



# County Connection

Monthly News from the Washington Counties Risk Pool

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## WCRP Executive Committee

Py 2017 President

Keith Goehner

Py 2017 Vice President

Tammy Devlin

Py 2017 Secretary/Treasurer

Drew Woods

Other Members

David Alvarez

Steve Bartel

Clyde Carpenter

Steve Clem

Jill Johnson

Robert Koch

Mike Thomas

Lisa Young

## Risk Pool Staff

Administration

Executive Director

Derek Bryan

Accounting Officer

Sue Colbo

Admin. & Accounting Specialist

Shelese McConnell

Office Assistant

Trish Todd

## Claims

Claims Manager

Susan Looker

Senior Claims Analyst

Mike Cook

Senior Claims Analyst

Holly Nelson

Claims Analyst

Lisa McMeekin

Claims Assistant

Sally King

Claims Representative

Cort Campbell

## Member Services

Loss Control Coordinator

Jill Lowe

Member Programs Specialist

Hanna Braennstroem

## What's New at the Pool?

### Spring Conference Wrap-Up

The 2017 Spring Conference & Board Meeting was another great success. An impressive turnout at Wednesday's welcome dinner/reception, a fun and informative roundtable on Thursday morning, and another productive Board Meeting with some thoughtful discussion, and excellent staff and consultant reports.

Don't forget to take the [post-conference survey](#), and thank you to those who were able to attend. For those who couldn't make it, we look forward to seeing you in Walla Walla at our [Summer Conference & Board Meeting, July 19-21!](#)



*The Marcus Whitman Hotel  
Walla Walla, WA*

## New Employees Settling in Nicely!

We can't believe that Cort and Hanna have already been here four months!!



Claims Representative, Cort Campbell, started November 30, 2016 and has hit the ground running. He's been handling claims, getting to know our members, and soaking up information. Many have already been working with Cort on files he's handling and you can expect to see more and more of him as he continues to increase his pending and travel throughout the membership. He's a great addition to the WCRP Claims Department and we're glad to have him!



Member Programs Specialist, Hanna Braennstroem, started December 1, 2016 and spent her very first two days of work at the Fall Conference & Board Meeting, but it was time well spent, since she took charge of the Spring Conference planning and put on an exceptional event. Hanna has been building relationships with the staff at event locations for future conferences, but has also been working hard scheduling training, awarding scholarships, and refreshing our website and *County Connection!*

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### **Ready...Set...Appraise.**

Staff is working with Assetworks to spend the next three years appraising all WCRP member buildings valued over \$100,000. At their July meeting, the Board of Directors will be asked to approve a three-year contract with Assetworks. Between now and July, we are working on having a number of one-off buildings/assets appraised throughout the membership. Need a building appraised? Give us a call and let's talk about it. Did you know that Assetworks is the company who owns the AMP (Asset Management Platform) inventory system? Their appraisals are entered directly into AMP, which makes it easy for all of us.

Stay tuned for AMP to be covered in a future issue of *County Connection*, to include some additional training being offered. Need to check your inventory? Login to AMP through the [WCRP Website](#), or save the [direct login page](#) into your favorites.

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## *Keeping You Informed*

### *Claims and Risk Management News Impacting WCRP Members*

#### **Whatcom County v. Hirst**

Many of you are studying and dissecting the *Hirst* decision and considering how best to proceed. We're looking at it too, but as always, with an eye toward risk management. What's the bottom line from a risk perspective? The Washington State Supreme Court found that counties have the responsibility to ensure water availability and cannot rely solely on Ecology or a landowner. There is certainly a lot more to this, including how the Court's decision impacts both GMA and non-GMA counties, how the decision applies to existing permits and/or permit applications, and what counties can do legislatively to address the Court's ruling. Our friend, Neil Caulkins, of Kittitas County, has written some excellent pieces on much of this. His write-ups can be found on the [MRSC website](#).

#### **The Nisqually Jail Case**

Mentioned at the WCRP Spring Conference, we're following this one closely, as it relates to a contract for jail services between the City of Yelm and the Nisqually Tribe, a contract some are arguing may not be a valid contract. A lot of debate has occurred over the years as to whether a city or county may contract with a tribe for jail services. Some interpret RCW 70.48, the City and County Jail Act, to state that a city or county may not contract with a tribe for jail services. Others will disagree. If the Nisqually case doesn't make it to a judge, we may not have the answer this time. On the other hand, it has the potential to go all the way to our highest court. Time will tell and we will be sure to keep you informed.

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# *What's Coming Up?*

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## Training:

### Gordon Graham - Managing Risks in Your Jail Operations

May 4 - Chelan County

### Management & Supervisory 101

May 31 - June 1 - Spokane County

July 25 - 26 - Chelan County

### Management & Supervisory 201

May 17 - 18 - Jefferson County

June 19 - 20 - Franklin County

September 14 - 15 - Chelan County

### Managing 365

May 24 - Chelan County

July 6 - Kittitas County

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## Conferences:

### Summer Conference July 19 - 21, 2017

Walla Walla, WA - The Marcus Whitman Hotel

### Fall Conference November 29 - December 1, 2017

Union, WA - The Alderbrook Resort

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**Washington Counties Risk Pool**  
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