



WATO Board Agenda
May 14, 2008

Attendance: Bill Oltman, Mike Charboneau, Linda Seesz, Jon Funfar, Marleene Feist, Judy Devall, Dea Drake, Randy Beehler, Donna Mason, Janice Perry

1:34 p.m. Call to order; approved agenda

Approval of minutes: February 13, 2008 – Mike Charboneau, Secretary
Motedioned by Randy Beehler, seconded by Jon Funfar, motion passed

Financial Report – Dea Drake, Treasurer

We have \$14461.48 in account. Signatures were changed to new officers. We are starting to get conference registrations in. As of today's date we have three.

Last year WATO authorized expenditures fees split with City of Seattle. This was through Jill Novik. Legal fees board voted to support \$750.00 – services provided in October. Dea was unable to find in minutes from last year – so we need to make motion to approve payment. Services are for preparation of brief that challenged FCC cable franchise order on Behalf of WATO.

Dea Drake moved to allow payment of \$750 to company called Local Government Roundtable, seconded by Judy Devall – motioned passed

Spring Workshop – Randy Beehler/Judy Devall

Randy sent out agenda to board on program – Agenda attached with minutes.

Current issues roundtable is part of annual meeting for members to ask and answer current issues

Working with AWC to spread word about our conference and trying to get AWC members to participate.

Last time event was in Yakima – Board did a dinner gathering the night before with members and presenters and would like to do again. Please RSVP with Randy Beehler if you plan on attending dinner.

Email distribution of flyer and agenda will be sent out again next Monday by Bill Oltman. That gives participants a week prior to the deadline to secure motel reservations.

Bylaws

Mike Charboneau has been looking into a bylaw amendment that would allow voting on certain issues via email. For regular business to be conducted you must have a quorum.

Randy will find provision from other organization he is involved with, that has language to vote by electronic email – will discuss at next meeting June 10th. Will have proposal that board can discuss prior to September meeting – so it can go to members during the fall board elections is so desired.

* Board action item

Other Items

Two missing board members – resignation sent to Jill Novik from George Guyer – and Bruce Roberts can't be found. Judy Devall volunteers for Nominating Committee she will contact Chris Jarmillo and Carol Mattheson to move forward.

Old Business

WATOA.org – Jon Funfar is taking care of changes to website. Please email anything to him.

Mike Charboneau will start emailing Jon the approved minutes to be added to website

New Business

Statewide broadband deployment and adoption

DIS is working on this for next year in addition to what UTC is doing for this year. For 2009 it was proposed by Connection Nation. This group is using the same formula as Connect Kentucky. This proposal will be brought in to try to sway lawmakers in Olympia. They are going to try to meet with Legislators in June. They will talk about what Washington should be doing with broadband deployment.

Connect! tour in Olympia

DIS work group schedule – group will meet through July and August getting information out to Legislators concerning broadband deployment and adoption.

Brian Wilson Scholarship – Now accepting nominations – information is posted on WATOA website.

Board Member Comments

Judy Devall is looking into a plaque that we can present to Jill Novik for her service at Yakima conference. Judy will send award billing to Dea Drake.

Bill Oltman received contact for Oregon Telecommunications Conference in Newport, OR. October 16-17. Bill will see if we can post info on website and if so he will forward to Jon Funfar.

2:26 Adjourn

2008 WATOA Spring Workshop

June 17th, 2008
Hilton Garden Inn
Yakima

Agenda

- 9:00 am** ▶ **Registration opens**
- 10:00 am** ▶ **Welcome and Workshop Introduction**
- 10:15 am** ▶ **Session #1 - Wa. St. Broadband Technologies Study Update**
11:30 am *Discover what a Washington State Utilities and Transportation study, currently being conducted by CBG Communications, is revealing about the availability and use of broadband technologies in our state. Formal results of the study will be presented to the state legislature, which authorized the study, in early summer.*
Presenters:
- **Wil Saunders, Asst. Director for Telecommunications, Wa. St. Utilities and Transportation Commission**
 - **Tom Robinson, Exec. Vice President, CBG Communications**
- Noon** ▶ **Keynote Luncheon**
*WATOA is honored to have Jim Baller as its 2008 Spring Workshop Keynote Luncheon speaker. Baller is a Senior Principle of the Baller Herbst Law Group, a national law firm specializing in representing local governments on telecommunications, cable TV, broadband, and other related issues. Baller was the recipient of NATOA's inaugural **Community Broadband Visionary of the Year Award** in 2007 and has been described as "the nation's most experienced and knowledgeable attorney on public broadband matters" by both the Public Technologies Institute and the Fiber to the Home Council.*
Keynote Speaker:
- **Jim Baller, Senior Principle, Baller Herbst Law Group**
- 1:15 pm** ▶ **Session #2 - Local Government Broadband Initiatives in**
2:30 pm **Washington State**
Find out what local governments in Washington State are doing to expand the availability of broadband technologies. Hear what the cities of Seattle and Edmonds are considering and learn from the experience of the Grant County Public Utility District which has operated a publicly-funded fiber network for several years. See if municipal broadband might be a fit for your community.
Presenters:
- **Tony Perez, Director of the Office of Cable Communications, City of Seattle**
 - **Carl Nelson, Chief Information Officer, City of Edmonds**
 - **Sarah Morford, Communications Manager, Grant County PUD**

* Board action item

2:45 pm
4:00 pm

▶ **Session #3 - Cable TV and the Digital Transition**

The digital transition is not only affecting broadcasters. The move away from analog is taking place in the cable TV industry as well and that evolution is creating new challenges, and new opportunities, for Local Franchise Authorities and PEG Access providers. Join in this roundtable discussion with representatives from the cable industry and local government to find out how your community might be impacted by the analog to digital conversion.

Presenters:

- **Jill Novik, Strategic Advisor, City of Seattle
Office of Cable Communications**
- **Frank Antonovich, Northwest Vice President,
Charter Communications**
- **Mike Charboneau, Cable Communications
Coordinator, City of Richland**
- **Jim Baller, Senior Principle,
Baller Herbst Law Group**

4:15 pm
5:15 pm

▶ **Session #4 - WATOA Annual Meeting/Current Issues Roundtable**

Local government continues to face a variety of issues in its ongoing effort to efficiently and effectively manage public rights-of-way and ensure that the communications needs of communities are met. Bring your questions and be part of this unique opportunity to talk with experienced WATOA members about the ever-changing world of telecommunications.

5:30 pm

▶ **WATOA President's Reception - Wine and Cheese Tasting
at Masset Winery**

Relax and enjoy fine wine and delicious cheese at a reception hosted by WATOA President Bill Oltman. The event will take place at Masset Winery, located a half-block from the WATOA workshop host hotel, the Hilton Garden Inn. Masset, which also includes a gallery featuring the work of local artists, is one of several new wine tasting rooms that have sprung up in a rejuvenated Downtown Yakima.