New Members Elected to Board, New Officers Chosen at Annual Meeting

Members of the Washington Association of Sewer & Water Districts elected six members to the Board of Directors and a new set of officers for the coming year, and adopted their 2010 budget at the September 19 annual meeting at Lake Chelan.

Commissioner Steve Skipworth, Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District, was re-elected to the combined seat he was appointed to fill earlier in the year. Steve has over 20 years in the industry as general manager of Vera Water and Power in the east Spokane Valley. Steve has also served as President of the Washington Water Utility Council and brings a strong understanding of water issues to the Board.

Jim Neher, General Manager, Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District, was re-elected to the Management Level seat on the Board. Jim was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board and will now continue in that seat. Jim also brings a great deal of knowledge about water and wastewater operations to the Board, as well as experience in board operations and responsibilities gained from his experience on other non-profit boards.

Roger Christofferson has been re-elected for a second term as the Associate Member of the Board. Roger has been very active in that role, working to coordinate issues of associate members and conference exhibitors with the Board and the Leadership Development Committee. We are glad to have him back on the Board and look forward to his continued contribution to the Association.

This year marked the first election since a major change in the makeup of the Board of Directors was proposed and adopted by the membership. Three traditional seats on the Board – water only, sewer only, and combined water and sewer – were eliminated and replaced with three at-large seats open to any member of the Association or employee of an active member. This meant that a district manager or other employee could stand for election, additional associate members could hold seats on the Board, and even private water association members who

State Revenue Forecast Portends Budget Shortfall

On September 18, the State received the latest forecast for future revenue and it was not a pretty picture.

As all of us who go shopping can attest Washington residents are not buying as much “stuff,” cars or houses as we used to. This is cutting into the State’s income significantly.

Many who work in Olympia and follow the budget process see the coming legislative session as being a very difficult one as legislators attempt to find ways of “fixing the budget.” What this means for other legislation is yet to be determined, as the budget issue will keep most legislators focused on money issues.

Any bills that would require funding to implement will not have a good chance this year so mostly policy bills are anticipated.

For 2011, the next long session, the picture is even bleaker with a possible shortfall of $11 billion or more. How these shortfalls will impact the Public Works Trust Fund is anyone’s guess right now. Some legislators are making noise like they would like to let the PWTF go back to work funding infrastructure. How that
Board of Director Meetings

October Board of Directors
26 October, 2009, 12:00 pm
WASWD Board Room
SeaTac, WA

November Board of Directors
23 November, 2009, 1:00 pm
WASWD Board Room
SeaTac, WA

December Board of Directors
21 December, 2009, 1:00 pm
WASWD Board Room
SeaTac, WA

Committee Meetings

Government Relations
Second Wednesday of each month
10:00 a.m., WASWD Board Room

Public Relations
First Thursday of each month
10:00 a.m., WASWD Board Room

Leadership Development
Third Thursday of each month
9:30 a.m., WASWD Board Room

Technology Interest Forum
Third Friday of each month
10:00 a.m. WASWD Board Room

Upcoming Conferences 2010

Spring Conference & Trade Show
April 22 & 23, 2010
Ocean Shores Convention Center
Ocean Shores, WA
Shilo Inn (360) 289-4600
Quinault Beach Resort
(360) 289-9466 or (888)461-2214

Fall Conference & Trade Show
September 15, 16 & 17, 2010
Red Lion Inn at the Park
Spokane, WA
(800) 733-5466

PIPSLNE the monthly newsletter of the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts. Published as a member service, is mailed to commissioners of special purpose districts, general and associate members and other Washington organizations with interest in the water and sewer industry. PIPELINE is also published on line at http://www.waswd.org

For rates and information please contact the Association’s office at (206) 246-1299
Its the Committee Time of Year

President Maury Hood

*Individual commitment to a group effort… this is what makes a team work, a society work, a civilization work.*

*Vince Lombardi*

I have to thank Carol Micek, Marketing Manager for HWA Geo Sciences, for the idea for this month’s President’s message.

Carol was recognized at the Fall Conference in Chelan as an outstanding associate member, and so I was not surprised when she forwarded the following message from Society for Marketing Professional Services CEO Ron Worth to all her SMPS-Seattle committee chairs, and fortunately to me, thus making me think I just might need to share it with all of you as a reminder of how important your personal commitment to Association leadership really is.

As we are all aware, there have been significant and often dramatic changes in the business environment in which teams now operate. Teams are now cross-functional, cross-cultural and even virtual. With team players often serving on multiple teams, leadership has become both more important and more challenging. The following reminders, which come from Team Building Consultant Glen Parker’s book *Teamwork*, are reminders of how WASWD committee chairs can best address the challenges they will face as they seek to develop the best teams possible.

The following simple steps can keep you moving forward and keep your team motivated and committed:

1. When members are involved in team decisions, they will support those decisions and work hard to implement them.
2. When members are involved in setting team goals, they will do whatever it takes to see that they are accomplished.
3. When members are involved in defining their role on the team, they will be motivated to do their work with skill and efficiency.
4. When members are involved in creating the team’s operating guidelines, they will be more inclined

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IACC Conference This Month

This month will see the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council’s annual conference on infrastructure funding. The theme of this year’s event is “The World Has Changed, Beyond Stimulus: Building A Sustainable Future.”

The coordinating agencies will display their services, be prepared to answer questions, and help guide local governments to possible funding solutions for their infrastructure needs. A tool box containing the following has been considered. The Tool Box includes:

- Planning
- Funding Opportunities for Planning
- Project Development, Tech Teams, Managing Consultants
- Funding Opportunities, Grant Writing, Lessons Learned from Successful Applicants
- Funding Success, Funding Requirements (Historical, Cultural, and Environmental Reviews, etc.)

The time for registration has passed but it is always worth contacting the IACC staff, so seek late registration. Contact April Petersen at (360) 753-4137 for registration information.

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We would like to thank the many firms and organizations who supported the 2009 Fall Conference & Trade Show with their generous sponsorships. We urge all members of this Association to support those businesses and services who support us through their financial contributions.
belong to WASWD could have run for election to the Board.

The first of these three new seats was filled by Tom Peadon, General Manager, Coal Creek Utility District. Tom has been active in the Association and, like other new Board members elected during this meeting, will bring a great deal of utility operations experience to the Organization.

The second At-Large seat has been filled by Don Montfort, Commissioner, Birch Bay Water & Sewer District and General Manager, Evergreen Water District. Don has previously served on the Board and was the third President of WASWD in 1998. Don is currently a water/wastewater representative on the State Public Works Board along with Kathy Keene, giving the Association two PWTF members on our Board.

The final new seat was won by Commissioner Ron Nowicki, Lakehaven Utility District. Ron has been active in Section IV for several years now and participates in the Government Relations Committee. We are pleased to have Lakehaven on the Board and look forward to their contribution to the Association.

Following the election of Directors, the members elected the 2010 slate of officers. Jeannie Screws, Commissioner, Westsound Utility District, will serve as President. Steve Skipworth will hold the position of Vice-President, Kathy Keene moves from Treasurer to Secretary, and Don Montfort will take the Treasurer position.

The new Board and outgoing members of the old Board along with those who will continue on will go through Board training later this month and then hold their annual retreat in November. This will be the first time both outgoing and incoming Board members have both participated in hopes of making the transition smoother.

The new Board takes its place on January 1 as do standing committees. If you would like to participate on a committee, please contact the Association office.
Attorney General Issued an Opinion on Exempt Wells

At the request of Kittitas County and Ecology Director Jay Manning the Attorney General’s Office issued a published opinion clarifying RCW 90.44.050 the exempt well statute and what authority State agencies and county government may limit or prohibit exempt wells.

You are welcome to read the opinion in full at: http://www.atg.wa.gov/opinion.aspx?section=archive&id=23864

In summary it states that neither counties nor Ecology may limit or reduce the amount of water withdrawn from an exempt well. Ecology may prohibit exempt wells in a basin only if it closes the basin to all types of withdrawals.

It also points out once an amount of water is perfected or put to beneficial use from an exempt well such water is provided the same protection from relinquishment as water from a permitted source.
effort will be funded is the big question.

On October 6 the Public Works Trust Fund Board heard a presentation from staff of the recently renamed Department of Commerce, formerly Community Trade & Economic Development, regarding the process to date on restructuring the agency.

They reported that changes will be made, some programs will be eliminated or moved to other agencies, but seemed to indicate that the PWTF will be kept intact and at Commerce. Legislators are also expressing support for the plan of the PWTF to submit a loan list for consideration by the 2011 legislature. If they are truly intent on accepting a loan list then they would have to stop taking loan repayment funds out of the Public Works Account and allow it to be re-loaned to purveyors again.

The Public Works Board also wrestled with the two $9.5 million grant programs. For the Urban Vitality program they received 30 requests totaling $28.2 million. The Small Communities in Rural Counties program received 211 applications totaling $156 million. As you can imagine, attempting to distribute two pots of $9.5 million to those two application lists was quite a job. The total requests were $184.2 million for only $19 million in grant money available.

The final recipients of these funds should be known in a few days and they will be able to go to work on their projects. Should grant recipients not proceed immediately, the Public Works Board can take back the funds provided and grant them to an organization still left on the list.

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to live by them.

5. When members are involved in developing the work plan, they will do the work to complete the plan.

If you have not signed up already, committee application forms are online or available from the Association office. Do yourself a favor. Do the new Board a favor. GET INVOLVED.