

Subject: Online Form Submittal: Advisory Group Application
Date: Thursday, March 13, 2025 4:10:52 PM

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	Mr.
First Name	John
Last Name	Byers
Today's Date	3/13/2025
Street Address	
City	
Zip	
Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
Do you have a different mailing address?	Field not completed.
Primary Telephone	
Secondary Telephone	Field not completed.
Email Address	

Step 2

1. Name of Advisory	Surface Mining Advisory Committee
---------------------	-----------------------------------

Group

Surface Mining Advisory Committee (SMAC) Position:	Civil or geo-technical engineer with no direct or indirect financial business ties to the industry (Staff Note: Applicant applies for Geologist position. See note in Q. 7, below.)
--	---

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	Attached
--	----------

7. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or	**Note** The role of "Geologist" is listed as vacant on the website, but "Geologist" is not a position that's available on this application. I chose "Geo-technical Engineer" because, while I am not an engineer, it seemed the closest substitution. Thank you!
---	--

community activities,
and education

EDUCATION: I graduated from Colorado College in May of 2023 with a Bachelor's degree in Geology. While I was there, I served as the president of the AIPG (American Institute of Professional Geologists) club. Relevant coursework includes Structural Geology, Geomorphology, Numerical Models, Igneous Petrology, etc.

EXPERIENCE: After I graduated, I took a job with the US Department of Energy to work at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. While I was there, I worked on a project developing more efficient industrial concrete, as well as on a project that was working to determine the chemical impact of ecological disturbance in soils.

CURRENTLY: In this chapter of my life, I'm focusing on giving back to my community. I currently work as an educator with Wild Whatcom - I go into special needs classrooms to teach about science, as well as leading groups of kids and teachers through outdoors lessons.

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

I'm interested in using my expertise to give back to my community! I care about our public lands -- when I think about my students who are growing up in Whatcom county right now, I want it to always be a place they can continue to love and enjoy. Being a steward of our public lands has always been a passion of mine, and now I have the training to realize this goal. I'm currently working less than 40 hours a week, and so will be available to come to the SMAC meetings. I want to make my time useful to my community, and give a meaningful contribution.

References (please
include daytime
telephone number):

(865) 341-0324 | santosf@ornl.gov - Fernanda Santos/Oak Ridge National Lab - Ecosystem Disturbance Specialist
(719) 389-6717 - Christine Siddoway/Colorado College - Antarctic Geologist

Appointment
Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

John Byers

Place Signed /
Submitted



(Section Break)

EDUCATION

Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO

May 2023

Bachelor of Arts, Major: Geology. Minor: Ancient World, GPA: 3.55/4.0

Relevant Coursework: Earth as a Chemical System, Surface Processes and Geomorphology, Sedimentology and Stratigraphy, Igneous Petrology, Numerical Models in Earth Science, Calculus I/II, Physics for the Physical Sciences.

EXPERIENCE

Laboratory and Field assistant / Oak Ridge National Lab, Oak Ridge, TN.....08/2023 – 04/2024

- Collected and analyzed data for U.S. Department of Energy projects focused on climate and sustainability.
- Measured soil respiration to inform large-scale Earth models about climatic impacts on the carbon cycle.

Mentor / Wild Whatcom, Bellingham, WA.....05/2024 – Present

- Designed and led accessible outdoor trips, ensuring opportunities for a wide audience to explore nature and develop life skills.

Program Director, Counselor / Project Foxwood, Traverse City, MI..... 05/2019 – 08/2022

- Managed a team of 15-20 staff members and coordinated training and operations for childcare.
- Enhanced skills in leadership, collaboration, and communication.

LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Co-President, AIPG Club.....05/2022 – 05/2023

- Led the AIPG (American Institute of Professional Geologists) Club in organizing meetings and events to foster an inclusive environment for geology students.

Independent Study, Colorado College.....07/2021 - 05/2022

- Designed a working geomorphology-focused science outreach curriculum for K-12 schools.
- Assisted in the first mapping of a Stratigraphic column, and collected microscopic, fossilized specimens.

COMPLETED WORKS

- Schanz, SA, Byers, J, Carroll, R, Kent, J-H, Swope, F. 2022. "[Geomorphic site assessment of Mesa Creek from 1937 to present at Sonderrmann Park, Colorado Springs, CO.](#)" Colorado College Geomorphology Group. 52 pp
- Byers, J., Santos, F., & Griffiths, N. (2024). ORNL SULI Poster Presentation, Spring 2024. In [Impact of Extreme Warming Events on Soil Respiration](#). Oak Ridge, TN. (**Internal**)
- Byers, J., Silva, D., & Hun, D. (2023). ORNL SULI Poster Presentation, Fall 2023. In [Novel Low Carbon Concrete Design Approach](#). Oak Ridge, TN. (**Internal**)

SKILLS

- **Technical:** ArcGIS, R, Microsoft Office Suite, Finite Difference Models (Python)
- **Field & Research:** Numerical modeling, field campaigns, mineral identification (petrographic microscopy), geochemistry (field/lab), grant writing.
- **Certifications:** Wilderness First Responder (WFR), Lifeguard, First Aid/CPR, EPI.
- **Language:** Native English. Reading, writing, and conversational Spanish.
- **Additional:** Exceptional geologic landscape interpretation and map reading.