

Climate Impact Advisory Committee: Amanda Monthei

Subject: Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application
Date: Monday, January 4, 2021 10:12:43 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 *Field not completed.*

First Name Amanda

Last Name Monthei

Today's Date 1/4/2021

Street Address 1441 Oriental Avenue

City Bellingham

Zip 98229

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 2314208112

Secondary Telephone *Field not completed.*

Email Address amonthei.nw@gmail.com

Step 2

1. Name of Board or 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 2

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

I am a writer, podcast host and ski patroller at Mt. Baker. Through my writing and podcast (called Life with Fire), I've explored the issue of climate change and climate resiliency through the lens of wildfire prevention and resiliency with a variety of academics and fire practitioners from all over the country. I also recently wrote a piece for The Atlantic about how our current fire resiliency model is not going to be sufficient moving forward. (<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2020/10/prescribed-burns-are-failing/616889/>) I'm deeply interested in land-use planning through the lens of climate and fire resiliency and hope to apply to graduate programs in this field for the 2022 academic year. I started down this path as a wildland firefighter, which I did from 2016-2019 and which showed me first-hand the impacts of wildfires on communities that were unprepared to deal with them, let alone plan for them and establish prevention measures. As the climate changes and wildfires continue to impact areas that normally wouldn't burn, I believe it will be critical to create a viable fire resiliency model for Whatcom County, regardless of its relative lack of wildfire impacts in the past. Additionally, I've been a professional writer for nearly 8 years now, with bylines in a number of national and regional publications, both in print and online. I have strong verbal and written communication skills and experience, and look forward to positively and professionally contributing to the discourse on this committee.

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

I'm interested in giving back to the Bellingham community, interested in learning more about local government and greatly interested in contributing to the Climate Action Plan. I'm also excited about the prospect of contributing some of my knowledge about fire management, prevention and resiliency to the board and the action plan.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Bethany Hannah, fire communicator, PhD candidate, former wildland firefighter — 530-598-5535
Riva Duncan, former US Forest Service Fire Management Officer — 828-782-1927
Steve Duda, former editor of The Flyfish Journal, current editor at Patagonia Flyfish — steve.duda@patagonia.com

Signature of applicant:

Amanda Monthei

Place Signed / Submitted

Bellingham, WA

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