



WACO Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 1st, 2024
10 S. Post St
Spokane, WA 99201

Final Minutes

Tuesday, October 1st, 2024

Board Members Present:

Adam Kick	President	Skamania	Prosecutor
Amy Cziske	Vice-President	Kittitas	Treasurer
Linda Hjelle	2 nd Vice-President	Snohomish	Assessor
Paul Budrow	Secretary/Treasurer	Okanogan	Sheriff
Jeff Gadman	Immediate Past-President	Thurston	Treasurer
Stacie Prada	Past-President	Jefferson	Treasurer
Mike Lonergan	Assessors Trustee	Pierce	Assessor / Treasurer
Thad Duvall	Auditors Trustee	Douglas	Auditor
Craig Morrison	Coroners Trustee	Grant	Coroner
Jon Tunheim	Prosecutors Trustee	Thurston	Prosecutor
Teresa Summers	Treasurers Trustee	Garfield	Treasurer
John Wilson	Trustee at Large Position 1	King	Assessor
Katie Sloan	Trustee at Large Position 5	Adams	Clerk

Staff Present:

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

GUESTS

Steve Drew	Thurston County Assessor
Lisa Henderson	San Juan County Clerk
Hayley Thompson	Skagit County Coroner
Alishia Topper	Clark County Treasurer
Jackie Brunson	Skagit County Treasurer
Derek Young	WSAC Interim Executive Director

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

Adam Kick, President called the meeting to order at 8:45 am Scott Tinney, Clerks Trustee; Tom Konis, Trustee at Large Position 2; Carolyn Fundingsland, Trustee at Large Position 3; Lisa Frazier, Trustee at Large Position 4; and Rob Snaza, Sheriffs Trustee were noted as absent.

Jeff Gadman, Immediate Past-President **MOVED** to approve the October 1, 2024 agenda John Wilson, Trustee at Large Position 1 **SECONDED**. The **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

Immediate Past-President Gadman **MOVED** to approve the Tuesday, July 16th, 2024 Board of Trustees meeting minutes. Katie Sloan, Trustee at Large Position 5 **SECONDED**. The **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

2) Appointment of Trustee at Large Position 6

President Kick provided update on recruitment process for Trustee at Large Position 6.

Thad Duvall, Auditors Trustee **MOVED** to appoint Robert Waymire, Skamania County Auditor Trustee at Large Position 6 with a term expiring October 2025. Immediate Past-President Gadman **SECONDED**. The **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

3) Legislative Proposals for Consideration as WACO 2025 Priority Legislation

Jennifer Wallace, Executive Director provided an overview of the selection process.

Steve Drew, Thurston County Assessor presented the Assessors' proposed legislative priorities. The first proposal is to increase the personal property tax exemption threshold to \$50,000. The second proposal is a joint proposal with Treasurers regarding increasing the REET tech fee.

Trustee Duvall presented the Auditors' proposed legislative priorities. The first proposal is to have the state pay and provide for even year primary voters pamphlet printing. The second seeks an exemption from the competitive bidding requirement for elections materials.

Lisa Henderson, San Juan County Clerk presented the Clerks' proposed legislative priority to align court exhibit retention schedules.

Hayley Thompson, Skagit County Coroner presented the Coroners' proposed legislative priority to identify PTSD as occupational disease for coroner/medical examiner staff.

Jon Tunheim, Prosecutors Trustee discussed the Prosecutors' focus on victims and victim advocacy services and improving recruitment efforts.

Jackie Brunson, Skagit County Treasurer presented the Treasurers' proposed legislative priorities. The first regards cost recovery for provided non-county financial services. The second better aligns the personal property distraint process.

Paul Budrow, Secretary/Treasurer **MOVED** to support the legislative proposals as presented. Craig Morrison, Coroners Trustee **SECONDED**. **DISCUSSION:** Linda Hjelle, 2nd Vice-President made a statement of concerns on cost recovery bill. Mike Lonergan, Assessors Trustee shared the same concern. The MOTION CARRIED Aye 12. Nay 2 – Trustee Lonergan, 2nd Vice-President Hjelle

*The Board went on **BREAK** at 9:23 am and **RECONVENED** at 9:57 am.*

4) WSAC Update

Derek Young, Interim WSAC Executive Director discussed changes in WSAC leadership, staffing, and membership representation. Discussed 2025 legislative focus on indigent defense, state funding for coroner training standards, potential utility taxing proposal for counties including an opt-out option, clean energy program tax shift concerns, and juvenile justice and capacity concerns.

5) Committee Reports

a. Audit Committee

Secretary/Treasurer Budrow presented Audit Committee report.

b. Legislative Committee

Amy Cziske, Vice-President presented the Legislative Committee report.

c. Education Committee

2nd Vice-President Hjelle presented the Education Committee report.

d. Conference Committee

President Kick presented Conference Committee report.

e. Nominating Committee

Trustee Tunheim presented the Nominating Committee report discussing the nominations process.

6) Affiliate and Trustee at Large Updates

a. Affiliate Updates

Trustee Lonergan provided the Assessors' update. Discussed software updates across the state, some counties have been on the same system for over 20 years.

Trustee Duvall provided the Auditors' update. Discussed election season and potential for threats against workers and system threats. Discussed updates to financial systems.

Trustee At Large Sloan provided the Clerks' update. Discussed Supreme Court Rule on exhibits that will increase staffing/workload needs. Discussed loss of funds for online portal fees.

Trustee Morrison provided the Coroners' update. Discussed training program updates.

Trustee Tunheim provided the Prosecutors' update. Discussed the victim penalty assessment history and potential legislative avenues to address the funding shortfall. Discussed potential legislation that would have adverse consequences to county operations. Discussed potential caseload study for Washington State.

Secretary/Treasurer Budrow provided the Sheriffs' update. Discussed recruitment and retention issues for Sheriffs' offices. Discussed public safety concerns for county employees with mail threats and other concerns.

Teresa Summers, Treasurers Trustee provided the Treasurers' update. Discussed issues with public records requests and impact on small counties. Discussed clean energy incentives and impacts on county finances.

b. Trustee at Large Updates

Trustee at Large Wilson discussed topics of interest and concern for county category 1. Discussed budget shortfall for King County leading to cuts in staffing.

Trustee at Large Sloan discussed topics of interest and concern for county category 5. Discussed funding issues for criminal justice, current county jail closures.

Robert Waymire, Trustee at Large Position 6 discussed topics of interest and concern for county category 6. Discussed budget issues, including liability increases, health insurance increases, and PILT stagnation.

7) Staff Reports

a. Executive Director

Executive Director Wallace presented the Executive Director report. Discussed Strategic Plan progress. Discussed WACO Scholarship Committee, and county courthouse visits.

b. Deputy Director

Timothy Grisham presented the Deputy Director's report.

*The Board **ADJOURNED** the regular meeting at 11:55 am.*