

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	Ms.
First Name	Rachel
Last Name	Vasak
Today's Date	12/15/2021
Street Address	5760 Windgate Drive
City	Ferndale
Zip	98248
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	3607391440
Secondary Telephone	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	rvasak@n-sea.org

Step 2

1. Name of Board or Planning Commission

Committee

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. 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?

Yes

If yes, please explain

I work for Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association, a nonprofit that does business in Whatcom County.

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

Attached

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

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association- Bellingham, WA
2008- Current
Executive Director
Responsible for organizational leadership, personnel management, budgeting development and implementation, fundraising, grant writing and oversight, plus risk management. Recently led a capital campaign to purchase and renovate property to serve as a permanent facility. Serve as primary spokesperson for organization and provide consistent supportive leadership to staff, volunteers and board members.

- Mount Baker Ski Area, Mountain Education Center Coordinator, 2000-current
- University of Fairbanks AK, Girls on Ice, Mentor/Instructor, 2006-2017
- Huxley College of the Environment, WWU, Dean's advisory board member, 2009-current
- Meadows Montessori School, advisor to the board 2012-current
- Regional Fisheries Coalition, Board member 2008-current (current chair)
- Sustainable Connections, board member (current)

- MPA: Nonprofit Leadership, Arkansas State University- Graduated 2018
- BA – Environmental and Engineering Geology, Western Washington University, WA - Graduated 2000

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

Land use impacts us all. And we are all impacted by land use. Population growth, food security, climate change, and environmental concerns all need to be weighed carefully as we navigate pressures and needs in real time.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Elie Steele-Friedlob: 360-371-3441
Jim Hansen (current PC member)

Signature of applicant:

Rachel Vasak

Place Signed / Submitted

Bellingham WA

(Section Break)

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RACHEL VASAK

360 739 1440 (mobile)

5760 Windgate Drive, Ferndale WA 98248

rachelvasak@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Results-driven and highly qualified Executive Director with over 20 years of experience and success managing and working for a community-based non-profit organization. Strong organizational leadership and management skills have led to excellent working relations with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, WA Department of Ecology, US Forest Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Tribal Nations, as well as local municipalities and other NGO's. Adept at grant writing, project management, strategic planning, and operational delegation. Regularly manage an annual budget of 1.2M-2.6M dollars. Skills include creative leadership, strategic thinking, partner relations, team leadership, program management, relationship building with diverse constituents, community building, fundraising, change management, and nonprofit leadership.

EDUCATION

- MPA: Nonprofit Leadership, Arkansas State University- Graduated 2018
- BA – Environmental and Engineering Geology, Western Washington University, WA - Graduated 2000

RECENT WORK HISTORY

- **Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association- Bellingham, WA** **2008- Current**
Executive Director
Responsible for organizational leadership, personnel management, budgeting development and implementation, fundraising, grant writing and oversight, plus risk management. Recently led a capital campaign to purchase and renovate property to serve as a permanent facility. Serve as primary spokesperson for organization and provide consistent supportive leadership to staff, volunteers and board members.
- **BookFare Café- Bellingham WA** **2007-2010**
Owner
Responsible for all operations, for small café including hiring, leading and managing staff, setting and administering business plan, setting and implementing budget, completing payroll, filing local, state and federal taxes. Empowered staff to work as a team to lead café in successful day to day operations in 2008.
- **Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association- Bellingham WA** **2000-2007**
Program Director
Developed, implemented high quality community engagement, scientific monitoring, environmental education and community stewardship programs. Led a team of 4-6 FTEs to implement programs. Identified funding sources, wrote, secured, administered, reported on over 20 grants annually. Supported Executive Director in organizational leadership. Provided input to strategic planning, budget development, and organizational goals. Served as secondary spokesperson for the organization.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Mount Baker Ski Area, Mountain Education Center Coordinator, 2000-current
- University of Fairbanks AK, Girls on Ice, Mentor/Instructor, 2006-2017
- Huxley College of the Environment, WWU, Dean's advisory board member, 2009-current
- Meadows Montessori School, advisor to the board 2012-current
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