

Climate Impact Advisory Committee: Stevan Harrell

Subject: Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application
Date: Thursday, January 02, 2020 9:04:08 AM

Board and Commission Application

Step 1

Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Boards and Commissions

Public Statement

THIS IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT: As a candidate for a public board or commission, the information provided will be available to the County Council, County Executive, and the public. All board and commission 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	Dr.
First Name	Stevan
Last Name	Harrell
Today's Date	1/1/2020
Street Address	1430 Undine St.
City	Bellingham
Zip	98229
Do you live in & are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Primary Telephone	206 755-0071
Secondary Telephone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	meiguimuga@gmail.com

Step 2

1. Name of Board or Commission: Climate Impact Advisory Committee

Committee

Climate Impact
Advisory Committee
Position:

I have previous work or educational experience in climate change.

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 1

4. Are you a US citizen?

Yes

5. Are you registered to vote in Whatcom County?

Yes

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

No

7. Have you ever been a member of this Board/Commission?

No

8. 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

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

Field not completed.

the following questions

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

From 1974 to 2017 I taught anthropology, Asian Studies, and Environmental Studies at the University of Washington. During my final two decades, I taught three courses with direct relevance to climate change, one of them involving Whatcom County:

1) Introduction to Environmental Anthropology, introducing 100-200 beginning students to relationships between people and the environment, including the projected effects of climate change.

2) "Growing Stuff," an advanced undergraduate class on producing biological resources, which I taught for 12 years, and which included a unit on dairy farming concluding with visits to several dairy farms in Whatcom County, enabling me to become very familiar with the concerns of our farming community, before I moved here.

3) A UW Honors Program class on public reception of science, taught jointly with climate scientist Professor David Battisti. It included a four-week long unit on why the public accepts or rejects the science of climate change.

I also supervised several graduate students working on doctoral projects concerning climate change, including effects on Pacific island communities, North Alaska native communities, and the carbon footprint of cross-laminated timber.

From 2014 to 2017 I was an active member of the Climate Action Team at University Unitarian Church, and was chief organizer of a lecture series covering ecological, theological, economic, political, food, and medical aspects, including Native American views.

Since moving to Bellingham I have been involved in Citizens' Climate Lobby, and more importantly, I wrote the agriculture and food security section of this Committee's Community Research Project. The positive experience I had interviewing farmers, tribal representatives, and other stakeholders spurred me to want to become more permanently involved with local efforts to combat and adapt to climate change.

10. Please describe why you're interested in serving on this board or commission

As an urban progressive who has good relations with the farming community, some of whom have political beliefs very different from mine, and more broadly as someone who has worked in Asian cultures extremely different from any found in the US, I believe I have the ability to build bridges between people of different beliefs who nevertheless have interests in common.

I have also been praised for my ability to write without sounding

like a dry academic--my forthcoming article in Whatcom Watch, which is a summary of the section of the Community Research Project, is an example. I thus feel I could be helpful in writing materials for the Committee.

I'm not likely to live to see the worst effects of climate change, but my children and grandchild will, and I hope to use a good chunk of my remaining years on the planet to help get us started on the right path toward living on a very different earth. I think working locally is the way to do this.

In addition, to be frank, the City of Bellingham is ahead of the County on Climate Action. The County, however, has greater challenges, because of our economic and cultural attachment to farms and fisheries, and the need to work out solutions that will address the concerns of both 'Hamsters and North County people. I think my background is ideal for this task. I'm retired, have no regularly scheduled activities, and have time to work on this.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

All have agreed to be contacted:

Karen Steensma (dairy farmer and biologist) 360 739-5972
Larry Stap (dairy farmer) 360 354-4105
Ellyn Murphy (retired hydrologist and Committee member) 509 554-6203
Charlie Maliszewski (chairman of the board, RE sources) 360 305-2781
David Battisti (UW climate scientist) 206 295-0356

Signature of applicant:

Stevan Harrell

Place Signed / Submitted

1430 Undine St, Bellingham

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