grants to counties for energy audits of tier 1 and tier 2 buildings to assist in compliance with Clean Buildings Act requirements.
- Implemented the process for electing a new county representative to the Board of Natural Resources.
- Ongoing engagement with members and affiliates, including virtual sessions, legislative updates, and LSC participation and planning.
- Organized and directed two regional meetings for members to interact – Jefferson/Kitsap in July & Chelan/Douglas in August.
- Worked with DSHS to begin a project evaluating the state's legal structure regarding criminal insanity cases.
- WSALPHO summer meetings held in June with record-setting attendance.
- WSALPHO conducted eight statewide LHJ visits, including key state and legislative staff.
- Successful challenge to the Superior Court ruling that WSAC lacked standing in our lawsuit challenging the state's support for public defense.

CHALLENGES

- The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) has published new recommendations on public defender caseload limit standards, which are likely to be considered for implementation by the Washington State Supreme Court before the end of the year.
- Federal funding cuts, including Medicaid.
- Ongoing state budget fiscal concerns.
- Declining revenues from the Hazardous Substances Tax are threatening programs at Ecology that depend heavily on Model Toxics Control Act funding. These revenue declines are also impacting grants to local governments.
- Significant rulemaking efforts by various state agencies, including in water resources and critical areas, wildlife management, and forest practices.

OPPORTUNITIES

- The start of a new legislative session in January.
- Update of the WSAC Statement of Policy and Core Principles.
- Ongoing data repository/library development to support WSAC's policy agenda.
- Moving forward with WSAC's lawsuit on public defense funding.
- Updated WSAC 2025-26 Legislative Agenda priorities.

Interim Activities and Progress

WSAC's policy staff continues to work to support members during the interim period between legislative sessions. This year has been extremely busy providing support for the Association's work, reacting to state agency decisions impacting counties like the WSBA public defender caseload standards, supporting affiliate group activities, undertaking new activities like managing a state-funded grant program for members, and creating an updated legislative agenda for the upcoming session. Each member of the policy team has been actively engaged in several projects.

Paul Jewell, Government Relations Director

Paul's duties currently include overseeing policy staff, WSAC's legislative agenda and the work of the LSC, handling a statewide policy profile that includes water resources, timber, taxes, labor, liability, and general government issues, and overseeing facilitation of the Columbia River Counties Caucus, the Timber Counties Caucus, the Washington Association of County Solid Waste Managers (WACSWM), and the Washington State Association of County and Regional Planning Directors (WSACRPD).

General:

- Coordinated two regional meetings during the months of July and August in Jefferson and Kitsap Counties, and Chelan and Douglas Counties, respectively, with assistance from other WSAC staff.
- Attended and participated in the planning and execution of the WSAC Executive Committee budget retreat.
- Recorded and released new episodes as the host of The County Connection, WSAC's podcast.
- Continued bi-monthly meetings with representatives of the Governor's policy staff.
- Presented to the Whitman County Port District/Chamber on WSAC's Report on Clean Energy Property Tax Impacts.
- Continue to represent WSAC on the Collaborative Roadmap Phase IV Task Force.
- Presented to the Climate Action Peer Network on climate-related legislation impacting counties.
- Assisted in facilitating newly elected officials' roundtables and training coordination.
- Attended training on AI and tort law.
- Attended AWB energy conference in Seattle.
- Appointed to WDFW's budget policy advisory committee and attended initial meeting.
- Presented at the WSEMA conference in Spokane on advocacy strategies.

Policy Staff

- Coordinating staff's work to further develop and refine the LSC's selected priorities for WSAC's 2025-26 Legislative Agenda (LA).
- Conducted bi-weekly policy staff meetings during the interim.

- Coordinated, planned, and supervised staff's work to update WSAC Statement of Policy and Core Principles document.
- Supported Curtis Steinhauer, Policy Coordinator, in planning and facilitating his first spring meeting with the WSACRPD affiliate.
- Attended numerous meetings with policy staff to discuss and provide feedback on potential policy proposals on various topics for the 2026 legislative session.
- Coordinated meetings to share information between the various lobbyists representing Washington State counties.
- Met with legislators about WSAC's legislative priorities and statewide policy concerns.

LSC

- Coordinated, planned, and implemented a process for LSC members to update WSAC's Statement of Policy and Core Principles document.
- Completed and published WSAC's legislative recap report.
- Implemented a process for LSC members to submit urgent/emergent issue proposals for the LSC to consider adding to WSAC 2025-26 Legislative Agenda.
- Met with Lewis County Commissioners (along with Brad Banks) to discuss the implications of the recent indigent defense case load standards adoption by the WA Supreme Court.
- Met with Commerce Director Joe Nguyen to discuss housing infrastructure funding opportunities and needs.
- Joined the TIF workgroup with AWC to represent county concerns.
- Represented counties on the transparency subgroup regarding the underground economy taskforce.
- Drafted and submitted a letter to the Governor regarding WSAC state supplemental budget priorities.
- Developed an updated WSAC 2025-26 Legislative Agenda for LSC consideration.

Water

- Continue to attend the statewide Water Resource Advisory Committee meetings.
- Reviewed Ecology's proposed rule-making on the Shoreline Management Act and coordinated WSAC's response/concerns with Kelsey Hulse.
- Continue to monitor the ongoing statewide drought, related water supply concerns, and future water supply forecast.
- Continue to represent WSAC on the Statewide Riparian Roundtable.
- Recruited new WSAC representatives to the Statewide Riparian Roundtable.

Columbia River Counties Caucus

- Welcomed new Caucus Chair, Lincoln County Commissioner Jo Gilchrist.
- Held two quarterly meetings of the Caucus.
- Continued monitoring of the Columbia River Treaty negotiations and the recent announcement of an agreement in principle between the U.S. and Canada.

Timber Counties Caucus

- Welcomed new Caucus Chair, Mason County Commissioner Sharon Trask.
- Held two quarterly meetings.
- Continued the Timber 101 training component of each Timber Counties Caucus meeting and added each session to WSAC's training videos collection.

- Assisted in coordinating testimony at the Forest Practices Board on WSAC concerns regarding increased buffers for timber harvest on non-fish-bearing streams.
- Assisted Court Stanley in hosting a meeting of TFW Policy members offsite to discuss the Np stream buffers issue and concerns.
- Continued regular meetings with WSAC's TFW Policy Committee member (Court Stanley) and CMER representative (Mark Meleason).
- Coordinated an election for a new county representative to the Board of Natural Resources.
- Drafted caucus charter updates for consideration at the CLC.

WACSWM

- Supported Travis Dutton in planning and facilitating the WACSWM spring meeting in Ellensburg. The meeting included a planning session to refine WACSWM's legislative priority for funding enhancements.
- Attended the WACSWM spring meeting.
- Coordinated WSAC response with Travis Dutton to Ecology's efforts to reduce MTCA-related expenditures due to funding shortfalls.

WSACRPD

- Supported Curtis Steinhauer as he took the lead in facilitating the WSACRPD affiliate.
- Supervised the planning and execution of the first WSACRPD two-day interim meeting to discuss policy issues in Ellensburg. The meeting included a strategic planning session.
- Attended and presented at the annual city and county planning director's conference in Chelan.
- Continued representing counties on the GMA Roadmap IV workgroup.

Kelsey Hulse, Contractor – Land Use, Environment, Cannabis, and Energy

Kelsey's work outside of the legislative session is focused on supporting the work of WSAC policy staff in each of her portfolio areas. She is assessing legislation likely to return during the 2026 session, reviewing and analyzing budget information as it becomes available, monitoring agency activity related to her issue areas, and supporting relationship development with legislators, staff, and partner organizations.

Policy

Kelsey participated in updating the statement of policy and core principles and continues to support the work of policy staff. This work involves collaboration with the Washington State Association of County and Regional Planning Directors (WSACRPD) on land use-related issues, including rulemaking related to Shoreline Management Act (SMA) updates and efforts to manage agritourism. We have met with the Department of Commerce's Housing Division to discuss the implementation of the Housing Accountability Act. We are meeting with the Department of Ecology regarding SMA rulemaking and continue to engage with partners to discuss strategy and objectives for high-priority legislation in the 2026 legislative session. We are closely monitoring leadership changes at state agencies of interest and continue to work toward building strong organizational relationships with elected and appointed decision-makers around the state.

Regulatory

Kelsey continues to engage with the Department of Ecology related to proposed amendments to the Shoreline Management Act. She is building a subcommittee of planning staff to proactively engage with and provide detailed feedback on Ecology's preliminary draft and draft rules.

Brad Banks, WSAC Contract Lobbyist – Human Services, Law & Justice

Brad serves as WSAC's advocacy lead in criminal justice, public safety, corrections, juvenile justice, behavioral health, intellectual/developmental disabilities, and veterans' services. The interim has been busy in these areas.

Criminal Justice & Public Safety

- Brad successfully secured funding for WSAC to facilitate a task force to review the criminal insanity statutes as directed by HB 1359. Brad and Travis worked diligently throughout the summer with staff at DSHS and other stakeholders to get this task force up and running, with the hopes of holding meetings in early fall. There have been some technical delays due to confusion regarding the funding, but steps are being taken to correct the situation, and staff expect the task force's work to commence later in the fall.
- Attended the regularly scheduled Justice Issues meetings chaired by Sen. Claire Wilson.
- Participated in several public defense related meetings and discussions. In particular, as a response to the case load standards ruling that was issued by the Supreme Court. Paul and Brad attended a meeting in July of the Lewis County Commission to provide more information and discuss the potential impacts of this ruling.
- Advised WSAC members on the details of HB 2015 which provides an additional 1/10th option to counties and cities for public safety as well as makes available \$100mil in grant funding. Brad continues to coordinate with counties, cities/AWC, CJTC, and other stakeholders on the impacts of this legislation.
- Brad has had ongoing conversations with the Governor's office and legislators on the issue of competency evaluations and restorations. This issue will likely return in the 2026 legislative session.
- Juvenile diversion has become a significant focus for legislators this interim as well as for DCYF. There have been a number of meetings between WSAC and legislators/state agencies to discuss what steps are necessary improve access and availability of juvenile diversion programs. JR more broadly will remain a focus of the legislature, however, the state budget challenges will be a complicating factor.
- Brad and Derek represented WSAC at the NACo Youth Justice Peer Exchange hosted by Pierce County.

Behavioral Health & Human Services

- Participated in weekly behavioral health crisis system meetings.
- Joined Derek for a meeting with Thurston County to discuss Methadone services in county jails.
- Attended, along with Travis, a Diversion and Deflection conference in the Tri-Cities
- Participated in several in person regional behavioral health meetings hosted by North Sound, Greater Columbia, and Spokane BHASOs
- Assisted and coordinated with ACHS leadership on their legislative priority development
- Met with Rep. Macri to discuss next steps on HB 1813, WSAC's priority legislation that passed last session. Brad will coordinate with her on future meetings this fall with HCA and the Governor's office on timely implementation of the bill as well as ongoing efforts related to a crisis system carveout and behavioral health reprocurement.
- Attended a meeting with Pierce County, City of Tacoma, HCA and Department of Commerce to discuss the siting of three Intensive Behavioral Health Treatment Facilities. This issue is ongoing and has statewide implications.
- Brad presented county behavioral health efforts at the Washington Behavioral Health Council.
- Held several meetings with behavioral health providers and lobbyists related to the ongoing funding needs for 23hr facilities.

General

- Assisted Paul and Lynn with the regional meeting in Chelan and Douglas Counties.
- Participated in WSAC Policy Staff meetings
- Coordinated with my group of assigned WSAC members to meet and develop recommended updates to the Law & Justice and Human Services sections of the WSAC Policy Statement.
- Participated in WSAC Virtual Assemblies

Jaime Bodden – WSALPHO Managing Director

Organizational Updates

- WSALPHO's learning management system continues to increase in utilization and member engagement
 - Additional groups created for emergency preparedness and local health officers
 - Learning resources updated to include recent training events in communities of focus, local boards of health, and communications
 - Added forum space for federal issues updates
 - Active utilization of discussion and sharing forums continues to grow.
 - WSALPHO continues to use the WSAC Hub for event registration, email, and newsletters.
- Staff continue to hold monthly WSALPHO Board meetings and help facilitate and plan monthly meetings for the six WSALPHO standing committees: environmental public health, communicable disease, community health, executive leadership, health officers, assessment, and the emergency preparedness ad-hoc group.
- Staff continue working with the State DOH to identify and develop outreach, education, and coordination efforts for new public health staff, emerging public health issues (recent work has included workforce development and federal policy), statewide communications, and connecting to state technical assistance.
 - Co-host monthly LHJ Director calls
 - Co-host monthly Executive Team calls to Executive Team calls.
- In October, WSALPHO held its Local Board of Health training. While FPHS funding that supported this work was cut in July, a more simplified training was provided. Focus included government public health overview, local boards of health and leadership roles and responsibilities, case study conversations, and federal updates. 40 local board of health, local health staff, and community advisory board members attended the training from 17 local health jurisdictions.

Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS):

- WSALPHO continues to meet monthly with the governmental public health system on implementation, policy development, and funding strategies, taking a leadership role in meeting facilitation and agenda planning.
 - Staff participate in weekly project management meetings, state-local-tribal FPHS staff meetings where they develop agendas for the steering committee meetings.
 - Staff continue to provide meeting support for the monthly hybrid steering committee meetings and host the WSALPHO board follow-up meeting.
 - The technical work groups are finalizing their recommendations on definition updates, evaluation and accountability, and health equity frameworks.
 - WSALPHO staff continue facilitating monthly meetings for the five SME groups and have co-facilitated the monthly technical workgroup meetings.
- WSALPHO policy staff have continued to hone and refine FPHS enterprise processes. These efforts continue to center LHJs in key decisions, ensuring that accountability processes are not

overly burdensome, are clear and concise, and LHJs are empowered to use FPHS as flexibly as possible.

- At the Washington State Public Health Association Annual Conference, WSALPHO staff presented a poster on the core team model of practice that is supported by FPHS funding. This model has developed a comprehensive practice framework addressing various environmental public health issues, encompassing the Department of Health and local health jurisdiction services and responsibilities.
- WSALPHO staff are assisting in the development of the FPHS Annual Investment Report, which includes spending data from each local health jurisdiction, highlights that feature specific LHJs in action, and additional system improvements. The report is expected to be published by the State Department of Health in December.
- WSALPHO staff are working with LHJs to develop an evergreen reduction process, recognizing that additional FPHS funding cuts are a possibility. The FPHS Steering Committee will use this process to direct where, how much, and what FPHS investments should be reduced if more funding were to be cut from the State Operating Budget. The goal is to finalize and implement this process by March 2026.

Legislative Session and Policy:

- WSALPHO is continuing to meet monthly with different partners, including local health jurisdictions, State DOH, Governor's Office, non-profit organizations, and associations.
- WSALPHO continues to work with NACCHO's Government Affairs staff to support their federal advocacy efforts around public health funding, particularly focusing on local health department funding.
 - WSALPHO worked with NACCHO to provide three federal update webinars to members and partners in June, August, and October.
- WSALPHO continues to be an ex officio board member of the Washington State Public Health Association.
- Session prep for 2026 is underway. WSALPHO is reviewing a couple of z-drafts from state agencies and providing feedback on decision packages.
- The 2026 Legislative Priorities for WSALPHO will be approved by the Board in November. Staff are encouraging a short and concise agenda in anticipation of a budget-tight and focused session. Anticipated priorities include holding the line on FPHS funding (no additional reductions) and supporting DOH request legislation preserving access and health insurance coverage for preventive services.

Workforce Development:

- WSALPHO continues to build and strengthen partnerships focused on workforce development. Staff are co-leading a steering committee with the DOH to help coordinate workforce development opportunities for the public health system.
- In September, WSALPHO held its third learning symposium for members at Campbell's Resort in Lake Chelan. This training focused on health equity and building a practice of community engagement. Sessions included understanding health equity from the perspective of rural communities, community-driven approaches to decision-making, leveraging multiple forms of data to inform programs and services, and communicating community needs. Over 80 staff from 18 LHJs attended the training.
- The final learning symposium will be held in November at the Hilton in downtown Vancouver, WA. The focus of this symposium is communications and communities of practice. Several standing WSALPHO committees will be meeting, as well as in-depth communications training

focusing on topics such as creating simple messaging, speaking to different stakeholders, and correcting misinformation.

- The second cohort for WSALPHO's New Leaders training continues to meet monthly with its first in-person meeting in September and another scheduled for November. These trainings target current or future local health jurisdiction leaders (administrators, deputies, or supervisors) and focus on leadership principles as well as the "nuts and bolts" of managing a local health jurisdiction. Currently, 8 members are participating in the year-long program.
- WSALPHO completed its annual member training needs assessment. This survey guides the training curriculum for the following year. Top of the list items include AI in public health, communications, and financial management. Staff will now be working to develop a member training plan for 2026, which will include a mix of virtual webinars and in-person events.

Axel Swanson – WSACE Managing Director

WSACE hosted a successful Annual Conference June 9-12 in Snohomish County. Work over the interim has focused on drafting biennial contracts, conference planning, legislative workgroups and meetings, and updating the WSAC Statement of Policy and Core Principles. Throughout July and August, Axel facilitated the effort to update five sections and draft two new sections for the policy statement. He continues to coordinate the WSAC Broadband Advisory Committee.

WSACE is already preparing for the session. Staff is involved with several interim legislative work groups; topics include possible changes to public works procurement law and transportation permit streamlining recommendations. Work related to studies and projects, meeting with agencies regarding regulatory challenges, and planning for the 2025 County Leaders Conference, 2026 Professional Development Conference, and 2026 Annual Conference is ongoing.

WSACE Board/Managing Director Activities:

- The Board continues to meet monthly regarding WSACE priorities. Upcoming topics will include the Strategic Plan, conference planning, and the budget.
- In July, following Board elections at the June conference, the Board appointed Okanogan County Public Works Director and County Engineer Josh Thomson, P.E., to fill the vacant NACE Board position.
- The Managing Director will establish a subcommittee to update our strategic plan before the November County Leaders Conference.
- WSACE continues to partner with the County Road Administration Board (CRAB). The Managing Director attended the July board meeting and project tours in Cowlitz County, the 60th Anniversary Celebration in August, and plans to travel to some eastside meetings planned for later in September.
- Axel continues to work on research, outreach, and contract preparation for WSACE studies and projects. These projects include the inventory of county-owned fish passage barriers, updating the County Road Administration Board's formula for gas tax allocations, developing guidance for county Public Works Departments forming community engagement plans, and identifying best practices within public works for the recruitment and retention of employees.

Agency Outreach & Presentations:

- In the Fall, requests for presentations always increase considerably, starting with a Senate Local Government Committee fish passage tour in September and APWA and IACC in October.
- The Managing Director and/or WSACE members continue to participate on many boards, committees, and work groups related to county transportation and infrastructure over the

interim. Examples include CRAB, TIB, FMSIB, Fish Barrier Removal Board, Pedestrian and Bicycle Program (PBP), Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS), and the State Transportation Innovation Council (STIC).

Regulatory Issues:

- WSACE continues to monitor and provide feedback regarding several regulatory issues and processes. We also continue to track the Department of Fish and Wildlife's current fish passage rulemaking.
- We are also tracking the Department of Ecology's work to reduce the threat of 6PPD-q to the environment and the increasing requirements for formal consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service it has caused.
- WSACE is engaged in the WSDOT Transportation Permit Streamlining Work Group and study, starting this Fall.

Legislative Affairs/Interim Workgroups & Studies:

- The Managing Director is currently scheduling interim meetings with legislators and tracking committee work that is important for advancing our legislative priorities.
- Work is ongoing on several studies that involve WSACE, notably, the Statewide Fish Passage Prioritization Strategy.
- WSACE will continue working with WSDOT Local Programs to develop and improve the new Federal Fund Exchange Pilot Program.

Travis Dutton, Policy Coordinator

Travis supports a statewide policy profile that includes solid waste, behavioral healthcare, human services, forest health, climate change, clean energy, natural resources, and environmental issues. In recent months, he has primarily focused on facilitating the Washington Association of County Solid Waste Managers (WACSWM), the SWISS Regional Partnership, and beginning work on a WSAC-facilitated project to develop recommendations for how to update the state's laws on criminal insanity and competency to stand trial and supporting senior staff on LSC legislative priorities work.

General

- Continue representing counties on the Forest Health Advisory Committee and attending an in-person meeting and tour in Packwood, WA.

WACSWM

- Conducted a three-day in-person meeting in June with WACSWM members and stakeholders.
- Refining and updating the WACSWM 2025-26 Legislative Agenda with members, including HB 2018, which was introduced late in the most recent session.
- Engaging with stakeholders to prepare for the 2026 legislative session and advocating for county solid waste needs.
- Continued representing WACSWM and counties in workgroups focused on food, hazardous waste, and rulemaking related to other waste streams.
- Currently developing a day-and-a-half program at the County Leaders Conference in November.

SWISS Regional Partnership

- Currently working with SWISS members on completing strategic plan tasks, including:
 - Supporting the NS BH-ASO in completing a regional youth mental health needs assessment.

- Reviewing and updating the strategic plan.
- Next steps will be to support SWISS in developing regional talking points, working with partner organizations and other stakeholders.
- Continued facilitating quarterly SWISS meetings.
- Planning an in-person SWISS meeting at the County Leaders Conference in November.

CEPTI Task Force

- Travis will be reconvening the CEPTI task force as we approach the 2026 session. HB 1960 was introduced during the 2025 legislative session and the task force will be working with bill sponsors to refine the language.

Curtis Steinhauer, Policy Coordinator

Curtis supports a statewide policy portfolio that includes housing, building & permitting, land use, and homelessness. He facilitates the Washington Association of County Regional Planning Directors (WSACRPD) and the Washington County Administrators Association (WCAA). Other current duties include supporting the policy team with research and data analysis, administering WSAC's Energy Audit Grant Program, coordinating with the Department of Commerce Local Government Fiscal Note Team, and facilitating the WSAC American Rescue Plan Act Stakeholder Coalition.

Interim Advocacy

- Represented WSAC and supported member representatives on a variety of statewide workgroups and committees, including the Affordable Housing Advisory Board, Standard Plan Set workgroup, Youth Homelessness Prevention Advisory Board,
- Participated in interim legislative stakeholder groups on subdivision codes, permitting reform, affordable housing funding, and homeless housing services.
- Organized and facilitated two informational meetings between Commerce staff and WSAC members and staff concerning issues of county liability with Emergency Rental Assistance funds during the pandemic.
- Attended and participated in monthly ACHS Homelessness and Affordable Housing subcommittee meetings.

WSACRPD

- Conducted a two-day Spring Affiliate Meeting with WSACRPD staff and key stakeholders.
- Worked with the Executive Team to draft WSACRPD's first strategic plan
- Formed three interim work groups to focus advocacy and policy development on subdivision code, LAMIRDS, and agritourism.
- Assisted the executive team in planning WSACRPD activities at the County Leaders Conference

WCAA

- Held monthly WCAA calls
- Held annual spring affiliate conference in Leavenworth
- Assisted the executive team in planning WCAA activities at the County Leaders Conference and the 2025 spring affiliate conference.

Energy Audit Grant Program:

- Extended agreement with the Department of Commerce to distribute \$5 million to fund energy audits on county-owned buildings that are subject to the state Clean Building Performance Standard
- Executed subgrant agreements and necessary contract extensions with 16 counties

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

- Held two quarterly meetings for the ARPA stakeholder coalition.
- Provided one-on-one technical assistance to members when needed.