WCMA Board Meeting Agenda
Friday, August 14, 2026 – 10:00am to Noon

Three Rivers Convention Center
Kennewick, Washington
Great Hall

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89130397166?pwd=Dit7iHGh5S55V3cUj4cbWaID44b3Qo.1
Meeting ID: 891 3039 7166
Passcode: 744598

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of June 24, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes
3. Installation of Officers and Introduction of Newly Elected Board Members

    Katrina Knutson (President)
    John Mauro (Incoming President)
    Heidi Behrends Cerniway (Vice President
    Laura Philpot (Past President)
    Melanie Harding (Executive Coordinator – Secretary/Treasurer)
    Torie Brazitis (Board Member)
    Rob Gelder (Board Member)
    Richa Sigdel (Board Member)

4. Recognition and appreciation for Board Member service – Katrina Knutson
    Outgoing President Laura Philpot
    Outgoing Past President Stephanie Lucash
    Outgoing Board Members Amy Buckler and Scott MacColl

5. ICMA Updates: Input on the ICMA Senior Advisor Program – Pat Martel, ICMA West Coast Regional Director & Stephanie Lucash, ICMA Regional VP

6. Results of Washington Cities Survey on meeting Effectiveness – Una McAlinden, Creative Strategy Solutions

7. Membership Report – Laura Philpot

8. Financial Report – Melanie Harding

9. Oregon/Washington/Alaska Coordination – Katrina Knutson/Laura Philpot

10. Strategic Plan Implementation – Katrina Knutson

11. Committee & Program Reports:
    a. Communications – Leslie Harris
    b. Conference Committee – John Mauro
    c. Governance/Organization Structure – Heidi Behrends Cerniway
    d. Membership – Matthew "Selby" Selby
    e. NWWLA – Leslie Harris & Carolyn Hope
    f. WCMA Scholarship Program – John Mauro
    g. Veterans' Committee – Leslie Harris

12. Fall Retreat Agenda – Katrina Knutson

13. Senior Advisor Program

    Transition of Past President & Senior Advisor Liaison role

    Eastern WA Region Vacancy

    Regional Updates / Members in Transition

14. Other Business

    2026 Chief Appointed Official Salary Survey in September – Melanie Harding

WCMA Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 24, 2026
Virtual Meeting
8am – 10am

Attendees:
Laura Philpot, President
Katrina Knutson, Incoming President
John Mauro, Vice President
Stephanie Lucash, Past President
Melanie Harding, Exec. Coordinator
Heidi Behrends Cerniwey
Bristol Ellington
Leslie Harris
Bucoda Warren
Mathew "Selby" Selby
Elizabeth Chamberlain

Senior Advisors:
Ray Corpuz
Andrew Neiditz
Dave Zabell

Others:

1. **Welcome**
   President Laura Philpot called the meeting to order.

2. **Approval of the Agenda**
   The agenda was unanimously approved by the Board as presented.

3. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**
   The meeting minutes for March 26, 2026 were unanimously approved by the Board as presented, with correction of a Scrivner's error to Andrew Neitditz name.

4. **Membership Report**
   Laura noted that membership numbers had increased slightly from the past month. While still behind the numbers from last year, conference registration has recently opened and registration usually results in increased membership renewals. John Mauro

advocated for a push to increase the number of jurisdictions with membership packages. There was a request for Laura to resend the 'Dialing for Members' spreadsheet and resources to the board.

5. **Financial Report**
   Melanie presented the financial report, noting the first NWWLA Summit had taken place on May 1st and that much of the remaining expenses of the association would be taking place as the WCMA Conference and NWWLA Cohort kick off occurred later in the year.

6. **Strategic Plan Implementation – Laura Philpot**
   a. **Review & Approve Strategic Plan Document**
      Laura credited Katrina Knutson's work on the Strategic Plan draft before the board for approval. Compliments were paid by additional members of the board. It was moved and seconded to approve the strategic plan as presented, and it passed unanimously.

   b. **Committee "Statements of Purpose"**
      Laura noted the work that has been done by the Committee chairs for their work to bring forward Statements of Purpose, naming this as the starting point for engagement of members across the association.
      - **Communications –** Leslie Harris thanked the sub-committee for their work. There was a motion and second to approve the statement as presented. It approved unanimously.
      - **Conference –** John noted that the committee endeavored to both link to strategic plan and capture operations that happen annually. A motion to accept the statement as presented was unanimously approved. It was noted that the statement could be revised if changes were made to the regional Spring conference after conversations with Oregon and Alaska.
      - **Governance/Organizational Structure –** Heidi Behrends Cerniwey noted that the committee would be meeting again before the meeting in August to continue moving the work forward. A motion to accept the statement as presented was unanimously approved.
      - **Membership –** Mathew "Selby" Selby noted that the committee did not have a quorum for their meeting, but that the statement was shared out via email and also reviewed by himself and Bristol in a virtual meeting. A motion to accept the statement as presented was unanimously approved. Katrina credited Selby's many efforts to try and set a meeting time for the committee whose members had busy very schedules.

c. **Discuss Roll Out of Strategic Plan at Conference**

Laura opened the floor to ideas for how to roll out the Strategic Plan at the conference. Heidi recommended connecting the outcomes of the Strategic Plan to reason it was a priority and the value it would provide to the members. Katrina echoed explaining the value to members and added how it would lift up the profession. Carolyn suggested that more ideas could be gathered on how to move the plan to action in small group conversations and this could lead to rich responses while avoiding the need to distribute a survey.

In response to questions, John noted that there was an hour and a half timeslot on the first day of the conference and that the time that would allow break out conversations, perhaps by sub-committee.

Laura encouraged all board members to attend that session of the conference. Laura noted that Una McAlinden would be included in the presentation. Laura will pull together a draft for consideration of the board by email. Carolyn suggested that Una may have ideas on how to best engage members during the time.

7. **"WCMA Board Commitment to Equity and Inclusion" Statement**

In Amy's absence, Laura shared that the I-NAPA committee is asking the board to take action on the revised statement included in the agenda packet. Compliments were given to the committee for the great deal of work that went into the statement to develop and bring this forward.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the statement as presented. Heidi moved the amendment of changing people "feel respected" to "are respected." John and Stephanie Lucash who served on the committee expressed agreement with the change. The motion to amend was seconded and passed unanimously.

The statement as amended was passed unanimously.

There was discussion of having the statement on a poster, printouts, and/or digitally through a QR code at the conference. MRSC would offer graphic design services.

8. **Nominating & Awards Committee Updates**

Katrina provided an update, noting that there were eight nominees for four seats. Heidi was nominated for Vice President. She provided the names of seven candidates for the three board seats which would soon go out for election by the full association. There was conversation on the value of continuing County representation on the board. Stephanie commented on the value of intentional outreach during the nominations process and bringing members onto the board that would lift the group and be strong future officers. She and Katrina complimented the geographic representation of the nominees. The committee will be meeting again to determine awards recipients.

9. Conference Committee Updates

a. Summer 2026

John expressed excitement for the conference coming together for August, including fun new events like mini-golf and Amy Leneker as an engaging keynote speaker. He noted Leslie's hard work on the committee and made a pitch for a final push on sponsor calls. Laura reiterated the desire for Board Members to engage in sponsorship calls.

In response to questions, John noted that the sponsorship spreadsheet shows which sponsorship levels have limited opportunities. Examples were shared of creative ways to accommodate sponsor requests. John noted that the October WA/OR Dinner at ICMA would be another opportunity for sponsors to engage.

b. **Spring 2028 – Laura Philpot**

Laura provided an update on conversations with partners on the regional conference. Alaska has operated their regional conferences as a loss and is very open to a change. Laura provided the option of having every third year of the annual Summer conference being rebranded to become a regional conference (and similarly with Alaska and Oregon's annual conference). It was noted that the conferences might fall closely together. There was general consensus on this approach.

Katrina Knutson noted a conversation last week with Oregon's Association members and ICMA leadership. Oregon has made a pitch for ICMA financial support for the regional conference coming up in Hood River. Katrina noted that the Oregon Association is interested in partnerships. Katrina noted that continuing conversations would have value, and also that Oregon may have different goals including advocating for more traditional career paths. A number of board members affirmed that WCMA members and local government leaders come through a variety of career paths and add value to the profession. There was commitment in keeping the strong relationship and ongoing conversation and collaboration. There was interest in identifying a defined problem statement of what they would work on together.

In response to a suggestion from Laura's regional conversations, there was general agreement that a formal invitation should be extended to members of the Alaska Association to what had traditionally been the Oregon/Washington Dinner at the ICMA Conference.

It was noted that ICMA was holding their national conference in Seattle in October of 2031. Questions were raised about whether WCMA should also host a summer conference that year. Melanie will pull information on conference registration numbers and some financials to help facilitate that conversation.

10. **WCMA Scholarship Program**
John reported that there were nine applicants for the scholarship this year (an increase from three in the prior year). He has created a tracking sheet for the board members who volunteered to score applications through July 10th, coming together the following week to select the candidate. John asked the board about inclusion of a Washington resident who was currently going to school on the east coast with plans to return to Washington State to serve local government. There was a suggestion for the committee to have the conversation following scoring if that person ended up being a top scoring candidate. A motion was made and seconded to provide the Scholarship scoring subcommittee authority to make a decision about residency if it becomes an issue. It was unanimously approved.

11. **Letter of Support for Polish Delegation – Lloyd Halverson**
A motion was made and seconded to give the President the authority to sign on to a letter of support for the program in a form similar to the prior year. The motion was approved unanimously.

12. **Census of the Profession Survey**
Stephanie Lucash noted that this topic was delegated to the Membership committee the March meeting and conversations would continue there.

13. **Northwest Women's Leadership Academy (NWWLA) Updates**
Leslie noted that NWWLA has taken on a lot this year, including gearing up for Cohort 8. The board voted to reduce the cohort size to 30 (from 36). There were 59 total applicants from which they selected a talented and amazing pool. The new class would be notified by the end of next week, with a ranked waitlist in case of deferrals. There were two people who applied previously who were able to get in this year. NWWLA is adding a letter of commitment to the acceptance portal hosted by MRSC to ensure awareness of engagement throughout the cohort.

NWWLA has hosted one of three summits planned for this year, with another planned in conjunction with the August conference and one October 30th in Ellensburg. Carolyn noted that there were roughly 75 registered with positive feedback received. The group would be revisiting how many Summits to host each year.

NWWLA will be recruiting for board members soon and they welcome referrals.

14. Senior Advisor Program

- **Eastern Washington Senior Advisor Vacancy** – Andrew Neiditz noted that leads to fill this vacancy are being pursued in partnership with Stephanie Lucash.
- **Regional ICMA Meetings** – Ray Corpuz shared that ICMA has been hosting Senior Advisor Meetings quarterly by region. Andrew noted that Oregon has paused their Senior Advisor Program, and that Washington Senior Advisors were committed to having a strong program that provided value to members.
- **Regional Updates** – The recent regional meeting hosted by Heidi in Ellensburg was well attended (20+ attendees) with participation from Lloyd Halverson and Dave Zabell, and attendance from State Legislators. It included a tour of a public/private partnership project in Ellensburg. Heidi thanked Lloyd, Dave Z., Selby, and others that helped make it a success. King County Managers are also beginning to get together in person quarterly. Andrew noted Edmonds and Auburn bringing on first-time City Administrators, with congratulations offered to Stephanie and Scott MacColl to be the first to step in to those roles.

15. Other items of Interest

Pat Martel noted that the 2027 conference location had been moved from Canada to Philadelphia due to international relations.

For the ICMA Senior Advisor Program, she noted that four questions would be coming from the Board on Senior Advisor activities to understand your feelings about program as they consider it nationally. Pat spoke to Washington's strong program giving credit to the work by the advisors and the commitment to the evaluation process. They are hoping to support Oregon to bring their Senior Advisor program back online.

For ICMA Elections, Pat noted that Stephanie Lucash is a candidate to be certified by the board as a new ICMA Vice President.

Full realignment of ICMA regions will be implemented in October, including WCMA becoming a part of Region A with new rotations of service.

For appointment of representatives to the 2027 ICMA Conference Education Committee, Elizabeth volunteered. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the WCMA Board to confirm Elizabeth as the 2027 ICMA Conference Education Committee.

Deanna Expressed gratitude for Stephanie’s three years of service on AWC board, Laura’s service, and Katrina Knutson who will join the AWC board on Friday. Her appreciation was shared by the full board.

Stephanie noted that some may be aware of the prior Cascade Center – an Executive Education Center that used to be housed within UW Seattle’s Evans School. They are planning to bring that back to address unmet needs and will determine what shape that will take in the next steps in the process. They are working with AWC and Counties to co-create the curriculum.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35am.

WCMA Membership Report, Jun 16, 2026

	Number of Members					
Year	**January**	**February**	**March**	**June**	**August**	**October**
2020		**118**		**144**	**156**	
2021		**94**		**136**	**172**	
2022		**129**		**149**	**195**	
2023		**135**	**180**		**194**	
2024		**140**	**208**	**242**	**269**	**298**
2025		**186**	**200**	**245**	**249**	**251**
2026	**130***		**165**	**188**	**240**	

**January 2026 total includes "Additional Members" who are a part of a membership package but do not have indivdual dues, even if the package's primary member has not yet renewed.*

August 2026 member total includes 35 NWWLA cohort members

Washington City/County Management Association (WCCMA)
YTD Actual as a Percentage of Annual Budget
January 1 - June 30, 2026

REVENUES	2026 APPROVED BUDGET	ACTUAL 06/30/26	YTD BUDGET %	NOTES
Membership Dues	50,000	42,707	85%	
Summer Annual Conf-meals/reg	50,000	8,710	17%	
Conference Sponsorships	50,500	18,000	36%	
ICMA Senior Advisor Reimbursement	3,750	281	7%	
NW Women's Leadership Academy	46,800	0	0%	
NWWLA Summit Registration	7,700	14,800		
NWWLA Sponsors/Donations	3,500	6,857		
Total Revenues	**212,250**	**70,308**	**33%**	

EXPENSES

Summer Annual Conference	70,000	1,788	3%	Conference App
Scholarships	5,500	0	0%	
Board of Directors Meetings	1,350	300	22%	Room Rental
NW Women's Leadership Academy	58,000	16,958	29%	
Senior Advisors	7,500	562	7%	
ICMA Student Chapter (UW Evans School)	2,000	0	0%	
Awards Programs	1,400	0	0%	
ICMA Professional Management Fund	1,000	0	0%	
Travel Support-ICMA Conference	2,500	0	0%	
International Contingency	1,000	0	0%	
Office Supplies / Printing	500	0	0%	
Insurance	2,000	1,613	81%	
Professional Services	51,000	14,575	29%	$51k WCMA /will have addt'l $7,300 NWWLA
Bank Service Charge	7,000	396	6%	
State and City Taxes / Business License	1,500	727	48%	
Total Expenses	**$212,250**	**$37,227**	**18%**	

EXCESS REVENUES (EXPENSES)	$0	$33,081
Beginning Balance on 01/01/26		$144,875
Ending Balance on 06/30/26		$140,818
WCCMA Cash		$96,275
NWWLA Cash		$37,138

Prepaid Expenses

Summer 2026 Meeting - 3 Rivers CC	$3,250
ICMA Conference Social - Ballast Point Brewi	$1,455
Summer 2027 Meeting - Historic Davenport	$2,700
	$7,405