

Subject: Online Form Submittal: Advisory Group Application
Date: Tuesday, December 31, 2024 10:14:23 AM

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 | Gabe |
| Last Name | Epperson |
| Today's Date | 12/31/2024 |
| 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 | Climate Impact Advisory Committee |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|

Group

| | |
|---|-----|
| Climate Impact Advisory Committee Position: | Yes |
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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 4 |
|--|------------|

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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 | Attached |
|--|----------|

| | |
|---|---|
| 7. Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or | I'm a Project Manager or San Juan Preservation Trust. I manage land use planning and conservation projects for the Preservation Trust. I was previously the Planning Director for Envision Utah (the Salt Lake City regional land use and transportation planning entity), and the Executive Director of Whatcom Land Trust for 4 |
|---|---|

community activities,
and education

years. I have a Bachelors Degree in Environmental Studies and
a Masters Degree in Public Administration.

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

I want to participate in a volunteer capacity in Whatcom County
on issues that are important to me and the long-term quality of
life in Whatcom County. My career and educational history and
been focused on human ecosystems and how to develop in ways
that are least harmful to the environment and minimize/reduce
climate impacts.

References (please
include daytime
telephone number):

Tyler Schroeder: 360-815-1273
Bennett Knox: 502-619-0950

Appointment
Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Gabe Epperson

Place Signed /
Submitted



(Section Break)

Gabe Epperson

Conservation Leader, Non-profit Executive



SKILLS

Experienced non-profit leader in management, fund-raising, and conservation.

EXPERIENCE

Skagit Land Trust, Mt Vernon, WA & San Juan Preservation Trust, Friday Harbor, WA - *Senior Advisor*

May 2024 - CURRENT

- Manage special lands projects for Skagit LT- resolve and complete difficult acquisitions and tradeland transactions
- Manage donated conservation easements for San Juan Preservation Trust- complete due diligence and owner outreach and draft conservation easements.
- Write private foundation grants for Skagit LT- completed \$250K grant application for wetlands acquisition.
- Advised and helped facilitate ad-hoc committee for San Juan Preservation Trust regarding Indigenous engagement and collaboration process
- Draft new acquisitions-related policy amendments and new procedures for Skagit Land Trust
- Create new operations/admin procedures and processes for San Juan Preservation Trust

Whatcom Land Trust, Bellingham, WA - *Executive Director*

February 2020 - February 2024

- Directed 12 person staff with \$1M plus annual operating budget and \$1-\$3M capital budget.
- Led successful major capital campaigns of \$1.2M, \$2.25M, \$3M and \$2.5M for multiple large scale land acquisition and restoration projects- several thousand acres. These campaigns included securing major donor gifts in the \$75K to \$1M range and grants from \$100K to \$1.5M.
- Led 4 successful annual fundraising campaigns of approx. \$1M, including several proposals to major donors, including gifts of \$25K,

\$50K, \$75K and \$150K. My personal portfolio included around 50 of our top donors.

- Created a quasi-endowment fund that grew from \$1M to \$3.25M over 3 years through donor gifts, including secured gifts of \$250K and \$600K.
- Developed strategic partnerships with local businesses and community partners to achieve regional conservation successes.

Whatcom Land Trust, Bellingham, WA - *Conservation Director*

June 2015 - January 2020

- Manage Conservation Department, including land acquisitions, conservation planning and outreach
 - Numerous acquisitions, including one \$3M 1,200-acre commercial forest property and one 2,200-acre community forest conservation easement.
- Write and manage State and Federal Grants involving land transactions and public outreach efforts on long range conservation planning
- Developed and implemented the public outreach program for the Land Conservation Plan including on-line surveys and in-person presentations to approximately 300 Whatcom County residents.

City Block, Salt Lake City - *Owner, Developer*

October 2012 - May 2015

- Managed all aspects of a small residential/commercial development company including land entitlement, contracts, permits, project management (coordinating with architects, engineers, realtors, banks, etc.), marketing and financing.
- Built numerous single-family homes and townhomes, and managed commercial renovation projects for clients in downtown Salt Lake City. \$1-\$3 million annual revenue.

Envision Utah, Salt Lake City - *Planning Director*

July 2008 - October 2012

- Acquired \$100,000/yr in on-going funding for the Jordan River Commission; managed planning/public involvement projects *Wasatch Choice for 2040* (\$1.5 million budget), *Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow* (\$350,000 budget), and *Blueprint Jordan River* (\$300,000 budget)
- Used innovative methods of public engagement through social media. *Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow* (17,000 participants); *Blueprint Jordan River* (3,000)
- Supervised and managed 5-person Planning Department with \$500,000/yr budget

Stone House Group, Washington DC - *Facilities Director*

Sept 2006 - December 2007

- Served as Facilities Director for the National Presbyterian Center in Washington: supervised LEED construction projects and a \$1 million+/year department budget; managed facilities contracts at two colleges in PA with multi-million dollar departmental budgets

Envision Utah, Salt Lake City - *Planner, GIS Specialist*

Feb 2003 - September 2006

- Led production of *Economic Development Toolbox* and managed other land use/transportation planning projects and led GIS department

EDUCATION

Middlebury College, Middlebury VT - *Bachelors in Environmental Studies*

February 1999 - January 2003

Graduated w/ Honors, multiple scholarship awards.

University of Utah, Salt Lake City UT - *Masters in Public Administration*

2006

Pi Alpha Alpha Honors Society, multiple scholarship awards

OTHER

NW Community Forest Coalition- *Executive Committee*

2018 - 2022

WA Association of Land Trusts- *Steering Committee*

2015 - 2024

REFERENCES

Available on Request