

WCMAC Liaisons

Background

The Steering Committee discussed the request to add Rick Lovely as a liaison, which prompted discussion of the criteria for liaisons and the process for adding liaisons. The Steering Committee received the following clarification from the Governor's office on this issue.

Response from Governor's Office

WCMAC Steering Committee:

The Governor's office and WCMAC must adhere to the language contained in the statute. The position of liaison is defined by the nature of the entities and requirements being referenced within the statute. RCW 43.143.050(3) states that the Council "may invite state, tribal, local governments, federal agencies, scientific experts, and others with responsibility for the study and management of coastal and ocean resources or regulation of coastal and ocean activities to designate a liaison." That means only entities that either are "responsible for the study and management of coastal and ocean resources" or "regulation of coastal and ocean activities" may be invited to designate liaisons. As such, Mr. Lovely does not fall within the entities or requirements being referenced for liaisons.

WCMAC has ample opportunities for public input and involvement, including:

- public comment at every meeting
- ability to invite experts to present on a topic or participate on a panel at a regular meeting
- ability to invite experts to provide information to the Technical Committee on a topic or agenda item, where they have particular expertise.

For example, Mr. Lovely could be invited to participate in Technical Committee agenda items that pertain to energy issues.

Furthermore, the WCMAC has two energy seats and the Governor has appointed members to fill both of those seats.

Best,

JT

JT Austin, Policy Advisor – Natural Resources
Office of the Governor
INS 100-M | JT.Austin@gov.wa.gov
360-902-0638 office | 360-628-7440 cell