

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Advisory Group Application  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2024 6:26:46 PM

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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	Ms.
First Name	Katherine
Last Name	Garrah
Today's Date	1/21/2024
Street Address	██████████
City	████
Zip	████
Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Primary Telephone	██████████
Secondary Telephone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	████████████████████████████████████████

### Step 2

1. Name of Advisory      Drayton Harbor Shellfish Protection District Advisory Committee

Group

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2. Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?

Yes

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3. Which Council district do you live in?

District 5

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4. Have you ever been a member of this Advisory Group

No

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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

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6. Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county?

No

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You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions

*Field not completed.*

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7. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or community activities, and education

\_\_\_\_\_ OCCUPATIONS

1. Biologist, Drayton Harbor Oyster Company (May 2020 - Present) Blaine WA.
2. Ecologist and Environmental Scientist, EcoLogic Consultants Ltd. (May 2018 - Present) Vancouver BC.

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## QUALIFICATIONS

20-year career in natural resources working for and with government, academia, multi-national industry, local communities, Indigenous groups, independent consultancies, and not-for-profits in British Columbia, Alberta, and Ontario, Canada; and Washington, USA, in terrestrial, riparian, freshwater and marine ecosystems.

B.Sc. (Joint Honours) Biology / Environmental Science (2007)

M.Sc. Biology (2013)

P. Ag. Professional Agrologist (2022)

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### Select Projects:

- FLUPSY Population Assessments – estimate and assess diploid and triploid cohorts for mortality, survivorship, and growth.
- Eel grass bed mapping and assessment – map and identify native and invasive eel grass beds.
- Invasive Species Management – support European green crab management initiatives, tracking, trapping and eradicating invasive species.
- The Nature Conservancy's Supporting Oyster Aquaculture and Restoration (SOAR) Program – develop and produce water quality community outreach materials for preservation of Drayton Harbor shellfish harvesting status
- Rainfall Sampling Program – Develop rainfall sampling guidelines in conjunction with Whatcom Country Public Works and Department of Health.
- Coliform Trend Analysis – Monitor and map fecal pathogens according to ecosystem variability (tide, rainfall, seasonality, wind, land-event)
- Oysters, Oceans and Ecosystems – Provided educational workshops on ecology and biology lessons using the farm as a classroom. In partnership Garden of the Salish Sea.
- Transboundary Watershed – engage with the Transboundary Watershed Alliance to support clean water in Drayton Harbor and Little Campbell

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### Other Projects:

- Attawapiskat Youth Seed Collection Program - Design, Implement and Improve; administered in conjunction with the Attawapiskat Development Corporation to employ, train and support ten youth per season in the collection and management of up to fifty native species for restoration of Attawapiskat traditional lands, as well as provide mentorship in a Supervisory Roles and administrative duties.
- Infrastructure Design - Designed and built a plant propagation

facility from ground level including all utilities to support a state-of-the-art hydroponic growing facility, 3000ft<sup>2</sup> traditional greenhouse, seed cleaning and seed storage facility in a fly-in sub-arctic environment to propagate native plant species for the purpose of out-planting to a mine reclamation environment.

- Construction Project Management - Procured and managed contractors including trades, product manufacturers, installers and suppliers for a sub-arctic plant propagation facility
- Native Plant Horticulture and Out-planting - Specialty knowledge to understand and deliver the specific environmental constraints and demands of a large variety of species for successful propagation and out-planting
- Reclamation Planning and Execution - Planning one, three, and five year reclamation windows for a 900ha mine site; executing in-year progressive reclamation plans according to land availability and dynamic mine planning at an operational mine
- Riparian Area Restoration - slope stabilization and bioengineering of reconstructed creeks and ponds in a muskeg and other wetland habitats
- Contractor Bids and Management - Labourer, project consultant and contractor procurement and management
- Remote Logistics - Planning and executing a massive comprehensive land management program with significant seasonal and logistical constraints due to remoteness and limitations of exclusive air and winter-road access.
- Risk Assessment - Project Management and Risk Assessment to fully plan and action all elements of a Mine Closure plan, including infrastructure demolition, decommissioning supply chain, asset disposal, winter road maintenance and logistics, Social closure and implications for closing a major regional employer.

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#### PROFESSIONAL / COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- May – June 2021 OysterFest Community Organizing Member. Key organizing member of the inaugural Blaine OysterFest.
  - December 2021 – February 2023  
Key contributor to and organizer of 2023 Washington State Budget Biannual Grant Application for the Maritime Economy and Research Institute for Sustainability (MERIS) per Cllr. E. Davidson, Port of Bellingham, and Rep. A. Rule.
  - October 2020 - Present Member, Geotechnical
  - Nov 2013- Present Member, Cowichan Young Professionals
  - September 2008 – Present Member, Canadian Land Reclamation Association
  - Aug 2014- Oct 2015 Committee Member, Environmental Advisory Committee, Municipality of North Cowichan
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## EDUCATION

##(1)## Laurentian University, Sudbury ON

- 2008 – 2012

GRADUATE STUDIES – BIOLOGY (Thesis-based M.Sc.)

Determined novel reference conditions and developed reclamation protocols for mine waste rock stockpiles at De Beers Canada Victor Mine in the subarctic Hudson Bay Lowland.

- 2010

GRADUATE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE, BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT COUNCIL

Solicited input and brought Graduate Student concerns and opinions to council; Voted on matters before Council and kept informed student body.

- 2008 – 2010

TEACHING ASSISTANT – BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Delivered lab and seminar sections, and marked assignments and essays for 1st year Biology, 2nd year Ecology, Introductory Vertebrates, and Vascular Plants, and 3rd year Ethnobotany and Plant Ecology.

- June - Sept 2008

RESEARCH ASSISTANT– BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Assisted undergraduate researchers in delivery of their research program, documentation of site characteristics and collection of samples in the Hudson Bay Lowland, De Beers Canada Victor Mine.

##(2)## Trent University, Peterborough ON

- 2002 - 2007 - Bachelor of Science, Honours Joint Major: Biology & Environmental Science

- 2003 - 2006 - Residence Don, Lady Eaton College, Trent University

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

As a committed advocate for sustainable food systems, local government, healthy communities, strong economics, and watershed health, I draw great satisfaction from contributing to the many interconnected matters associated with shellfish aquaculture.

My genuine fondness and appreciation for the local community, coupled with my respect for the intergovernmental agencies tasked with safeguarding this susceptible and valuable industry, further motivate my desire to serve on the advisory committee.

I believe my ability to integrate perspectives and consider the

interacting dynamics of complex systems, including economic, socio-cultural, environmental, and governmental facets, positions me as a valuable advisor to the County Council.

Having actively observed the SPD Advisory Committee for several years since beginning as a Biologist at Drayton Harbor Oyster Company, I am keen to formally join the committee and contribute my broad experience and knowledge.

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References (please include daytime telephone number):

Steve Seymour - 360-739-2490  
Rick Beauregard - 714-981-2871  
George Kaas - 360-739-8914

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Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

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Signature of applicant:

Katherine Garrah

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Place Signed / Submitted



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(Section Break)

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