



Washington State Association of County Engineers

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Washington State Association of County Engineers

WSACE Report for WSAC Annual Conference

June 10, 2009

Kennewick, WA

The Washington State Association of County Engineers (WSACE) membership includes 129 public works professionals from 39 counties. Each member county also holds a membership in the National Association of County Engineers (NACE).

This past year saw a big change at WSACE with the hiring of the first Managing Director for our organization. After over five years of discussion, planning and recruiting, we were finally able to put everything together through an agreement with WSAC. Gary Rowe, former WSACE President, NACE President and Rural Engineer of the Year, retired from Skagit County and has come to work on our behalf.

As Gary has taken on the new role, WSACE has seen a big improvement with our involvement in Olympia. The day-labor legislation we've been trying to get passed will finally make it through the legislature this year, now called "County Forces". Thanks also to Walt Olsen and Jeff Monsen from CRAB, Jim Potts, and Owen Carter from Snohomish County for their active involvement in this issue as well.

With an active voice in Olympia we also were able to help defeat bills that would have impacted our members. The LSAW bill, eminent domain bill, and utility notification bill are all dead at this time. I also want to acknowledge the help of Doug Bramlette, Jerry Bryant, Ken Stone for their involvement and help.

WSACE has two major statewide meetings joint with the WSAC each year, one in June (annual meeting) and one in the fall (pre-legislative). WSACE continues to work very closely with the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) providing technical assistance and expertise on financial and policy matters related to public works issues. Annually in January, we conduct a Professional Development Conference available to all members. The conference focuses on topics of leadership, communications, organizational issues, and professional development. This year, "Advanced Negotiations for Public Managers" was presented by Gerald Cormick of the Evans School of Public Affairs, U of W.

WSACE continues to work closely with CRAB to ensure the consistent application of state law relative to County road activities as well as to provide a means for technical and professional support to each county. Three WSACE members, County Engineers, sit on the County Road Administration Board together with six elected Commissioners.

WSACE members are involved with various work groups and committees addressing a wide variety of issues. Some significant issues that the membership will be working on over the following year are:

- WDFW, Preservation, BRAC

WSACE is committed to provide coordination, representation, technical assistance, and professional expertise on financial and policy matters with respect to public works and transportation issues for its members on a statewide basis. WSACE's strength and influence continues to exist at the state and local level because of the desire of its individual members to provide proactive service to their communities together with their resolve to ensure balance and fairness within the state as a whole.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the WSACE membership,

Derek Pohle, P.E., President

Brian Stacy, P.E., President Elect

Mark Storey P.E., Secretary/Treasurer