

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 Mr.

First Name Robert

Last Name Mitchell

Today's Date 11/8/2023

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 *Field not completed.*

Email Address [REDACTED]

Step 2

1. Name of Board or Committee Climate Impact Advisory 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 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?	No
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

See attached pdf.

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

See attached pdf.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

See attached pdf.

Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Robert Mitchell

Place Signed / Submitted



Robert Mitchell CIAC Application, November 8, 2023

I would like to join the Climate Impact Advisory Committee to share my understanding of the projected impacts of climate change on water resources in Whatcom County and contribute to the discussions about climate resilience and adaptation. I also welcome the opportunity to work with, and learn from, a diverse group of people in the advancement of a like-minded mission.

An education in the geosciences and physics and a Ph.D. in environmental engineering brought me to Western Washington University (WWU) in 1996. I am a [professor](#) in the Geology Department and specialize in hydrology and engineering geology and enjoy sharing the wonders of science with young inquisitive minds. My 'actionable science' research career at WWU has been dedicated to working with [graduate students](#) characterizing ground and surface water quality and quantity in the region, specifically in Whatcom County.

Over the past 27 years at WWU I have worked with a variety of state, county, city, and tribal stakeholders in addressing water-related issues. Through the [Institute of Watershed Studies](#) at WWU I have worked with city and county professionals in the monitoring and management of Lake Whatcom. I am the hydrologist author on the annual [Lake Whatcom Annual Reports](#). In my early years at WWU I worked on groundwater nitrate issues in the [Abbotsford-Sumas aquifer](#), which involved stakeholders from Ecology, Environment Canada, the Whatcom Conservation District, and the farming community. I have worked with DNR scientists of the Nooksack Indian Tribe and the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians over the last 10 years researching how warming climates are projected to impact watershed hydrology and salmon habitat. Most recently, my research group has examined the impact of projected climate change on peak flows and flooding in the [Nooksack](#) and [Stillaguamish](#) Rivers.

Locally, I served seven years as a Board member of [Wild Whatcom](#) whose mission is to connect young people to nature and promote environmental stewardship and community service. I was most active on the finance committee and was treasurer for three years. I also participated in monthly board and finance committee meetings, annual retreats, helped develop policies, strategic plans, diversity and inclusivity goals, participated in fund-raising events, and helped guide them financially through the COVID pandemic.

Professionally, I have held leadership roles on university committees and have voluntarily served on a variety of professional boards, e.g., Washington State Geologist Licensing Board (eight years and two years as chair), the Board of the [Environmental & Engineering Geology Division](#) of the GSA (five years, one year as chair), and the [Washington State Hydrogeology Symposium](#) planning Board (2007 – present). I am also a member of the [Skagit Climate Science Consortium](#) (SC²) which focuses on climate change impacts and adaptation in the Skagit River basin (2020 – present).

Though a variety of professional development opportunities offered at WWU, I am mindful of the importance of equity, inclusion, and diversity (EID) awareness in my working and social environment. I also received EID education as a board member of Wild Whatcom and the GSA.

References

Dr. Susan Dickerson-Lange, Natural Systems Designs, phone 206-480-1133 or cell 253-225-9909

Gary Stoyka, Whatcom County Natural Resources Program Manager, phone 360-778-6218