

Today's Presentation - Governance

- **Key issues?**
- **Basic rules?**
- **What have others done?**
- **Start talking about values & principles**

Governance – issues & options

- Deciding how the RFA Governance Board is structured is a major topic for the RFA Planning Committee.
- Key issues are:
 - How many board members? What vote does each have?
 - How are positions filled – by voters directly? Or appointment of elected officials from member agencies?
 - Length of office terms?
 - Allocation of seats between participating agencies?
 - Transition of the board over time?
 - What if other agencies join the RFA? How should governance change?
- The RFA Statute (Ch. 52.26 RCW) is very flexible in terms of governance options available to you.

RFA Governance – Basic rules

1. All board members must be elected officials from a member jurisdiction **or** directly elected by the voters of the RFA.
2. The Initial Board must be entirely composed of elected officials from member agencies. This can change (but doesn't need to) once there is an opportunity for an election (odd years).
3. There is no legal limit on the number of members—but there is a practical limit.
4. Terms must be staggered (end at different times) and may not exceed 6 years in length. Terms can be decided after the election.
4. If half or more of the board consists of **elected** members then the Board should be structured to comply with the ***one person, one vote principle***.
Members are considered “elected” if they are directly elected by voters **or** automatic appointments from member agencies— “Mayor”, or “Council President” or “Chair of Board of Commissioners”
5. A person may hold two different elected positions but may not run for both positions on the same ballot.

RFA Governance Options/Examples

An RFA Governance Board can be comprised of:

1. Elected officials from member agencies
2. Persons directly elected **At-Large** by the voters of the RFA
3. Persons directly elected by **District** by the voters of the RFA
 - Primary: only open to voters of the districts.
 - General: entire RFA votes on all districted positions (top 2 advance from primary)
 - Board member districts must be roughly equal in population
4. A mix of any or all of the above

Governance -- What have others done?

North County Regional Fire Authority	Puget Sound RFA (Kent)	Southeast Thurston Fire Authority	Renton RFA	South Snohomish County RFA (Lynnwood)
2 Fire Districts, later adding Stanwood then Arlington (2021)	Kent and an adjacent fire district	Yelm and 2 fire districts	Renton and an adjacent fire district	Lynnwood and adjacent fire district.
9 Members 3 Districted 3 At-large 3 Arlington electeds Arlington positions will transition to directly elected in 2 years. The board also will shrink to 7 members over the next several years.	6 voting members + 2 nonvoting members <i>Voting members:</i> 3 elected officials from each of the two member jurisdictions <i>Nonvoting members:</i> one from each contract agency	6 members All directly elected; 3 districts with 2 members elected from each district. <i>Originally:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 from Yelm • 2 from FD#2 • 2 From FD #4 	6 members (3 elected officials from both member jurisdictions), plus 1 non-voting contract representative.	7 members (all directly elected; 5 districted; 2 at large) Contract cities have no board representation <i>At formation:</i> 2 Councilmembers from Lynnwood, 5 Commissioners from District 1. Mill Creek currently seeking to annex.

Governance – what have others done?

See matrix in packets outline governance structures of all 13 RFAs currently in place in the state.

Proposed Approach....

1. Consider and propose values and principles
 - Share with City Councils (April)
2. Develop a small set of options that comply with these values and principles
 - Share with City Councils (May)
3. Select a preferred option
 - Share with City Councils (June)

Values & Principles to Guide development of the RFA Plan

A short statement highlighting beliefs that the organization operates from

- Sample statement in meeting packets

Brainstorming values & principles

- When you look at the **sample statement**, what parts of it do you think are applicable here? Are there some that are not relevant or that you disagree with?
- Other values or principles do you think we should consider adding?
- Next steps:
 - Propose amendments to the sample?
 - Develop something completely new?
- **Target:** A proposed draft for City Councils to review in **April**.

Questions? Comments?