



Northwest Section Summer 2016

Summer is here in the NW Section of APA Washington. Your elected volunteer Board of Directors:

- Chris Comeau, AICP-CTP, President *[Bellingham Public Works Engineering]*
- Derek Koellmann, AICP-CEP, Vice President *[Anchor QEA Environmental Consulting]*
- Samya Lutz, AICP, Secretary *[Bellingham Community Development]*
- Brandon Black, Treasurer *[Skagit County Planning]*

Our Section website at <http://www.washington-apa.org/northwest-section> contains many resources, including our Board-adopted 2016 Northwest Section Work Plan. We have fulfilled our top Section priority by filling the appointed positions listed in our bylaws, but lost our Legislative Liaison to a new job in a different Section, as follows:

- Professional Development Coordinator = Jackie Lynch, AICP CEP *[Bellingham Planning Dept]*
- Communications Coordinator = Beckye Frey *[Island County Planning]*
- Legislative Liaison = **vacant, seeking a volunteer**
- Education Representative = Conner Reeves *[WWU Planning Student]*

Recent developments:

- The NW Section and the WA Department of Commerce hosted the April 28, 2016 Spring Planner's Forum with a special focus on Critical Areas issues and updates. It was the largest attendance in NW Section history and the venue had to be changed from Burlington City Hall to the Skagit PUD to accommodate the 75 RSVPs.
- Anthony Boscolo now works for WSDOT and is no longer our NW Section liaison from the Department of Commerce. When asked, Commerce stated that no replacement has been identified and no timeline has been established for a replacement. Anthony provided a huge amount of support and this has led the NW Section Board to cancel the July 21 Planner's Forum in Ferndale.
- As a result of the membership survey administered by Communications Coordinator Beckye Frey, the NW Section Board voted to use \$300 to help host a "Curbside Chat" by Strong Towns founder Charles Marohn on Thursday, October 20, 2016 in Bellingham. This is the same date as the scheduled Autumn 2016 Planners Forum, so the NW Section Board also voted to change the location of the Autumn 2016

Planner's Forum to Bellingham. We will be updating the Planner's Forum schedule on the web site as soon as possible.

- The NW Section is pleased to host the APA Washington summer Board meeting on Friday, June 24, 12:00pm to 4:00pm with lunch served at Port of Bellingham offices. NW Section members will be invited to attend.

Northwest Section planners sporting new AICP credentials!

The NW Section Board of Directors is proud to announce that four members passed the AICP exam in May. A big congratulations to Mary Anderson, Darby Cowles, Ron Cubellis, and Melissa Fannucci!



Mary Anderson, AICP, Transportation Planner II, Whatcom Council of Governments; 2007-present



Darby Cowles, AICP, Senior Planner, Bellingham Community Development; 2003-present



Ron Cubellis, AICP, Deputy Exec. Director/CFO, Whatcom Council of Governments; 1996-present



Melissa Fannucci, AICP, Principal Planner, Whatcom Council of Governments; 1999-present

WWU Application to Planning Accreditation Board: Derek Koellmann and Chris Comeau participated in the PAB February visit to WWU and served on interview panels.

Northwest Section leaders will continue to work with WWU to:

- Continue to work with WWU on both academic and PAB accreditation issues
- Increase student APA membership and involvement in the Northwest Section work
- Possibly hosting a future Planner's Forum on the WWU campus in 2017

Northwest Section Vice President Derek Koellmann will serve as the point of contact with WWU

Planners Forums and AICP Credentials: In 2016-2017, the Northwest Section will continue to offer high-quality Planner's Forums with AICP certification maintenance credits available for a wide variety of presentation topics, including Law and Ethics. The Board will focus on developing Forum topics and themes that can help tie our diverse Section geography together.

- The Board of Directors will continue to encourage Northwest Section members to seek AICP credentials in November and we will acknowledge and celebrate the success of planners who pass the AICP exam.

Membership Surveys: Communications Coordinator Beckye Frey will be sending another simple Survey Monkey poll to all of the Northwest Section membership asking how you would like to see the Board enhance your membership experience.

Web Site Outreach: Finally, we will continue to update and improve our Northwest Section web page on the APA Washington web site <http://www.washington-apa.org/northwest-section> There are many possibilities to improve our education, outreach, and effectiveness as a Section, but the top priorities continue to be:

- All jurisdictions (City, County, Tribal, Port, etc.) in Northwest Section geography
- University planning programs (UW, EWU, WWU, etc.)
- Other planning activities and events in Northwest Section geographies (PAW Conference)
- Other allied organizations (PAW, ITE, AWC, Commerce, non-profit orgs, etc.)

The Northwest Section now has an excellent and enthusiastic Board of Directors and Appointed Representatives, we have amazing growth potential, and I am enjoying working with all of you to improve the Northwest Section for the benefit of our membership!



Chris Comeau, AICP-CTP, Northwest Section President