

March 2009

WELCOME NEW ALLIANCE MEMBERS

[Shared Procurement Portal](#)

- Seattle Housing Authority
- King County Housing Authority
- Northeast King County Public Safety Communication Agency (NORCOM)
- Renton (pending)
- King County Library System

[GovJobsToday.com](#)

- Northeast King County Public Safety Communication Agency (NORCOM)

[NWProperty.net](#)

- Arlington
- Covington (pending)

2008 FALL FOURM CANCELED

The Alliance 2008 Fall Forum was canceled because many members were facing difficult budget decisions and a significant amount of time was going into strategic planning for MBP.com.

[MyBuildingPermit.com](#)

- Renton
- Mukilteo
- SeaTac

[Human Resource Comp & Class Portal \(private site\)](#)

- Renton
- Tukwila
- Lynnwood
- SeaTac

ALLIANCE SERVICES IN THE NEWS

GovJobsToday.com *Bill Kenny & Ruben Nieto, Co-Chairs* ([link to press release](#))

The newest Alliance service launched with four cities on September 15th, 2008. Since then we have brought all of the Alliance partner cities online. The portal offers:

Applicant Profile

- Save profile and resume data for re-use
- Track status on-line

Job posting

- Customizable for individual jobs and cities, including, branding, custom questions and attaching resumes/other documents
- Post on city web sites via RSS feed
- Reusable templates
- Managed access by each HR department
- Applicant screening and review
- HR analyst can custom design entire hiring process
- Managed access can be assigned for hiring manager and reviewers
- On-line status

eCityGov Contacts

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[Current Alliance Member List](#)

GovJobsToday.com continued,

“GovJobsToday.com solves a long-term concern of applicants that they have to fill out an application for each job and for each agency they wish to apply to,” according to Kim Dowden, Human Resources Analyst at the City of Kirkland. “With this new resource, applicants can easily search and apply for multiple jobs at several agencies with one reusable profile.”

The new site is also a great benefit for the participating cities and agencies. “We’re also seeing a much larger pool of applicants come in for each position,” said Ruben Nieto, Director of Human Resources for the City of Issaquah. “Some of this may be attributed to the economy, but the ease of the application process and the opportunity to see the positions at multiple cities is a large part of why people like it.”

Even the newest agency can see the potential. “NORCOM is facing two challenges with respect to recruiting employees; first we are a brand new agency, so very few potential applicants even know we exist. Second, the nature of our work, regional public safety dispatch, is extremely demanding and we are looking for the very best candidates for these critical public safety positions,” said Chris Fischer, Executive Director of NORCOM.

“GovJobsToday.com will be a win-win for both us and our applicants.”

The new online application process has also helped the member cities with sustainability goals of reducing the amount of paper used as city staff has been encouraged to view the applications online instead of printing out all applications. Since the applicants can check their status online, GovJobsToday.com has also eliminated the need to send regret letters to unsuccessful applicants.

NWProperty.net Site Upgrade *(Ellen Miller-Wolf, Chair)*

Long in the planning and development process, the updated NWProperty.net site has been finished and is now live. Click [here](#) to take a look at the new site! In addition to a significant update of the site look and feel, NWP.net now features a direct data feed from the Commercial Brokers Association (CBA) listing data and all new demographic data.

One City’s Story

The morning of January 28th Sammamish posted an IT Support position. Within 1 ½ hours they had received 20 applications, by 2:00 pm they had 40 applications, and as of the following morning the count is at 156 candidates. The underlying story is that GJT has the potential to not only generate larger candidate pools, but can do so very quickly. The savings to cities and applicants overtime will be significant in terms of reduced recruiting costs and shorter turn around times to fill positions (increased productivity).

The reason for the incredibly quick applicant responses is two-fold. First, potential applicants can set up a profile in GJT which can be used to fill-out the online application, and second applicants can set up automatic notifications of new postings so they don’t need to continually check the site for new postings.

March, 2009

SharedProcurementPortal.com, Award Finalist (*Jamie Robinson, Chair*)

Three out of the last four years an Alliance portal has been named as a finalist for the Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA) award program. This year the honor falls to the Shared Procurement Portal. MyBuildingPermit.com won the award in 2005.

MyBuildingPermit.com (*Mike DeLack, Chair*)

The cities of Renton and SeaTac launched on MBP.com September 28th. Eight cities and Snohomish County are now live with online inspection scheduling.

The Training Committee has been very busy with several offerings including training on Green buildings, Plumbing, Trusses, electrical code and permit technician certification. The Publications Committee has created six new tip sheets.

A new electrical committee has been formed to provide consistent regulations and enforcement of the electrical codes. This committee is also open to non-MBP.com cities.

MBP.com gets a facelift – the new content site rolled out mid-August. Kudos goes to the Web Content Committee for their hard work to review the design work and update all of the site content.

Mike DeLack, Director of Development Services, Bothell, was elected as the new MBP.com Management Committee Chair at the February 20th meeting. Mike takes over from Tom Phillips, Kirkland.

Regional Permit System RFP Project

Since a number of Alliance member cities are facing the need to replace existing permit systems within the next several years, the Alliance is assisting with the coordination of a regional effort to issue a permit system RFP.

Phase I of the project was completed in September when PTI presented the final report to the project steering committee. This phase resulted in total cost of ownership estimates based on several scenarios.

The steering committee is beginning to work on the scope of work for Phase II which will cover collection of detailed functionality requirements for each participating city, development and issuance of a RFP, assistance with the selection and contract negotiations. Please contact [Tom Phillips](#), or [Brenda Cooper](#), for additional information.

VOTE for the SPP!

This year WTIA has changed the selection format, rather than having the winners selected by committee, the winners for each category will be chosen by popular vote! You do not need to be a WTIA member to vote.

Links to the videos and voting will be forthcoming.

March, 2009

MyParksandRecreation.com (*Angela Ferguson, Chair*)

The Business team is geared up to take the rest of this year to review and update all the static information on the MPR.com site. Some of the team members and business processes have changed, and as they go to site for parks and recreation information, the team is working to keep the site relevant and current. The 2008-2010 work plan was finalized and approved by the business team in December. The major areas that the team will be working on in the next two years are developing the business processes and search functionality for Facility Scheduling and Reservation, Special Events calendaring and Volunteer tracking.

NWMaps.net (*Emily Arteche, Chair*)

This past spring the project committee structure was expanded to a management committee and a technical committee. Existing committee members choose a place on either or both committees. The new committee structure will bring more resources to NWM.net and strengthen connections between technical staff and business users.

At the same time the new technical committee launched a concerted effort to coordinate an orthographic flight in 2009. Past efforts, although successful, were not able to fully capitalize on the voluntary collaborative effort. Discussions with the Alliance Boards led to the decision to formally add the regional ortho flight project to the NWM.net project charter.

The committee has successfully aligned flight specifications and schedules between the member cities. A RFP was issued for a GIS project management consultant to write the specifications, develop the RFP document and help manage the ortho flight. Participating cities are estimating savings of 20% or more over the cost of individual city ortho flights.

Breaking News – The Alliance is in discussions with King County for a contribution towards the regional ortho flight or possibly a trade which would provide NWMaps.net cities with access to King County's 2009 Pictometry oblique angle imagery.

Important Budget Recommendation: Cities that are budgeting the cost of ortho flights out of general operating funds are urged to shift to setting up a project in their capital fund to manage this expensive, ongoing cost. Contact John Backman for more information.

eCityGov NEWS

Coming and Going - Pete Mayer, Assistant City Manager, Mercer Island, and Operations Board Member has recently announced that he will be taking the Director of Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation Department. Pete has been involved with the Alliance since the beginning and was the first project chair for MyParksandRecreation.com.

New Staff - Please welcome Joel Hobson to the Alliance team. Joel started work as a project manager on December 1st. Joel comes by way of the City of Spokane and the private IT sector. He is supporting the Shared Procurement Portal, MyParksandRecreation.com and NWMaps.net. In addition to the core projects, Joel is managing the regional ortho flight project with a consultant and the regional permit system replacement project.