

Subject: Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 12:20:00 PM

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 *Field not completed.*

First Name Christine

Last Name Perkins

Today's Date 12/4/2023

Street Address [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED]

Zip [REDACTED]

Do you live in & are you registered to vote in Whatcom County? Yes

Do you have a different mailing address? *Field not completed.*

Primary Telephone [REDACTED]

Secondary Telephone [REDACTED]

Email Address [REDACTED]

Step 2

1. Name of Board or Committee Forest Resilience Task Force

Forest Resilience Task Force	Representative from trust land beneficiary
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?	Yes
If yes, please explain	I am the Executive Director of Whatcom County Library System, an independent junior taxing district that is a trust land beneficiary.
You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience,	Attached

qualifications, &
interest in response to
the following questions

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

Executive Director of Whatcom County Library System for 10+ years; professional library manager for 25+ years. I serve as President of Public Libraries of Washington, Treasurer of Whatcom READS (a 501c3 nonprofit) and recently completed 5+ years on the Bellingham City Club Programming Committee. I served as Treasurer for several years for my son's Whatcom Rangers soccer team and for my daughter's Girl Scout troop. I have a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from UW and my undergraduate degree from Cornell University.

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

WCLS is a trust land beneficiary and I am interested in thoughtful management of this important resource for its long-term health and benefit to the community. Although I have no formal training in forest management, conservation, or environmental policy, I have great respect for this work and some understanding of the public policy and legislative process. I currently serve on the legislative planning committee for Public Libraries of Washington and review proposed bills at the state level. I attended a Whatcom Women in Timber tour several years ago and am interested in the sustainable practices they presented.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Rodney Lofdahl, 360-815-0491
Jackie Saul, 360-305-3603
Mary Vermillion 360-3645

Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant: Christine Perkins

Place Signed / Submitted



(Section Break)

Christine S. Perkins

Work Experience:

- April 2013 – present – **Whatcom County Library System**, Bellingham, WA, Executive Director.
- Communicate library vision through public presentations and PR efforts.
 - Develop \$10 million annual budget and Strategic Action Plans with community, board, and staff input to accomplish 5-year strategic goals.
 - Lead management team to execute ambitious projects like ConnectED, #BookBrainChallenge, Library Express, ILS Migration, Courtesy Renewals, and more.
 - Support and energize community stakeholders to gain momentum for library building projects. Opened the new Island Library (2013); South Whatcom Library (2014); Ferndale Library (2014); Point Roberts Library (2018); and Birch Bay (TBD).
 - Emphasize the importance of marketing efforts by hiring skilled communications staff who won national recognition.
 - Celebrate and promote a culture of reading amongst staff and the public.
 - Maximize library impacts by partnering with local schools, businesses & organizations: Whatcom Transit Authority, Port of Bellingham, Boys & Girls' Clubs, Lions Club, etc.
 - President of Public Libraries of Washington.
 - Analyze proposed state legislation daily throughout legislative session for potential library impacts for Public Libraries of Washington's Legislative Planning Committee.
- Feb. 2008 – April 2013 – **Bellingham Public Library**, Bellingham, WA, Assistant Director.
- Oversaw the daily operations of a busy library system serving a city of 80,000, including the Central Library and two branches. Hire, train, and supervise staff.
 - Revamped check-in and shelving procedures to eliminate backlog, enhance customer service, and improve staff morale.
 - Established new Security Attendant positions to address chronic security issues.
 - Developed new library brand identity; implemented design standards and refreshed promotional materials and the website; coordinated all public relations efforts.
 - Opened the 1,400 square foot Barkley Branch, a public/private partnership.
 - Served as Library liaison on the Fairhaven Branch Repair project, addressing water infiltration of a 104 year-old Carnegie Library.
 - Partnered with the Friends of the Bellingham Public Library, who delivered \$90,000+ in book sale proceeds to benefit the library in 2011.
 - Coordinated Outreach Services to seniors and disabled citizens.
- Dec. 2002 – Feb. 2008 – **Burlington Public Library**, Burlington, WA, Director.
- Convinced City Council to support project to build a new 22,000 square foot library.
 - Led Library Design Committee throughout 2-year design and building process; worked with architects, contractors, sub-contractors, City staff, City Council and the public.
 - Established the Burlington Library Foundation with community leaders and business owners; raised \$100,000+ to purchase public art and create an endowment fund.
 - Responsible for annual budget planning and developing the Capital Improvement Plan.
 - Developed partnerships with Friends of the Library, Welcome Baby, Skagit Literacy, and ESD 189 among others to provide library programming.

Oct. 1997 - **Jackson County Library Services**, Medford, OR, Librarian II.
Aug. 2002 *Young Adult Department Head*, Oct. 1998 – Aug. 2002

- Developed system-wide teen programming; designed all handouts and posters.
- Managed Teen Library collection and responded to patron challenges.
- Coordinated class visits; initiated national award-winning H.S. Senior Sunday program.

Reference Librarian, Oct. 1997 – Aug. 2002

- Offered friendly reference service to general public using Internet, print and databases.
- Staff Trainer: OPAC, circulation system, reader's advisory, databases.
- Represented library system to print and broadcast media in numerous interviews.
- Created ad budget; supervised creation of t.v. and radio spots; purchased ad time; organized volunteers for the Campaign to Rebuild Our Libraries.

Children's Librarian, Oct. 1997 – Oct. 1998

- Provided reference and reader's advisory services to children, parents, and teachers.
- Led class visits and interactive storytimes for preschoolers.

Aug. 1994- **Herring/Newman**, Seattle, WA, Associate Account Executive.
Aug. 1995

- Led multi-departmental advertising team to redesign all materials for Westin Hotels & Resorts' frequent guest program; served as primary client liaison.
- Handled monthly billing; monitored project budgets; created process manual.

Jan. 1992- **Leo Burnett Company**, Chicago, IL, Media Buyer/Planner.
June 1994

- Researched and negotiated advertising media buys for \$40MM Eggo account.
- Developed annual competitive spending analyses; wrote Kellogg's int'l presentations.

Education:

June 1997 *University of Washington*, MLIS. G.P.A.: 3.8.
Fieldwork: Washington Center for the Book with Nancy Pearl.
Honors Society: Beta Phi Mu.

May 1991 *Cornell University*, BS Communications. G.P.A.: 3.5, Dean's List, with distinction.
Honors Society: Golden Key.

Awards, Activities & Skills:

- Bellingham City Club Program Committee 2018 – 2023.
- John Cotton Dana Library Public Relations Award, for "My Modern Library", 2017 and I Believe in Libraries, 2020.
- Ken Gass Community Builder Award, Whatcom Family & Community Network, 2017.
- Treasurer, Whatcom READS, 2009 – present. Wrote NEA Big Read Grant, 2010.
- Book reviewer, *Cascadia Weekly* and *Cascadia Daily News*, 2014 – present; *Library Journal*, 2002 – 2018; *Skagit Valley Herald*, 2004 – 2008.
- Small library representative for the Connecting Learners to Libraries Initiative of the Washington State Library, 2005-2007.
- Library Journal Fiction Reviewer of the Year Award, 2005.
- YALSA/Margaret A. Edwards Award for Excellence in Service to Young Adults, 1999.
- Washington Library Association Scholarship 1996-1997.