

2015 INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE COORDINATING COUNCIL (IACC) CONFERENCE

IACC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping Washington communities identify and obtain resources they need to develop, improve, and maintain infrastructure. IACC consists of staff from state, federal, and tribal agencies, local government associations, and nonprofit technical assistance organizations. IACC is governed by four board officers and six board members.

One of the ways that IACC works to improve the delivery of infrastructure financial and technical assistance is to hold an annual conference where people can network and learn about infrastructure programs and services. The 2015 IACC Conference was held October 20-22 at the Wenatchee Convention Center.

Over 300 people attended this year's conference, including elected officials and staff from cities and towns, special district commissioners, water association commissioners, consulting engineers, regulatory agency staff, state and federal funding program staff, nonprofit technical assistance providers, and product vendors.

SESSIONS

IACC offered 59 concurrent sessions (some repeated), including presentations on funding programs, regulatory issues, case studies, panels, and guidance on special topics. IACC also offered two field trips this year. See 2015 Conference Brochure. PowerPoint presentations for most of the sessions are posted at www.infracfunding.wa.gov.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The keynote speaker this year was Stevan Gorcester, Executive Director of the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB), who discussed recent process improvements at TIB.

GENERAL SESSION SPEAKER

On October 21 the General Session speaker was Bill Schrier, Washington State Office of the Chief Information Officer, who discussed 'Wireless, Cybersecurity, and Infrastructure, Oh My!' Mr. Schrier also offered a concurrent session on 'Wireless, FirstNet, and Public Works.'

TECH TEAMS

Since 1999, IACC has offered pre-registered technical team ('tech team') meetings to communities to provide input on local priority infrastructure projects. This year, representatives from 24 different communities (tribal and local governments) met with regulatory, funding, and technical assistance program staff on the morning of October 20. Many more communities held 'ad hoc' meetings with agency staff during the conference.

Community projects were at various stages of development. Tech team members assisted communities with framing their infrastructure issues clearly, exploring possible solutions, identifying key regulatory, planning, and financing programs, and answering as many questions as possible.

Participating communities this year included:

- Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe – Tribal Connection to Sequim Municipal Sewer System
- Lummi Tribal Sewer and Water District – Gooseberry Wastewater Treatment Plan, Pump Station #10 Upgrade and Sewer Force Main Upgrade
- Quinault Indian Nation – Taholah Village Relocation Master Plan
- Thurston County – Grand Mound Second Water Reservoir
- Skagit County Public Works – Burlington Northern Overpass
- Port of Kennewick (Benton) – Vista Field Redevelopment – Phase One
- City of Chelan/ Lake Chelan Airport/ Chelan County Port District – Lake Chelan Airport Waterline/ Fire Flow Project
- City of Bingen (Klickitat) – Wastewater Collection System and Treatment Facility Improvements
- City of Blaine (Whatcom) – Semiahmoo Spit Trail, Retrofit and Soft Shore Protection
- City of Brewster (Okanogan) – Drinking Water Quality Improvements
- City of Colfax (Whitman) – Glenwood Water Line Replacement
- City of Mabton (Yakima) – Undergrounding Utilities on Main St and B St and City-Wide Sewer Main Replacement
- City of Newport (Pend Oreille) – Quail Loop Reservoir and Booster
- City of Othello (Adams) – Water and Wastewater Improvements
- City of South Bend (Pacific) – Fliess Creek Source Water Project
- City of Stanwood (Snohomish) – Irvine Slough Stormwater Separation
- City of Toppenish (Yakima) – Sewer Replacement and I&I Reduction Plan
- Town of Odessa (Lincoln) – Water and Sewer Improvement Projects
- Town of Concrete (Skagit) – Inflow and Infiltration Repairs
- Town of Northport (Stevens) – Well Improvements Project
- Town of Riverside (Okanogan) – Wastewater Facility
- Town of Skykomish (King) – Water System Plan Update
- Town of Twisp (Okanogan) – Upgrades to Core Town Services
- Town of Wilbur (Lincoln) – Water System Improvements

IACC AWARDS

2015 was the seventh year of the IACC Excellence in Infrastructure Award Program, the purpose of which is to acknowledge outstanding achievement by IACC members, local governments, and individuals whose efforts best showcase the mission of IACC. Awards were presented after lunch on October 21. This year’s award recipients included:

- Joe Mitschelen Lifetime Achievement Award: Lynn Kohn, Department of Commerce

- Community Impact: Team Rubicon, Carlton Complex Fire
- Wastewater: City of Stevenson
- Transportation: City of Bremerton, Lower Wheaton Way Walkability Project
- Energy Efficiency: City of West Richland, LED Street Light & Adaptive Controls
- 'Heart and Soul of IACC' Award: Gene Dobry, USDA Rural Development

EXHIBITORS

Thirty-three exhibitors participated in this year's conference, including infrastructure equipment vendors, consulting firms, state and federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations. An 'Exhibitor Reception' was held on October 20, immediately following the final session of the day.