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Board of Directors Meeting
MINUTES
July 22, 2026 – 9:00 A.M.

The Washington Counties Risk Group (WCRG) Board of Directors conducted a regular meeting via Zoom and in Ephrata, Washington on July 22, 2026, at 9:07 a.m.

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTION & ROLL CALL

Board Member Name:	Board Member Entity:	Attendance:
Scott Hutsell	Lincoln County Commissioner	Present
Cindy Carter	Grant County Commissioner	Absent
Tom Handy	Whitman County Commissioner	Present
Charles Whitman	Asotin County Commissioner	Present
Justin Dixon	Garfield County Commissioner	Present
Marty Hall	Columbia County Commissioner	Present
Montgomery Stobart	Stevens County Commissioner	Present
Mark Letham	Wahkiakum County Commissioner	Present
Robert Dean	Ferry County Commissioner	Present
Brian Nichols	Skamania County Commissioner	Present

Clear Risk Solutions:

Wes Crago	Becca Kirsch
Jessika Tempel	John McMillan
Frank Andrus	Mark Sherwood
Rick Templeton	Claire Hanberg
Patti Ferguson	Jenny Gunderson
Lisa Holterhoff	Mary Mirante Bartolo
Rachel Hufman	Jen Homer
Dave Kosa	Janessa Wulf

Guests:
Jeff Evans – Stevens County Risk Manager
Ashley Kilts – Columbia County Risk Manager

Hutsell welcomed all in attendance and noted that a quorum was present.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES

i. None.

ITEM 2: EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION

i. None.

ITEM 3: CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda items were reviewed by all board members. Hutsell called for a motion on all consent items. Hall moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and seconded by Dean. With all in favor and none opposed, the motion passed.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

i. Approval of Minutes (May 6, 2026)
ii. Approval of the Claims Vouchers (May 2026, June 2026, July 2026)

iii. Approval of Scholarship Applications – (Ferry County – 1)
iv. Approval of Financials (Bank Statements: March 2026 April 2026, May 2026. Income Statement, and Balance Sheet)

ITEM 4: PUBLIC HEARING & INPUT

i. None.

ITEM 5: BOARD RESOLUTIONS

i. Resolution 26-01: Training/Risk Management Grant Policy
   a. Crago discussed old policy that we update for granting grant for trainings. Want to add clarity for CRS recommendations to the board for consideration. It clears up that if there is one member that is applying for multiple scholarships. Tom Handy had one changes on number 8 with making applications. Motion would be for the chair to sign the new amended resolutions. Whitman moved and seconded by Handy. With all in favor and none opposed, the motion passed.

ITEM 6: ITEMS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION

i. Audit Results
   a. Tempel reported that this year's audit was only financial audit and thanked the team, particularly Becca and her team, for another successful audit. She also noted that a new audit team conducted the review. Crago emphasized the mutual trust and strong relationship with the auditors. No additional questions or concerns were raised, and no motion was required.

ii. Update Bylaws
   a. Crago recapped the bylaws discussion from the previous meeting and outlined four proposed amendments. For Section 2.2, he recommended limiting Board membership to county commissioners because members must have decision-making authority for their counties. The Board agreed that county employees or other staff may not have the authority needed to serve effectively. Whitman asked whether alternate commissioners were necessary. Hutsell supported allowing each county to designate another commissioner as an alternate and maintaining an alternate list. Handy noted that the final sentence of Section 2.2 was redundant and recommended removing it. Hutsell called for a motion to approve amend Section 2.3 bylaws as presented and remove final sentence of Section 2.2. Letham moved to approve as presented and Whitman seconded. With all in favor and none opposed, the motion passed.
   b. Board members supported allowing counties to designate an alternate commissioner. They also discussed removing language regarding the Fiscal Officer position that appeared misplaced in the bylaws. Crago thanked the Board for its input and said staff would prepare revised bylaws for consideration at the next meeting. No further questions or concerns were raised, and no additional motion was required.

ITEM 7: STAFF REPORTS

The following items were discussed, and updates were given regarding the following topics. All questions were answered, and no action was taken.

1. Underwriting
2. Marketing
3. Pre-Litigation Program
4. Claims
5. Membership & Retention
6. Financial
7. Risk Management & Zywave
8. Educational Services

9. Communications

ITEM 8: EXECUTIVE REPORT

i. Administrator Report

a. Andrus thanked staff and Board members for their continued support and partnership. He appreciated the opportunity to connect with members at dinner the previous evening and expressed enthusiasm for everyone in the new building. Templeton thanked staff for their reports and acknowledged that renewal work and carrier meetings are already underway. He recognized the significant costs counties face and the challenges created by current conditions. He also noted interest in the program and expressed support for adding one or two counties to diversify the pool's risk. He thanked the Board for its service to members and communities. Tempel provided an update on the upcoming retreat location and noted that rooming information and additional details would be shared soon. Crago discussed wildfire-related coverage moratoriums and advised members to confirm coverage before making major purchases. He noted that the pool has several large claims, some of which are shared among multiple carriers. He emphasized the pool's strong carrier relationships and said a clearer forecast would be presented at the retreat. He also acknowledged current financial pressures and stressed the importance of working through challenges together. Crago concluded by expressing pride in working with the Board and staff. Hutsell thanked staff for their continued collaboration and partnership.

ITEM 8: UPCOMING MEETINGS

i.	Fiscal Meeting:	Wednesday August 20, 2026, via Zoom at 9:00 A.M.
ii.	Board Meeting/Retreat:	September 23-25, 2026, Airway Heights, WA & via Zoom
iii.	Board Meeting:	Wednesday October 22, 2026, via Zoom at 9:00 A.M.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessika Tempel

Jessika Tempel

Scott M. Hutsell

Scott Hutsell, Chairman

2026 9:18:54 AM PDT