

WASHINGTON STATE

WINTER 2022

PublicWorks

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WASHINGTON PUBLIC WORKS PROFESSIONALS



The NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE *Awards*

2022

2023 Legislative Session Outlook | Questions About Public Engagement



The organization of choice in providing public works education, advocacy, expertise, and public awareness for its diverse community of members.

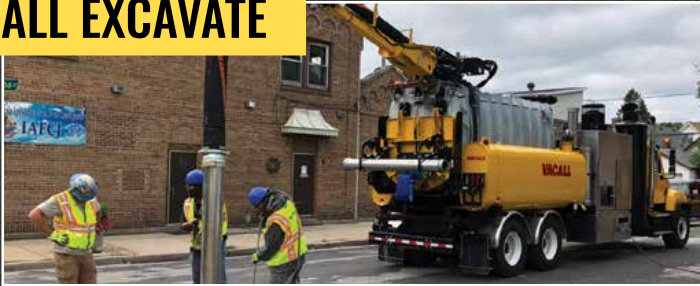
2601 Fourth Avenue, Suite 800, Seattle, WA 98121-1280

UNMATCHED PRODUCT SUPPORT

TO MAXIMIZE YOUR UPTIME



ALL EXCAVATE



ALL JETVAC



ALL VAC



ALL CATCH



PAPÉ MACHINERY

VACALL™

Vacall offers the toughest trucks for your toughest applications. Now offered with 4-year extended warranty and backed by the unparalleled product support of Papé Machinery, you are guaranteed maximum uptime and unmatched productivity. Papé is proud to support our customers with 29 locations in five states across the West.

Keeps You Moving®

For more information call
John Monaco | 458-221-3156 | jmonaco@papemachinery.com



**SHOWING
POTHOLE
WHO'S
BOSS**



GUARANTEED PERMANENT • WORKS IN WATER & ALL WEATHER

Available in bulk, 50 lb bags & bulk sacks



www.lakesideindustries.com

For more information contact:

Rob Rosson, Sales Director

425-313-2681

rob.rosson@lakesideindustries.com

EZ Street® and the EZ Street Logo are registered trademarks of Asphalt Research Technology, Inc. © Copyright 2017

NE 16th and Jefferson Ave NE Stormwater Green Connections City of Renton



KPG
PSOMAS



Washington

Seattle | Tacoma | Wenatchee

12 in-house
services

- Civil Engineering
- Traffic Engineering
- Construction Services
- Utilities Engineering
- Transportation Planning
- Urban Design
- Landscape Architecture
- Environmental Services
- Survey & Geospatial Services
- Subsurface Utility Engineering
- GIS Services
- Enterprise Asset Management



ALBINA ASPHALT

Improving the road ahead.

OUR SERVICES

- Paving Grade Asphalt
- Asphalt Rejuvenating Agents
- Railcar Logistics
- Cut Back Asphalt
- Asphalt Release Agents
- Asphalt Delivery Services
- Asphalt Emulsions
- Dust Palliatives
- Asphalt Spreader Services

Paving Roads in the Northwest for over 50 years
www.albina.com



HEADQUARTERS
Vancouver, WA
360-816-8016

VANCOUVER TERMINALS
Vancouver, WA
360-816-8550

CHOWCHILLA TERMINAL **
Chowchilla, CA
559-665-5500

MADRAS TERMINAL
Madras, OR
541-475-6638

KLAMATH FALLS TERMINAL
Klamath Falls, OR
541-884-5100

** Denotes new location.



2601 Fourth Avenue, Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98121-1280
washington.apwa.net
Federal tax #36-2202880

2022 OFFICERS

President Scott Sawyer, PE
Vice President Lauren Behm
Treasurer Tara Olsen, PE
Secretary Jeff Brauns, PE
Past President Donald J. Huling, PE

2022–2023 Directors

Angela Brady, PE
Charles Eaton, PE
Karissa Witthuhn, PE
Jordan Ottow

Chapter Delegate

Mike Clark, PE

Alternate Chapter Delegate

Donald J. Huling, PE

Magazine Editorial Team

Patrick Skillings, PMP, Publication Chair
LILTdesign.com

2020–2022 Directors

Steve M. Worley, PE
Max Phan, PE
Jennifer Walker, PMP
Mallory Wilde, PE

Published by:



Tel: (866) 985-9780
Fax: (866) 985-9799
Email: monique@kelman.ca
www.kelmanonline.com



Managing Editor:

Monique Doyle, monique@kelman.ca

Design/Layout:

Kellee Breckman

Marketing Manager:

Rod Evason, rod@kelman.ca

Advertising Coordinator:

Stefanie Hagdiakow

All rights reserved. The contents of this publication may not be reproduced in whole or in part without the express consent of the publisher.

On the cover: Hurricane Ridge, Olympic National Park, in the winter. I.dreamstime.com



12

Features:

Welcome to the Incoming WA Chapter Board! 9

Learn more about our new 2023–2024 Board and 2023 Officers.

APWA-WA Fall Conference Recap 11

Highlights from the Chapter's Fall Conference in Spokane, WA in October.

The Night of Excellence Awards 2022 15

These awards put the spotlight on our public works family and the important work they do.

2023 Legislative Session Outlook 18

A look ahead at some of the legislative issues we expect to be at the forefront in 2023, including the Move Ahead Washington package.

The Government Affairs Committee: Where We've Been and Possibilities for Where We Can Go 20

The Government Affairs Committee has significantly increased the profile of APWA with the legislature, state agencies, and other stakeholders. Looking forward, there are some specific areas where we feel we can improve.

Looking for a Way to Connect with Your Community in 2023? Touch-a-Truck Event May Be the Answer 25

The City of Ellensburg Public Works and Utilities Department hosts an annual "Touch-a-Truck" event that is a fun and interactive way for kids & adults to learn more about public works.

Departments:

President's Message 6

Association News 8

Ask MRSC 22

Ostrowski's New Outlook 28

Advertiser Product & Service Center 33



Scott Sawyer, 2022 Chapter President



A Year in Review

It has been a special honor and privilege to serve you all as your 2022 President. I am continually humbled by the responsibility. I very much appreciate your trust in me. As my time as your President winds down, I thought it was a good time for reflection on our 2022.

Highlights from the Fall Conference

We had a great Fall Conference thanks to our outstanding volunteers (looking at you Darci and Ruta) and our amazing members. Once again, our sponsors stepped up to help us financially. Special thanks for KPG Psomas as our Gold Sponsor!



Parametrix
ENGINEERING . PLANNING . ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

We deliver inspired solutions for complex infrastructure projects, meeting the needs of society while protecting and enhancing our environment.

100 PERCENT EMPLOYEE-OWNED |    

This fall we had 424 registered attendees and 87 exhibitors. We continue to trend up post-Covid and these number pretty much match our pre-Covid engagement. And most notably, we brought back our ROADeo. We are back, baby!

I saw lots of people smiling and having fun during our Wild West Social. Hats off to all of you brave enough to ride the bull. The costumes were amazing! Our Night of Excellence was another fabulous event. Special thank you to Brianne Ross and Kirk Holmes for serving as our gracious hosts. Congratulations to all of our award winners, with a special nod to Dan McReynolds as our Roy Morse award winner.

Reflecting on 2022

I set a theme for the year, **One Chapter, One Community**, and challenged us all to celebrate our commitment to APWA as community, celebrating our sameness as we turn the page on several years of Covid marked by division and isolation. I'll freely admit, I got emotional watching Patrick Zellner on stage on Thursday night talking about the ROADeo and

thanking our Chapter for how welcome Maintenance and Operations professionals feel at our conferences. That was our report card for the year, and we got an A+. Thank you all for rising to the challenge as we re-established the ties that bind as a big family.

I also challenged us all to bring younger members to our Chapter as we continue to mentor and develop the next generation. I don't have a clear metric, but it is quite satisfying the look around during the Wild West Social and count the big numbers of new faces. Thank you for investing in our younger members.

With all of the joy and celebration of 2022, there is also sorrow. Sadly, we said farewell to some of our colleagues in 2022. I am aware of two in particular and I apologize to those who know of others I am missing. Nick Caffrey, City of Redmond, was killed in the field by a vehicle – which is a sobering reminder of the risks our M&O professionals take each day. His family's GoFundMe site is still significantly underfunded and

"Serving as president is like a relay race. So many amazing people ran laps before you to put the chapter in great standing."

I encourage each of you to consider opening your hearts to giving. We also lost Russ Blount, City of Fife Public Works Director to a road collision. As I write, I am planning to attend his memorial service in November. You are reading this after the fact, but I hope I see many of you there.



Nick Caffrey GoFundMe

Looking Ahead to 2023

Serving as president is like a relay race. So many amazing people ran laps before you to put the chapter in great standing. We have won the PACE award for six consecutive years (with a small break in 2020 for Covid)! So, you take the baton and run your own lap, authentically adding your life

experiences to the role to do your best to add value to the organization for 12 months. Then you proudly hand the baton to the next amazing member who steps up to lead. I am thankful to Lauren Behm for her many years of commitment to our Chapter. She has long been active and eager to serve. I am excited to see how she runs her lap as we **Rise Up** in 2023.


Living in the Present

Our Wednesday Keynote Speaker was Mike Lee. In speaking with many of you during the conference, I heard many compliments, and I heard some critiques. I appreciate the candor from all of you. One thing that Mike spoke about was the importance of being present. I completely agree, even it is a state I often fail to achieve.

I commented on it after his speech, and I shared a brief excerpt from a C.S. Lewis passage from *The Screwtape Letters*.

I think this is one of the best writings I've experienced on the topic. You can read the passage in its entirety by following the QR code above.

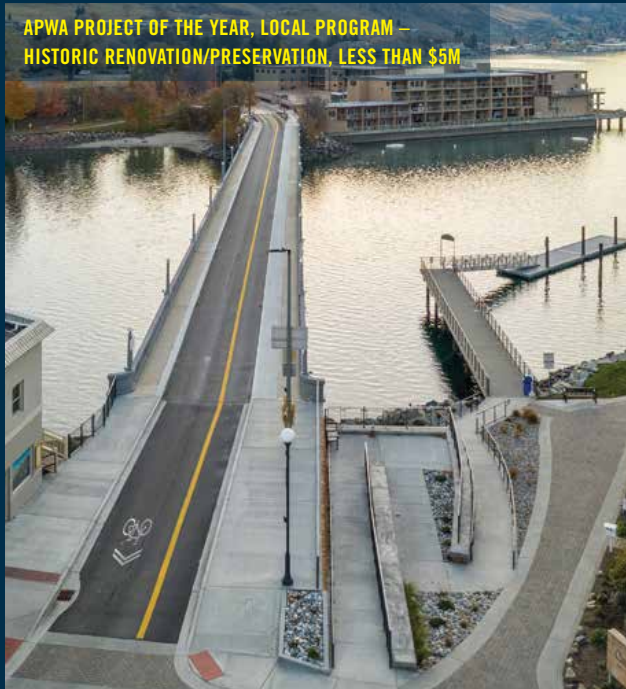


Thank you again. It has been a special privilege. Enjoy your holiday season and I will see you all in the spring! 

Scott Sawyer, P.E.
APWA-WA President,
Principal, SCJ Alliance

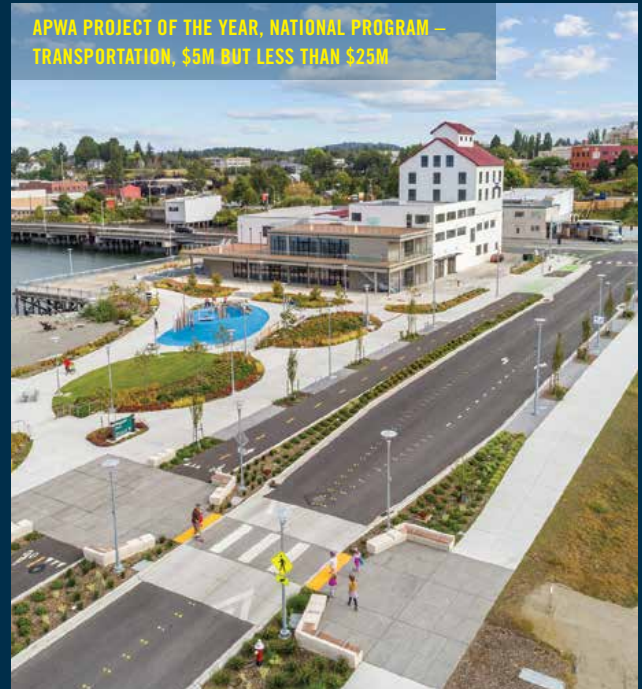
Woodin Avenue Bridge, Chelan

APWA PROJECT OF THE YEAR, LOCAL PROGRAM –
HISTORIC RENOVATION/PRESERVATION, LESS THAN \$5M



Granary Avenue and Waypoint Park, Bellingham

APWA PROJECT OF THE YEAR, NATIONAL PROGRAM –
TRANSPORTATION, \$5M BUT LESS THAN \$25M



PACIFIC NW OFFICES:

SEATTLE TACOMA SPOKANE LACEY PORTLAND EUGENE BOISE

KPFF is an Equal Opportunity Employer

www.kpff.com



New and Returning Members

August 3, 2022 to November 1, 2022

Mark V. Allen, Eastern Region Local Programs Engineer,
Washington State DOT

Russ Avery, City of White Salmon

Christine S. Baklund,
Document Control Specialist,
WSP USA Administration Inc.

Brian Baltzell, Street Maintenance Manager,
City of Moses Lake

Mark Beaulieu, Design Engineer,
City of Moses Lake

Michael Beltz, City of Lynnwood

Richard L. Bisnett, Project Surveyor,
City of Moses Lake

Bill J. Brewer, III, VP Operations,
National Barricade & Sign Co. Spokane

Nicole Brockwell, Project Manager,
Perteet Inc.

Jon William Cammermeyer,
Project Manager, WSP USA
Administration Inc.

Chris Campbell, Wastewater Manager,
City of Moses Lake

Rob Charles, Utility Manager,
City of Camas

Thomas Cheong, Engineer II, Perteet Inc.

Tom Chriest, Water and Wastewater
Supervisor, City of Kirkland

Brian Dalseg, Transportation O&M
Supervisor, City of Kirkland

Colin Depner, PW Project Manager,
Spokane County

James Ellis, Lead Water Resource Engineer,
WSP USA Administration Inc.

Ryan Fowler, Street and Grounds Manager,
City of Kirkland

Jason Grubb, Senior Engineering Technician,
City of Moses Lake

Branden Herrell, Operations Manager,
City of Enumclaw

Amy Rose Hodgson, Navy

Jeffrey R. Holm, Design Engineer,
City of Moses Lake

Trisha Kehret, Engineering Administrative
Technician, City of Moses Lake

Debra Kelly-Sage, Operations & Facilities
Manager, City of University Place

Cindy Kinzer

Chris Knudson, PW Senior Project Manager,
Spokane County

Derek Kosanke, Street Supervisor,
City of Liberty Lake

Jared Kurttila, Executive Assistant,
City of Lacey

Ginette Lalonde, Senior Business Line
Lead - Water, WSP USA Administration Inc.

John Lande, Operations Manager,
City of Monroe WA

Michael Limbaugh, Senior Engineer
Technician, City of Moses Lake

Lori A. Lopez, Municipal Services Support
Specialist, City of Moses Lake

Robert A. Massa, City of Moses Lake

Josh McPherson, Facilities,
City of Moses Lake

Abhishek Mishra, Senior Consultant WSP
USA Administration Inc.

Chelsea Morrison, Kimley-Horn

Scott A. Myers, Engineer Tech III,
City of Moses Lake

Brian Nielsen, Northwest Regional
Administrator, Washington State DOT

Jason Osborn, Storm Water Supervisor,
City of Kirkland

Wayne Ostler, Principle Engineering Manager,
City of Moses Lake

Naomi Patibandla, Project Manager,
Clark County WA - Public Works

Brian Petrin, Civil Engineer,
City of Lacey

Chris Phillips, Public Works Director,
City of Mount Vernon

Chris G. Phippen, Construction Inspector,
City of Lakewood

Brian Pope, Civil Engineer,
City of Richland

Sandra A. Quandt, Contracts/Office
Administrator, City of Kennewick

Makhan Ranu, Engineer III,
Snohomish County Public Works
Engineering Services

Andrew Ritchie, Senior Engineer
Technician, City of Moses Lake

Jake Saxon, Plans & Contract Engineer,
Spokane County

Tim Schmidt, Cartegraph

Jared Schuffenhauer, Public Works
Technician, City of Shelton

Alex Shannon, Vice President - NW Pacific
District Business Lead,
WSP USA Administration Inc.

Cindy Smith, GIS Programming Manager,
City of Moses Lake

Micah Stansberry, Street and Grounds
Supervisor, City of Kirkland

Stacie Steel

Maria Stevens

Steve Stewart

Chad Strevey, Water Services Manager,
City of Moses Lake

Nathan Thompson, Traffic Engineer,
Spokane County

Kyle M. Tokita, Construction Inspector,
City of Lakewood

James Turner, Operations Manager,
Snohomish County WA

Tracy Vorwerk, Contracts Coordinator,
City of Moses Lake

Thomas Weller P.E., Asst County Engineer,
Engineering Division Manager,
Skagit County WA

Jing Song Xi, City of Maple Valley

Wlater J. Zitz, Senior Engineer
Shannon & Wilson, Inc.

Andi Zontek-Backstrum 

Welcome to the Incoming WA Chapter Board!

Join us in welcoming the new 2023–2024 Board and 2023 Officers. Thank you to all who voted! Your participation assists with robust leadership. Per our Chapter's bylaws there was a call for nominations from July 7 to August 6 and voting occurred online from August 19 to September 20, 2022.

The incoming board, per our bylaws, must represent the Chapter by having both eastern and western Washington representatives as well as both agency and consultant members.

2023–2024 Board Members



Mary Heather Ames, PE,
Transportation Manager,
City of Tumwater



Bill Preston, PE,
City Engineer,
City of Yakima



Leah Rohan, PE,
Environmental Engineer,
City of Walla Walla



Justin Matthews, PE,
Principal / Transportation
Project Manager, KPFF
Consulting Engineers

2023 New Secretary

We also welcome our new Secretary for 2023, who will be rotating through the Officer roles until his presidency in 2026.



Secretary: Jim Rioux,
Project Manager,
Public Works Engineering,
City of Olympia

2023 Confirmed Officers

Also completed was confirmation voting for our current officers who will all advance to the next officer role in 2023.

President: Lauren Behm,
Senior Marketing Manager, Landau
Associates, Inc.

Vice President: Tara Olsen, PE,
Assistant Vice President, WSP, USA

Treasurer: Jeff Brauns, PE,
Public Works Director, City of Newcastle



Outgoing Board

We send out best wishes for the outgoing Board members who served from 2020 and will remain until the end of this year. As three-year board members they represent the last of our extended service board due to Covid.

Max Phan, PE, City of Marysville Public Works

Jennifer Walker, PMP, Thurston County

Mallory Wilde, PE, Parametrix

Steve M. Worley, PE, City of Pasco



MacKay Sposito

VANCOUVER
PASCO
FEDERAL WAY



CIVIL ENGINEERING

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT & INSPECTION

LAND SURVEYING

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

PLANNING & ENTITLEMENT








NEW & USED SALES • RENTALS • PARTS • SERVICE



Office: (425) 413-1211 Email: sales@1point7.com



ARIES
INDUSTRIES, INC.



VICTORY
SWEEPERS INC.

SNOWEX

1point7.com



Facebook @One.7, Inc.



Instagram @1point7



TikTok @OnePointSeven



LinkedIn @One.7, Inc.

FALL 2022 CONFERENCE BY THE NUMBERS

The Chapter's Fall Conference was held from October 5–6 in Spokane, WA. Now that the dust has settled, it's time to see how we did by the numbers. One of the things that we were excited to see is that attendance is now up to about 90% of where we were pre-Covid.

CONFERENCE NUMBERS

- **424** attendees descended on Spokane
- **87** exhibitors
- **38** educational sessions with 83 speakers

AWARD WINNERS

- **9** Night of Excellence awards were given out on Thursday to recognize each winner's efforts to improve public works and their local communities
- **39** ROADeo competitors were able to reunite for the first Chapter ROADeo since 2018
- **3** individual event winners and 1 grand prize winner



We highlighted each winner on Facebook (@APWAWashington) and LinkedIn (APWA Washington Chapter) – follow us to get the inside scoop, news, info, and conference photos.



GOLF WINNERS

\$3,500 was raised for scholarships by the Golf Tournament and \$10k was awarded to two scholarships to students entering public works fields.

- **50** golfers got their golf on in support of scholarships
- **8** golf winners took home prizes including:

Team: Steve Brown, Jon Davies, Rick Powell, and an unknown ringer.

Closest to the Pin, Men: Doug McCormick.

Long Drive, Men: unknown ringer (drop us a line if you know who this was!)

Closest to the Pin, Women: Julie West

Long Drive, Women: Julie West

WILD WEST CONTEST WINNERS

The Washington Chapter put the “wild” in “wild west” with creative costumes often eerily close to big-screen characters. The following three took home some coveted prizes and the honor of being some of the wildest folk at the shindig. Winners were chosen by a popular vote of onsite attendees.





Best Cowboy & Most Creative Winners

Best Cowgirl Winner

- **Most Creative:** Max Phan
o Prize: \$500 towards a stay at the Bavarian Inn, Leavenworth
- **Best Cowgirl:** Leah Rohan
o Prize: \$250 jet boat tour of Hells Canyon sponsored by JUB Engineers
- **Best Cowboy:** Donald Hulling
o Prize: \$250 jet boat tour of Hells Canyon sponsored by JUB Engineers
- **Best Bull Rider:** Rory Kilkenny
o Prize: \$500 prize rodeo themed package sponsored by Consor



COST ESTIMATING • VALUE MANAGEMENT • COST CONTROL



Bonneville Power Administration Ross Complex (Vancouver, WA)

Detailed & Accurate Independent Cost Estimates

For Public Works
Construction Projects and More!

Seattle • Portland • Bend

WA: (206) 775-8707 • OR: (503) 675-4383
www.jldllc.com



JLD Cost Consulting

Download our SOQ
by scanning the QR Code



2022 President Scott Sawyer thanks the last outgoing Board Members to serve an extended 3-year term. Pictured: Mallory Wilde, Max Phan.



Upcoming 2023 President Lauren Behm introduces next year's theme "Rise Up! Reach Out!"



"Won't You Be My Colleague?" Social

WA CHAPTER AWARDS 2022 SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year the Washington Chapter raises funds to provide scholarships for deserving students who are intending to enter the public works fields after graduation. The string of pandemic bad luck continued to plague the Golf Tournament with a spring snowstorm that forced the last minute cancellation of the tournament in Vancouver. The Scholarship and Golf Committees rallied with some creative problem solving. The golf committee asked golfers if they would consider donating their registrations to the scholarship fund and many golfers participated! In addition, the committees used donated sporting event tickets to create a successful raffle at the Conference's Wednesday night social. These spring fundraisers along with the cowboy hat sales and a successful tournament at the fall conference (finally!) helped raise \$6,200 for the scholarship program in 2022.

If you're interested in donating to the scholarship fund, online donating is still available.



Scholarship Fund

JACK PITTIS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT (\$7,500)

DOMINICA GACHET, WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

A Senior at the Washington State University, Dominica is a civil engineering student who intends to focus on composite materials for use in earthquake resistant construction. A first-generation college student, Dominica emigrated from Ecuador and was disappointed to learn that her previous college credits would not transfer. Forced to start over at freshman-level classes, Dominica has persevered and excelled. She has also continued to volunteer with Society of Women Engineers (SWE), the WSU Engineers Without Borders (EWB) club, and tutoring in a variety of capacities and organizations.

When asked about her choice of degree, Dominica spoke about the global challenges that engineers can assist with.

"One significant challenge we are currently facing and will continue to face for at least the next 10 years,



is unattainable housing. As a civil engineer with a focus on structures, I am interested in the infrastructural development of cities. For the past year, I have been on the research team at Washington State University at the Composite Materials Engineering Center. There, we focus on wood panels, hydration of cement, and admixtures for concrete. Composite materials can represent a decrease in materials cost and a greener construction practice. ... By engineering less expensive, yet stronger and lighter construction materials, we have the potential to reduce housing costs. ... Housing cost is just one of the problems that I am trying to help solve. I cannot fix the world, but my small contribution to affordable housing will make a difference someday."

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT (\$2,500)

STACY KYONY, BELLEVUE COLLEGE

An expected 2023 graduate of Bellevue College, Stacy is an emigrant from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who expects to continue her education to a university level. Stacy has a strong interest in environmental sciences and connecting with the public.

When asked about what about her classes has inspired her, Stacy had this to say:

"My previous experience with chemistry wasn't the best, but that class included a quarter-long project which ended by reaching out to our community and share my research project. In that class, my interest in environmental sciences deepened after focusing on indoor air pollution. I have an interest in civil engineering because of the public work it involved, but after that class, I'm also considering architecture and environmental science due to the sustainability component that entails. The knowledge I got in that class also helped receive an offer of internship to shadow a public health and environmental professor this summer which I'll greatly learn from."

We congratulate the winners of this year's scholarships and look forward to their impact on our industry and our Chapter. To become involved in the committee, to donate, or suggest fundraising opportunities, contact the Scholarship Committee Chair, Justin Matthews, justin.matthews@kpff.com. ▀



MECHANICAL REPAIRS & SEALS, REINSTATEMENTS & ROBOTIC CUTTING, MUNICIPAL, INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL

When You Think Pipe Lining Think



SECTIONAL REPAIRS, CONNECTION LINERS, CCTV

UV CIPP LINING FOR H2O AND PRESSURE LINES



(360) 943-5840
insta-pipe.com
PRIMUS Line &
UV CIPP Lining

WA# INSTAI*941P6
OR# 190180



SPECIALIZING IN SANITARY SEWER, STORM WATER, POTABLE WATER & PRESSURE PIPE REHABILITATION

Singularly focused on going
above, below, and beyond the
surface to move people and
communities forward.



consor

www.consoreng.com

2022 *The* NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE *Awards*

On Thursday night October 6, 2022, the APWA Washington Chapter gathered to acknowledge the accomplishments of individuals and teams committed to public works excellence and service to community. We are proud to put a spotlight on our wonderful public works family.

ROADeo WINNERS

Lane McAllister, Head of the ROADeo Committee, presented the awards to the winners of the 2022 Annual Equipment ROADeo at the Night of Excellence Awards Banquet. All winners are invited to compete at the National APWA ROADeo held in conjunction with PWX August 27–30, in San Diego.

Winner of the Wesley Award and Overall Champion:

Tyson Null, Thurston County

Loader Champion: Fritz Beierle, Thurston County

Backhoe Champion: Cody Ricci, City of Bellingham

Truck Champion: Brent Stadt, Whatcom County

Skid Steer Champion: Jason Garza, City of Kirkland



GROUP AWARDS

THE EMPOWERING TEAMS AWARD

This recognizes public works teams who are making exceptional advancements to improve Public Works' services.



Dan Ireland

Dan Ireland has helmed the APWA Golf tournament for several years – not only doing all of the organizing, from finding volunteers and sponsors, to marketing, but he has done so during rain, snow and COVID, and always with a smile on his face. This past spring, when the golf tournament was canceled less than 24 hours before it began

due to an unexpected spring snowstorm, he and the Scholarship Committee still managed to raise funds for the Chapter scholarships by turning the golf winner prizes into raffle items. Through his efforts, Dan empowers the Scholarship Committee and our Chapter to keep supporting deserving students on their paths to careers in public works.

THE COMMITTEE IN ACTION AWARD

This award recognizes a committee that provides exceptional value to our membership and the public works profession. Their activities help to shape and define our interaction with

other professionals, trade organizations, government entities and the public. This year's award goes to:

The ROADeo Committee

Created in 2010, the APWA ROADeo/Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Committee started as small group of supervisors, leads, and maintenance workers with the goal of discussing shared issues, work standards, successes, and lessons learned, as well as to create Maintenance Training for workers across the state. But most important to them was to shine a light on all that they do for our communities and build relationships between the boots on the ground workers and PW leadership.

Their success was so obvious that in 2017, the National APWA asked for our committee's assistance in building the National APWA ROADeo which launched in 2019 at the Seattle PWX. With Covid stifling in-person events, the ROADeo committee has been forced once again to rebuild and we congratulate them and cheer for their fantastic event this year.



The NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE

THE CHAPTER HEROES AWARD

Given to either individuals or groups, this award recognizes outstanding service to the community in public works by frontline workers. This special recognition award is not given out every year.



City of Lacey Water Department

The City of Lacey Water Department were nominated for their outstanding commitment and dedication to the City of Lacey water customers while performing night-time repairs on a water main that experienced repeated ruptures.

On Friday July 10, 2022 at 10:00 pm, a call came into an after-hours stand-by technician for a watermain break. The stand-by technician, John Fuglistahler, went to the location and immediately began calling other technicians to assist with repairs. Justin Bellis, Michael Marten, Jesse Eang, and Torey Krieger responded to his call. It took four break repairs, a trip back to the shop for more supplies, at least 20 feet of replaced pipe, and working until 4:00 in the morning to get the watermain repaired.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

THE ROY MORSE AWARD

In Honor of Roy W. Morse

This award is our Chapter's most prestigious award. It recognizes outstanding technical or professional accomplishments in public works.

Roy Morse was one of the first presidents of the Washington State Chapter as well as a former National President and served as a role model for an entire generation of public works employees. This year's winner is:

Dan McReynolds

Dan McReynolds has dedicated 37 years to the profession as a transportation engineer and project manager responsible for delivering complex infrastructure projects. With a long list of awards, Dan stands out from the crowd with his ability to



present technical information in a concise manner and with a sense of humor. His selfless leadership and philosophy of service above self makes him a mentor and role model. The Chapter has benefitted from his commitment as chair of the Transportation Committee and his numerous conference presentations. As a mentor, technical resource, team player, leader, and friend, Dan McReynolds towers above the rest. To view the awards presentation video, visit: <https://youtu.be/depUI7byFwY>.



THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

In Honor of James Robertson

This award recognizes outstanding service to the Chapter. Named in honor of the original petitioner to establish our chapter, the award was first instituted in 1962 on Public Works Day at the Seattle World's Fair.

Caroline E. Barlow

Caroline Barlow has exhibited outstanding service to our industry for nearly 20 years. A Gonzaga graduate, who has worked in both private and public sectors, and now works at Seattle Public Utilities, Caroline strives



to mentor young professionals in the industry of public works and make our communities better through improving our utility infrastructure.

An active and dedicated member of APWA, Caroline has left her mark on our Chapter and APWA National. A previous Young Leader Award winner, Caroline founded the Emerging Professionals Committee, has served on our Chapter's Board of Directors, and is the Chair of the Utility and Public Right of Way Committee for APWA National. Our industry and our communities are better because of her efforts.

Congrats!

TO ALL WINNERS

THE INCLUSION ADVOCATE AWARD

In Honor of June Rosentreter Spence

This award recognizes efforts to recruit individuals into public works, including those members and organizations, or programs, who recognize and are active in helping women, minorities, and people with disabilities pursue careers in the public works field.

June Rosentreter-Spence was the first woman recipient of the James Roberston Award in 1978, the first woman Washington State President in 1982, and the first woman President of APWA National in 1987. This year's award goes to:

Mary Heather Ames

Mary Heather has dedicated her career to public works and serving as a "translator" of engineering matters into everyday language. Mary Heather is devoted to serving the communities she lives in by listening to the myriad of voices and finding common ground with everyone she interacts with.

She is tireless when it comes to encouraging participation in APWA, where she has been a conference speaker, ROADeo volunteer, and MPAC committee member where she focused on bridging the gap with East-side members. She is now collaborating with others in a pre-conference meet-up to foster connection and support for Women in Public Works.



THE CHAPTER PILLAR AWARD

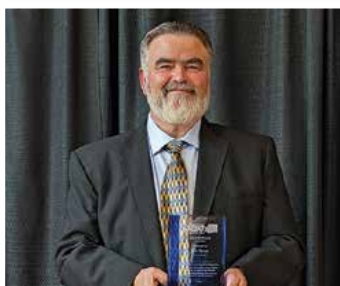
In Honor of Richard (Dick) G. Andrews

This award recognizes individuals who exemplify leadership, mentoring, and serving behind the scenes without seeking recognition. Dick Andrews was a long-time Washington State Chapter member, Board Member, and 2002 President.

This year's winner is:

Jim Rioux

Jim has done a fantastic job leading our Government Affairs Committee for many years. He has thoughtfully led the preparation for the APWA legislative agenda prior to every legislative session for over 10 years. During each session, he leads weekly conference calls to review bills that might affect public works. He has provided testimony at the legislature on topics affecting public works, and also led the development of written responses to legislative proposals. He updates the membership throughout the legislative session with eblasts, writes articles



for our Chapter magazine, and has built a database of members willing to testify. He has done all of this with quiet leadership without seeking recognition for himself – a true pillar for our state chapter.

THE YOUNG LEADER AWARD

This award recognizes and encourages young professionals who demonstrate a commitment to public works and show potential for leadership within APWA. The winner of this award receives a scholarship to attend PWX and serves as an ex-officio board member.

Brenna Harrington

Brenna is a civil engineer with a passion for public works. Brenna has a great ability to recognize potential and encourage growth in her peers, excels at meeting and connecting people, and her enthusiasm is contagious and evident as she continues to expand her involvement in APWA. Brenna has chaired the Emerging Professionals Committee for over four years. At the 2022 Spring Conference, Brenna was instrumental in planning and executing a track of five educational sessions geared towards Emerging Professionals, even moderating one of the panel discussions. Through her dedication, innovative ideas, and motivating leadership the EP Committee persevered through the global Covid pandemic and is now poised to launch a new mentorship program. We thank her for all that she has brought to our Chapter.



THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Gives the president an opportunity to recognize members who contribute substantial time and effort to ensure we have a thriving chapter that meets the ever-changing needs of our members.

Tara Davis (Olsen)

Tara has been a devoted member of APWA for over 15 years and is currently the Treasurer, serving an extended three-year term due to Covid. In addition to the regular budgeting and management of expenses, Tara has added many iterative projections to her list of duties as she keeps the Chapter on track with changing revenue estimates. She has still managed to volunteer with many committees and represents APWA at the Puget Sound Engineering Council, an organization comprised of the local chapters of national engineering societies in the Puget Sound area. ■





2023 Legislative Session Outlook

By Mike Shaw, Shaw Government Relations, and Jim Rioux, Chair – Government Affairs Committee

At the time of writing, it is early fall 2022 and that means preparation for the 2023 legislative session. There are a few issues that we expect will carry over from last session, including long-term care insurance, housing-related issues, and police vehicle pursuit authority. A number of legislative groups are seeking help regarding recruiting and retainage of staff in a variety of areas including law enforcement, health care, and education. Regarding public works, the Capital Projects Advisory Board is looking at legislation to make the Small Works Roster easier to use and there are several details concerning implementation of last session's transportation funding package that need to be addressed.

In March of 2022, the Legislature passed a new transportation funding package called "Move Ahead Washington." Usually, large transportation funding packages are not passed during these "short" sessions, and usually, they include a gas-tax and are bi-partisan due to the necessity of having a super-majority bond vote. This has neither. It contains carbon tax revenues from last year's carbon bills, federal money, and a mixture of fees and general fund money –

including a \$2 billion transfer from the operating budget. Totalling about \$17 billion, spent over a 16-year period, this proposal passed on party lines. The proposal spends over \$3 billion on transit, \$1.3 billion on active transportation modes for pedestrians and bicycles, and covers the state's fish passage obligations. It buys four new hybrid-electric ferries (\$435 million) and has a "kids ride free" component for all public transportation.

The Move Ahead Washington package received some criticism from both the city and county associations because it relied on funding transfers from the Public Works Assistance Account and the Hazardous Substance tax (eliminating a "trigger" that would have ended a \$50 million per biennium transfer for stormwater improvements). Also, the package did not have direct funding increases for city and counties nor money for local fish passage obligations, although it did include some funding for TIB and CRAB for local preservation.

Given these criticisms, the 2022 supplemental transportation budget created a work group to develop recommendations on the distribution

of federal-aid highway formula program funding from the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs* act. The work group released its recommendations on September 15. While the funding formulas are locked in for the first two years, the committee's recommendations provide a suite of changes intended to address the issue raised by local governments.

A copy of the recommendations can be found here:
https://leg.wa.gov/JTC/Documents/Studies/IIJA%20Workgroup/IIJA_WorkGroup2022FinalMemo.pdf.



Those interested in the specifics of the spending, or the revenues in Move Ahead Washington can find summaries here:
<http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/budget/detail/2022/st2022Supp.asp>.



While the overall structure of the package is unlikely to change, the timing of the projects will need to be addressed during the 2023 session. Most legislators who championed specific projects included in the project lists expect their projects to be first to go; however, this is a 16-year transportation package and projects will be spread throughout that period. Expect a lot of pushing of shoving as stakeholders fight for positions in the project queue.

Who will be deciding that project timing issue will be determined by the general election. At this time, just a few weeks past the primary election, we can only make assumptions about the general election. Currently, the Democrats control the State House by a 57 to 41 margin and the State Senate by a 29 to 20 margin, but each of the State's 98 house positions are on the ballot as are half the 49 Senate seats. There are a lot of open seats since about 20 House members choose not to run for re-election and six State Senators called it quits.

Many of us expected those majority/minority party margins to shrink during this election cycle, and, perhaps, for one of the chambers to flip majorities. Economic issues like inflation and high gas prices can play havoc with the electoral fortunes of the party in power, and the President's party frequently takes a beating during these mid-term elections. However, this primary election, held in August, had a few surprises: As several national pundits noted, the red wave did not appear to land on blue Washington State. While a lot can change between a primary election and a general election, historically, the Republicans tend to do well during primary elections while the Democrats benefit from the higher turn-out in the general election. This time, legislative Democrats, both incumbents and in open seat races, generally performed better than their Republican challengers.

Thus, we expect the current transportation committee chairs, Rep. Jake Fey and Sen. Marko Liias, will continue next session to hold their respective committee gavels. How much they are willing to tweak their handywork remains to be seen. ▀

"There are a few issues that we expect will carry over from last session, including long-term care insurance, housing-related issues, and police vehicle pursuit authority."

TufTile®

Directional Guidance Indicators

Create safe passage for persons with low vision where no curb or barrier exists. Ideal for bicycle transition ramps and shared-use pathways.

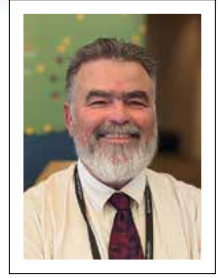


Contact:
(847) 307-3070
don@tuftile.com

- G90 powder coated galvanized steel
- Lowest profile edge in industry
- Durable slip and UV resistant finish
- 10-year warranty

www.tuftile.com

The Government Affairs Committee: Where We've Been and Possibilities for Where We Can Go



By Jim Rioux, Chair – Government Affairs Committee

In 2013 our Chapter's Board of Directors approved a proposal to hire a professional lobbyist to represent the Chapter at the State Legislature. Within a few months we retained the services of Shaw Government Relations, becoming the only state chapter of APWA to make that kind of investment in advocacy.

With guidance from Mike Shaw, the Government Affairs Committee has been able to significantly increase the profile of APWA with the legislature, state agencies, and other stakeholder organizations.

We have established weekly legislative update meetings and provide weekly updates to our members during legislative session.



In addition to hosting the Legislative and Funding Update that kicks off each of our conferences, we have organized a number of technical sessions focused on advocacy and key issues before the legislature and regularly provide articles for the Chapter magazine.

We have taken actions in the form of testimony and coordination with stakeholders on a number of specific pieces of legislation and regulations. A few noteworthy items include providing expert testimony that led to the defeat of legislation that would have taken away the protections of the Mike Johnson decision, coordinating with the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) on legislation that expanded the use of job order contracting for public works agencies, engaging with the Washington Department of Ecology to delay indefinitely proposed rules that would have significantly increased the cost of material disposal on public works contracts and, most recently, engaging on a work group to raise awareness around unintended consequences of proposals to give private utilities avenues to bypass local permitting processes.

Probably the most important of our accomplishments has been developing relationships with other organizations that have interests in common with APWA. Recognizing that we are primarily a volunteer committee, we realized that it was important to identify and reach out to professional groups that we could support and work with on legislative issues. Since 2013 the Association of Washington Cities, the Washington State Association of County Engineers, the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board, the County Road Administration Board, and more



Transportation • Stormwater • Drinking Water • Wastewater
Public Facilities • Natural System Restoration

We have all of your public works needs covered



Arlington • Olympia • Seattle • Vancouver • Wenatchee • Yakima

www.g-o.com

recently the Washington State Department of Transportation, have become regular attendees and active contributors at our weekly meetings during session as well as the monthly meetings we held this year to prepare for the 2023 session.

Looking forward, however, there is no shortage of areas where we feel we can improve. The following are a few that I feel are critical.

Branding with legislators

Depending upon partner organizations like AWC has brought APWA to the table from time to time, but it would be a stretch to say that we are generally seen by legislators or their staff as the “go to” organization for technical information on matters that affect public works. Achieving that goal will require more direct contact with legislators and their staff letting them know who we are, and the kind of information we can offer.

Providing our members easy to access advocacy tools

APWA National has put a great deal of effort into providing members with online information. Their Government Affairs page includes a Legislative Glossary page, a “Tell Your Story” page where anyone can submit a story to highlight the challenges and accomplishments of their agencies, and a page where they post all letters sent to legislators and federal agencies. The Association of Washington Cities’ website includes an advocacy page where you can find a number of documents and videos that simplify the sometimes-daunting task of approaching and building effective relationships with legislators. The GAC will survey what is already available online and see how we can improve our online advocacy presence.

Serving as the voice of our members

Most of our members work for firms or agencies that have independent legislative agendas. Some are already in a position to connect with legislators. For many, however, it would be inappropriate for them to advocate independently. The GAC could serve an important role in these cases by providing avenues where issues can be raised to the committee and, with Board approval, become part of the Chapter’s legislative agenda or simply the day-to-day work we do during session.

Expanding our partnerships

While we have had some success building relationships with stakeholders, efforts should continue to expand our network and build relationships with new organizations and state agencies. The Association of General Contractors and the Departments of Health and Ecology come to mind as organizations where a stronger relationship could significantly benefit our members.

Strengthening our connection with APWA National

By design the Chapter’s GAC has focused on state-level issues. While some of us are part of National Advocacy Ambassadors network, the committee has not significantly invested in national issues and initiatives. Becoming a more effective conduit for information between the National GAC and our members should be on our “to do” list in the coming months.

With the upcoming legislative session about to begin, the next few months will be focused on session. While that will consume resources, I hope to keep the items listed above alive. If you would like to be a part of this, please contact Jim Rioux at jrioux@ci.olympia.wa.us. ▀

LOCHNER

- › Civil Engineering
- › Construction Inspection Services
- › Environmental & Fish Passage Design
- › Hydrology / Hydraulics
- › Multi-Modal Planning & Design
- › Stormwater Engineering
- › Structural Engineering
- › Sustainable Design
- › Traffic Engineering
- › Transportation Planning

hwlochner.com





MRSC is a research nonprofit that offers local government staff free, one-on-one guidance with legal and policy consultants. Below are inquiry responses the MRSC Public Works Consultant. If you work for a city, county, or contracted special purpose district, Ask MRSC by calling 800-977-6553 or emailing mrsc@mrsc.org.

Public Engagement

There are many ways an agency can engage with members of the community to increase participation in agency activities, from public working contracting to policy-making and more. Below are a few questions MRSC staff have received related to public engagement.

Q: Does MRSC know if any jurisdictions in the state have formalized participation goals for women and minority-owned businesses in their public works contracting programs?

A: MRSC staff reached out to agencies and peers have recommended the following resources for cities:

- Seattle's women- and minority-owned businesses webpage: seattle.gov/purchasing-and-contracting/social-equity/wmbe
- Tacoma's equity in contracting program

Peers also recommend **King County's certification program** for small businesses for counties, and Sound Transit's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program for transportation or other special purpose districts.

Q: A resident is demanding we add a tool to our city website so residents can post questions and our elected officials and agency staff can respond. No other Washington city currently does this, our city attorney has advised against it, and we have no budget for and no plans to add this feature. I'm hoping to explain why we cannot and should not do it.

A: Here are four issues you and the rest of the council may want to discuss with your attorney:

1. Public records and records management: The agency website and any questions and responses posted there will be public records and must be maintained

according to state law. We discuss these requirements on our Managing Electronic Records webpage (<https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Legal/Open-Government/Public-Records-Act/Managing-Electronic-Records.aspx>). Also, those questions and responses will be subject to the Public Records Act (PRA), which means that city staff will have to search the archived records, review them for responsive records, and determine whether any of the information is exempt. Also, state law requires an initial response to a request for public records in five days. If your city does not have someone assigned to review all posts for possible records requests it might miss one, miss the deadline, and subject your agency to legal and financial penalties for violating the PRA.

2. Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA): If a quorum of your councilmembers engage on the website on a specific issue, it could be considered an illegal "serial meeting" in violation of the OPMA. See our blog What Constitutes a Serial Meeting under the OPMA? for an in-depth discussion of this issue (<https://mrsc.org/Home/Stay-Informed/MRSC-Insight/November-2020-1/What-Is-a-Serial-Meeting-under-the-OPMA.aspx>).
3. Constitutional issues: Opening up your website (or other social media) to this type of discussion creates a "limited public forum." Once the city does this it cannot discriminate based on the content or viewpoint of the speech of the persons posting. See our blog Addressing Free Speech in your Social Media Comment Policy (<https://mrsc.org/Home/Stay-Informed/MRSC-Insight/August-2016/Establishing-Effective-Social-Media-Comment-Policy.aspx>) for more information.
4. Agency resources: For it to be effective, one or more people will have to be responsible for managing this new public engagement tool to ensure

questions are routed to the proper person and are answered in a timely manner. Our Community Engagement Resources webpage (<https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Governance/Engagement/Community-Engagement-Resources.aspx>), particularly the section on Web-Based Engagement Platforms, provides examples of agencies using these tools.

This may be less a legal issue as it is a practical or policy issue. If you and your colleagues feel there are currently adequate ways for your residents to engage with your agency, it is under no legal obligation to add another method.

Q: My agency is preparing a public engagement event and is wondering if we can increase participation by offering an opportunity to win gift cards, city apparel, or other items (no direct cash would be provided). We were thinking we would advertise that people who fill out the form and include their email address will be entered to win a prize. Is this allowed?

A: A public agency may provide incentives such as gift cards or other small gifts without violating the state's prohibition on gifting of public funds, provided there is an articulated public purpose for doing so. From MRSC's Gift of Public Funds webpage (<http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Legal/Ethics-Fairness-Conflicts-of-Interest/Gift-of-Public-Funds.aspx>):

In assessing whether a gift has been bestowed to a private entity, the courts have used a two-step process. First, they determine whether the funds are being expended to carry out a fundamental purpose of the government. If so, then no gift of public funds has been made. Otherwise, the court looks to see whether the government entity had a "donative intent," and whether it received an adequate return for the transfer.

If an incentive program serves a valid purpose of government, then incentivizing participation in that program is not a gift. For example, providing wellness awards to patients who participate in annual check-ups at a hospital district are not gifts under the law. A hospital could also use gift card drawings to get patients to respond to satisfaction surveys. The hospital would be receiving something of value in exchange for the gift card – namely a response to the survey. Similarly, providing some incentive to participate in a community planning process serves an important governmental purpose.

Your agency should adopt – in advance – a reasonable policy regarding the incentives, and it should articulate a valid municipal purpose for the expenditures. If gift cards or other items of monetary value are given as more of an “afterthought” or thank you gift, this will look less like an incentive program and more like a gift.

Q: We are in the process of creating an RFP to go out to bid soon for our next solid waste contractor. Given that there has been fairly recurrent dissatisfaction from community members about our current solid waste provider, our city council wants to ensure that residents have a say in our next provider. Are you aware of cities that have involved residents in this process or something similar?

A: Here are a few samples:

- Tacoma used community engagement in development of their RFP for the

Tacoma Public Library Eastside & Hilltop Feasibility Study.

- While not specific to an RFP, the City of Olympia’s Reimagining Public Safety webpage (<https://engage.olympiawa.gov/publicsafety>) has an example of a public engagement model.

An additional resource is the MRSC’s webpage, Community Engagement Resources (<https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Governance/Engagement/Community-Engagement-Resources.aspx>). In particular see the section on Ad Hoc Task Force/Advisory Committees, as this model may work well for your situation.

Q: After a recorded public meeting, is there a requirement for how quickly we need to make the recording available to the public? And for how long must we make it available online?

A: There is not a specific requirement for how quickly a governing body should make recordings of public meetings available to the public. There is also no requirement to make recordings of public meetings. However, pursuant to recent changes to the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA), recordings are now “encouraged,” and agencies are also encouraged to make meeting recordings available online. RCW 42.30.220 now provides:

- (1) Public agencies are encouraged to make an audio or video recording of, or to provide an online streaming option for, all regular meetings of its governing body, and to make recordings of these meetings available online for a minimum of six months.

- (2) This section does not alter a local government’s recordkeeping requirements under chapter 42.56 RCW.

This new RCW, effective June 9, 2022, does not indicate how soon an agency should make recordings available online, but includes the guideline for posting them “a minimum of six months.” The statute clarifies that the PRA still applies. Further, records retention schedules should be reviewed before any recordings are discarded.

Your agency could adopt a policy with guidelines about when to post meeting recordings, taking into account the resources involved in doing so. A reasonable time may differ depending on the agency in question. If your agency has decided to make audio and/or video recordings of your meetings, then you might want to look at the requirement for meeting minutes to be “promptly recorded.” There is not a specific definition of “promptly.” RCW 42.30.035 provides:

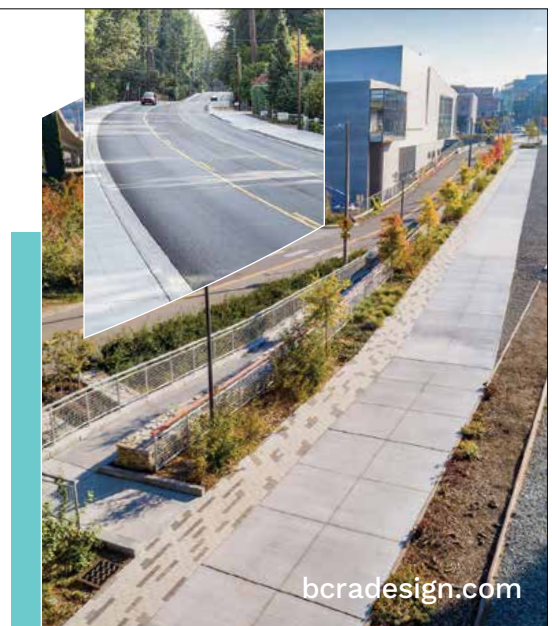
The minutes of all regular and special meetings except executive sessions of such boards, commissions, agencies or authorities shall be promptly recorded and such records shall be open to public inspection.

Our blogs, The OPMA Gets an Update from the Legislature (<https://mrsc.org/Home/Stay-Informed/MRSC-Insight/March-2022/The-OPMA-Gets-an-Update-from-the-Legislature.aspx>) and HB 1329: Answers to Your OPMA Questions (<https://mrsc.org/Home/Stay-Informed/MRSC-Insight/May-2022/HB-1329-Answers-to-Your-OPMA-Questions.aspx>) offer more information about the 2022 changes to the OPMA. ■




Listen. Deliver. Amaze.

We are engineers, architects, designers, and landscape architects united in a shared commitment to serve our communities. We believe true inspiration comes from collaboration, and the best solutions for our clients are found where different perspectives meet.



bcradesign.com




SHANNON & WILSON

**INTEGRATED SERVICES FOR
PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS**

Geotechnical Engineering	Geologic Hazard Evaluations
Seismic Engineering	Construction Dewatering
Hydrogeology	Environmental Remediation
Tunneling	Natural Resources
Instrumentation	Surface Water

Offices Nationwide | www.shannonwilson.com



EARTH WATER

Geotechnical Engineering
Environmental Remediation
Water Resources
Stormwater
Data & Mapping

Aspect
CONSULTING

www.aspectconsulting.com/contact

Our reason is **water.**™

Preventing the contamination of waterways from pollutants and sediment swept up in stormwater runoff is critical. At ADS, we manufacture and supply water quality solutions you can rely on to ensure your next project effectively manages stormwater, while protecting our waterways.

ADS Water Quality Solutions

- StormTech® Isolator® Row Plus
- EcoPure BioFilter® Stormwater Filter System
- Barracuda® Stormwater Separators
- BaySeparator Stormwater Treatment System
- BayFilter® Stormwater Media Filter
- Catch It® Basin & Curb Inlet Filters

To learn more about ADS water quality solutions or any ADS product, please go to **adspipe.com** or contact **800-821-6710**.

© 2021 Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc. 12/21 MH



///ADS™



Looking For A Way To Connect With Your Community In 2023?

Touch-a-Truck event may be the answer.

By Karissa Witthuhn, PE

As a public works professional, you may be interested in ways to educate your community about the many different functions of public works and how it affects our day-to-day lives. The City of Ellensburg Public Works and Utilities Department hosts an annual “Touch-a-Truck” event that exemplifies a fun and interactive format for kids and adults to learn more about the many aspects of public works.

This annual tradition started in 2005 with only four pieces of equipment set up on a city street, and over the years has grown into a much larger event. In addition to showcasing heavy equipment, the city uses the opportunity to hand out souvenir bags, public works and utilities-related activity books, stickers, and water, light, and gas conservation information to take home. The city’s gas department serves snow cones with utility color codes as the flavors –

order gas for lemon yellow, water for blue raspberry, etc. – while promoting “Call Before You Dig” concepts.

This year’s Touch-a-Truck, held on June 22 at Ellensburg’s Rotary Park, sprawled across two-plus acres. There were more than 35 pieces of equipment and vehicles on display from a variety of Washington State agencies, including the departments of transportation, natural resources, and fish and wildlife, as well



ENGINEERING
WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
PLANNING
URBAN DESIGN
ARCHITECTURE
SURVEYING
PROJECT MANAGEMENT
PROJECT CONTROLS

Otak

**Improving fish passage
across Washington,
Oregon, and Colorado**

WA Redmond, Everett, Vancouver ■ OR Portland ■ CO Louisville
ID Meridian ■ VT Burlington ■ NH Hanover

OVER 60 YEARS OF PERMANENT POTHOLE REPAIR. *GUESS THAT MAKES US "THE BOSS".*

UPM® mix outlasts the others—literally. It stay in the repair longer than our competitors. No need to go back again and again to re-repair! **Once and done, we guarantee it!**



THE GOOD STUFF®
Repair Material



Cody Gray • 469-354-6386
cgray@uniquepavingmaterials.com
uniquepavingmaterials.com

**YOU CAN'T AFFORD
to buy CHEAP**

OWEN EQUIPMENT

**SERVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL
MAINTENANCE INDUSTRY**

SALES | RENTALS | PARTS | SERVICE



SEWER CLEANERS



RC MOWERS



SWEEPERS



VACUUM EXCAVATORS

800-992-3656 OWENEQUIPMENT.COM

PORTLAND, OR | KENT, WA | SALT LAKE CITY, UT | FAIRFIELD, CA

Touch-a-Truck event may be the answer

as the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Also on display were equipment and vehicles from Kittitas County Public Works, and the local police and fire department.

This year's event also featured yard games, prizes, and popcorn, all of which were a big hit with the kids, and plenty of photo opportunities, including with APWA's mascot P.W. Paws, and USFS's mascot, Smokey the Bear. Adults could take pictures of their kids playing at the P.W. Paws and Chipper cutouts construction zone and kids could visit with larger-than-life P.W. Paws and Smokey the Bear characters (the costumes were

provided by APWA National and the USFS).

Ellensburg's 2022 Touch-a-Truck was attended by more than 450 kids and their families. It was awesome to see the excitement and delighted smiles on the kids' faces when they got to see, touch, and climb on big vehicles and equipment in a safe environment.

The secret to a successful event is teamwork by all the employees and volunteers. Their involvement is key to a well-attended community event with positive outcome and a heightened awareness of public works and utilities. ▀



SALES • RENTALS • SERVICE • PARTS



Genesis Water Recycling Sewer Cleaners
SECO Combination Sewer Cleaners
RamVac Hydro Excavators
Mongoose Sewer Jetters
SECO Easement Machines
Petersen Lightning Loader Grapple
Schwarze Street Sweepers
IBAK Pipeline Cameras
Larue Commercial Snow Blowers
ENZ Nozzles

1-800-892-7831
www.SWEquipment.com





The New Strowski's Outlook 35

When I was the Public Works Director for the City of Vancouver in the 1990s, City Manager John Fischbach created a neighborhood liaison program. John had taken it upon himself to attend every neighborhood association meeting in the city so that people would have direct access to him in addressing their problems. This approach soon wore him out.

He decided to assign each of his department heads and their deputies to a neighborhood to attend any meetings on behalf of the public works department. The program gave department heads a better appreciation for what was going on in the city and what residents really needed. It might seem like that would be a lot of extra work for staff, but it actually made my life easier because it gave residents a human being to talk to and when that happened, they were less likely to feel abused by the "system," which meant I had less cleanup work to do. Instead, I spent my time on more rewarding experiences like helping people. It was a great program, but as the city doubled in size through annexations, the power level of the liaisons was diluted because managers deeper in the organization with less access to the resources that a director might have had were asked to do more than they could deliver, and the program was less exciting in subsequent administrations.

That's a long introduction to the story I really want to tell. At that time of this program, the city had a problem with "transients" camping in a variety of places. It was enough of a concern that the neighborhood associations sponsored a forum on the subject. The chair of my neighborhood was the forum moderator and did a good job

keeping an orderly discussion. However, as I sat in the audience, I noticed that people were arguing and not listening, though they all were actually closer to agreement than their arguing would have you believe. I thought this was kind of funny and was thinking it would make a funny story for my staff meeting the next day. That's when it dawned on me that I was thinking of making fun of these people instead of helping them. So I raised my hand and said that I'd been listening to the arguments and that the participants agreed on more than they realized. I compared the problem to the common cold: we can't cure it but we can do the best job possible treating the symptoms. The chair took that opportunity to close the meeting on that note.

The next day the local newspaper had an article on the meeting and highlighted my common cold comment. This article caught the eyes of the folks at the county, and someone in the sheriffs' department wrote a response criticizing the city's position as summarized by my comment. What I thought was funny was that the points raised in the response about the supposed disagreement between county and city policy as I had stated actually pointed out how much the city and county were in agreement on the issue. It was the previous night's meeting all over again. I asked the city manager if I could write a response but he wisely told me to drop it and the debate ended there.

Before I go on about what we can learn from that story I need to discuss Maslow's hierarchy of needs to give some structure to my comments. Maslow believed that people were motivated by trying to satisfy their needs, which he grouped into five categories and arranged in a pyramidal

form with the foundational need, physiological, at the bottom. Maslow identified physiological needs as access to air, water, shelter, food, clothing, sleep, and reproduction. He argued that each level of need would have to be met before an individual could be motivated to move to the next level in the pyramid.

After physiological needs are safety needs, then social needs, then self-esteem needs, and, finally, at the top of pyramid is self-actualization. Maslow said that an individual couldn't be motivated by upper-level needs if they can't satisfy the lower level needs.

I've written before that I think Maslow's hierarchy of needs can be applied to how a whole community behaves as well. For example, public art that satisfies a community self-esteem isn't very popular if the water supply is tainted and people don't feel safe in their homes.

I used to use the hierarchy of needs concept to make my budget presentations to the city council. My pitch was that public works is a basic need and should get all the money required. Of course, police and fire services satisfy a community's safety need, but because I was in competition for tax dollars, I wanted to make a case that public works get funded first.

Since I've retired, I've identified two refinements for my argument (some people would say I was exposing the flaws in the analogy). The first refinement is that I wasn't really in a head-to-head battle for tax dollars for water, sewer, and stormwater because those are separate utilities. One reason they have separate funding is to keep elected officials from having to decide between level 1 and level 2 needs.

The second refinement is that some aspects of transportation satisfy needs at different levels. The more your street

“Regular in-person contact with residents on a partially social basis even built friendships, and it took the edge off of bureaucracy.”

looks like a park the more it satisfies a social need.

Participation in the city manager’s liaison program made us think more like city managers because we had to consider community needs that went beyond what our public works department could meet. That’s one of the reasons I was comfortable expressing “non-public works” opinions at a public meeting. It also means that no one cares about the silos you’re in in your various departments. There was no one complaining that the public works director shouldn’t be dictating social policies. In fact, the county folks thought I was doing just that, and they weren’t worried about me being wrong so much as the city was wrong. Of course, as you’ll remember, they were wrong because they unknowingly agreed with us; they couldn’t have it both ways.

In my little story I stumbled out of the world of public works and into the world of city social policy. Many things have changed since 1990. The homeless population in America is more than twice the size it was in 1990. A verbal battle in the newspaper is more likely to be carried out in social media today.

What hasn’t changed as much is human nature. People still jump to conclusions, still take comments out of context, and still think the worst of anyone who disagrees with them. Now, however, there’s no

gatekeeper to the discussion. Newspapers always limited the number of letters to the editor, citing space limitation for trimming the entries, but today, anybody can be heard in social media.

Nobody questioned my qualifications to comment on social issues 30 years ago and nobody questions the qualifications of people commenting on various topics on social media. Some make outlandish statements for the same reason the newspaper focused on the quotable quote – the newspaper wanted to stir things up and get readers and social media commentators just want to accumulate more eyeballs.

This isn’t all bad. Universal access is a very democratic concept. The more people engaged, the better... maybe. Actually, a revolutionary opportunity exists for people who, in the old days, thought they were alone – now they can find out how many people share their revolutionary ideas.

For people trying to solve problems and build better infrastructure this can be a real obstacle. It requires some skills not present 30 years ago. I was good at coming up with quotable quotes and I had good guidance from my city manager on when to disengage from the battle. Today, being quotable could be a career killer. Knowing which battles to fight will always be an important skill but there are still battles that are important enough to fight.

The city’s neighborhood liaison program did something that’s more important today even than it was back then: Bringing together people and dealing with them individually built a sense that we were all in this together. Regular in-person contact with residents on a partially social basis even built friendships, and it took the edge off of bureaucracy. If you see the same person month after month and become friends, you’re less likely to give them the runaround and more likely to put out more than a superficial effort.

I hope we haven’t gone so far down the technological rabbit hole that we can’t get back some of the personal human contact we lost during the COVID-19 pandemic. It did bring us some technical solutions that allowed us to be more efficient in how we do business, but human contact is something that happens in three dimensions and not on a flat screen.

Remember that you can have your views printed with future articles by sending me an email at ostrowj@pacifier.com and I’ll put you on the mailing list for advance copies of future Outlooks. In case you thought you were on the list but haven’t been getting advance copies, perhaps I don’t have your current email address. Now would be a good time to let me know you still want to read and perhaps contribute to future articles. ▀

Reader Responses

Jason Van Gilder, PE

It’s nice to know social discourse has not deteriorated too much since the ‘90s. It was at least a short fall.

And unsurprisingly, humanizing your interactions then as now, as your Manager Mr. Fischbach foresaw back then, still seems helpful in improving our ability to communicate. Thank you for the reminder to prioritize finding time to meet in person, understand other points of view, and work at seeing eye-to-eye.



ENGINEERS | PLANNERS | SURVEYORS

PROVIDING **OUR COMMUNITIES**
WITH OPTIMAL SOLUTIONS
FOR 30 YEARS

425.827.2014 | www.paceengrs.com
Kirkland | Everett | Wenatchee | Lake Oswego



Providing efficient, effective, and economical solutions
for municipal public works clients since 1967

**STORMWATER • ROADWAYS • WATER • WASTEWATER
UTILITY PLANS • LAND/HYDRO/AERIAL SURVEYING**

Consulting → Planning → Design → Construction

WilsonEngineering.com
360.733.6100 | Bellingham, WA



ENGINEERS ♦ PLANNERS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS ♦ SURVEYORS

VANCOUVER PORTLAND SALEM BEND

FIND US AT HHPR.COM



MILL PLAIN BOULEVARD (104TH AVE. TO NE CHKALOV DR.) | VANCOUVER, WA

**HHPR's integrated services span the full range
necessary to successfully and creatively bring
projects to fruition.**

Next generation facility planning, design
and implementation for fleet-based public
infrastructure agencies.



www.tcfarchitecture.com





FLAT-RATE PRICING:

\$325 Member
\$425 Non-Member

- **1.2 million+** visitors per year!
- Nearly **20,000** public works career opportunities posted in the last 6 years!
- **5,400** searchable résumés provide employers access to the most qualified public works candidates!

APWA

WORKZONE

Your Connection to Public Works Careers



During these challenging times, public works is still working to keep communities safe. Whether you're working on the front lines or remotely, APWA's WorkZone is here to support you. Post job advertisements, search open positions, and find additional career resources on the WorkZone website.

Get started today!

workzone.apwa.net

APWA STORE

SHOW YOUR PRIDE AND GET RECOGNIZED!

The APWA store has an assortment of Public Works First Responder items to show pride in the profession as well as to help workers be more visible and identifiable on scene. Shop the store for products with the official Public Works First Responder emblem:

- T-shirts and hoodies
- Hats
- Magnetic car signs
- Bumper stickers
- Hard hat stickers
- Embroidered patches
- Event chairs
- Flags
- Lapel pins
- License plates

Order your items today!

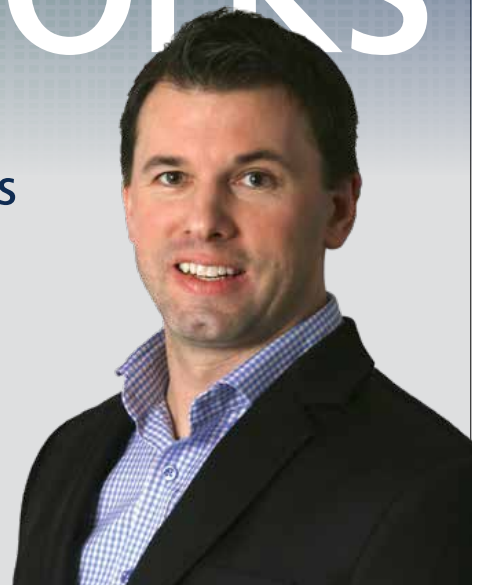
Visit www.apwa.net/store



WASHINGTON STATE

PublicWorks

To reach public works professionals through *Washington State PUBLIC WORKS* magazine and its targeted readership, contact Rod to discuss your company's promotional plans.



ROD EVASON Phone: 1-877-985-9710 rod@kelman.ca



Washington State Public Works is made possible by the companies below who convey their important messages on our pages. We thank them for their support of APWA-WA and its publication and encourage you to contact them when making your purchasing decisions. To make it easier to contact these companies, we have included the page number of their advertisement, their phone number, and, where applicable, their website.

COMPANY	PAGE	PHONE	WEBSITE/EMAIL
ADS	24	253-392-4198	travis.dodge@ads-pipe.com
Albina Asphalt	4	800-888-5048	www.albina.com
Aspect Consulting LLC	24	206-328-7443	www.aspectconsulting.com
BCRA	23	253-627-4367	www.bcradesign.com
Consor	14		www.consoreng.com
Gray & Osborne	20	206-284-0860	www.g-o.com
HHPR	30	503-221-1131	www.hhpr.com
Insta-Pipe	14	360-943-5840	www.insta-pipe.com
JLD Cost Consulting	12	503-675-4383	www.jldllc.com
KPFF Consulting Engineers	7	206-622-5822	www.kpff.com
KPG	3	206-286-1640	www.kpg.com
Lakeside Industries	3	425-313-2681	www.lakesideind.com
Lochner	21	425-454-3160	www.hwlochner.com
MacKay & Sposito	9	360-695-3411	www.mackaysposito.com
Morrison-Maierle	35	406-442-3050	www.m-m.net
One.7, Inc.	10	425-413-1211	www.1point7.com
Otak, Inc.	25	425-822-4446	www.otak.com
Owen Equipment Company	26	800-GOT-OWEN	www.owenequipment.com
PACE Engineers, Inc.	30	425-827-2014	www.paceengrs.com
Papé Machinery	2	541-681-5376	www.pape.com
Parametrix	6	253 863-5128	www.parametrix.com
Shannon & Wilson, Inc.	24	206-632-8020	www.shannonwilson.com
SWS Equipment, Inc.	27	509-533-9000	www.swsequipment.com
TCF Architecture	30	253-572-3993	www.tcfarchitecture.com
Traffic Safety Supply Company	36	800-547-8518	www.tssco.com
Tuftile	19	888-960-8897	www.tuftile.com
Unique Paving Materials	26	800-441-4880	www.uniquepavingmaterials.com
Wilson Engineering	30	360-733-6100	www.wilsonengineering.com



Use Paper Responsibly

Today's forest industry is working hard to become one of the greenest industries on earth.

Paper is an essential part of human civilization. While we all use and depend upon electronic communications, it is easy to ignore that it comes at an environmental cost. Worldwide spam email traffic creates greenhouse gases equivalent to burning two billion gallons of gasoline yearly, with numbers rising. More than \$55 billion in toxic e-waste material is thrown away every year in the US alone, with a recycling rate of only 20% compared to 64.7% for paper.

No industry is perfect. But the paper industry has made, and continues to make, huge investments in environmental responsibility. Specifying and buying paper from certified sources ensures the continuation and growth of carbon absorbing forests. Using paper with appropriate amounts of recycled fibre helps preserve forests, conserve energy, and maximize fibre usage through paper lifecycles.

ONE-STOP SHOP

With projects large and small, we deliver cost-effective, long-term solutions.

- Airports
- Buildings
- Development
- Industrial
- Natural Resources
- Surveying
- Transportation
- Water-Wastewater



 **Morrison
Maierle**
engineers • surveyors • planners • scientists

Jeff Ashley, PE
Helena, Great Falls, and Spokane Operations Manager
jashley@m-m.net | 509.315.8505



**TRAFFIC SAFETY
SUPPLY COMPANY**



The finest in intelligent warning devices for Washington roadways

Available under DES contract #04616

Traffic Safety Supply Company
800.547.8518 | sales@tssco.com | tssco.com