

Jake Logan

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 4:58 PM
To: Jill Nixon; Jake Logan; Executive; Cathy Halka
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Advisory Group Application

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Advisory Group Application

Step 1

Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Advisory Groups

Public Statement

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public advisory group, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All advisory group members are expected to be fair, impartial, and respectful of the public, County staff, and each other. Failure to abide by these expectations may result in revocation of appointment and removal from the appointive position.

Title	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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First Name	Michael
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Last Name	Byers
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Today's Date	9/29/2025
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Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
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Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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Secondary Telephone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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Step 2

1. Name of Advisory Group	Agricultural Advisory Committee
Agricultural Advisory Committee Position:	Agricultural Producer
2. Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?	Yes
3. Which Council district do you live in?	District 5
4. Have you ever been a member of this Advisory Group	No
5. Do you or your spouse have a financial interest in or are you an employee or officer of any business or agency that does business with Whatcom County?	No
6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county?	No
You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions	<i>Field not completed.</i>
7. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education	The author of three books of fiction, I received a BA from Oberlin College and an MFA from the University of Michigan; I was also a Stegner Fellow at Stanford from 1996-1998. A Seattle native, I am a former English professor (University of Pittsburgh 2003-2006; University of Michigan, 2006-2022) and directed the Helen Zell Writers' Program at Michigan for several years, overseeing its multi-million dollar budget and providing services to a large student population. I now live on Lummi Island full time, where my wife and I have spent the last five years working to rehabilitate West Shore Farm, restoring its orchard and hayfield. This year we have expanded into farming quinoa, barley, and other grains on a small scale with the intention of beginning larger operations in the future.

8. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this Advisory Group.

I'm applying to serve on the Agricultural Advisory Committee because I believe local food production is vital to our community's resilience and economy, and I want to contribute to supporting the farmers who make it possible; I also see the impacts of climate change, the outcome of water rights adjudication, farmland preservation in the face of expanding development, and fair labor practices as critical issues for Whatcom County's future, and I would welcome a chance to participate in the Committee's work of stewardship and advocacy.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Appointment Requirements I understand and agree

Signature of applicant: Michael Byers

Place Signed / Submitted Lummi Island, WA

(Section Break)

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