



Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Boards and Commissions

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 *Field not completed.*

First Name Eliza

Last Name Steele

Today's Date 4/10/2024

Street Address

████████████████████

City Deming

Zip 98244

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 Group Agricultural Advisory Committee

Agricultural Advisory Agricultural Producer
Committee Position:

2. Do you meet the residency, Yes
employment, and/or affiliation
requirements of the position
for which you're applying?

3. Which Council district do you District 3
live in?

4. Have you ever been a No
member of this Advisory Group

5. Do you or your spouse have Yes
a financial interest in or are you
an employee or officer of any
business or agency that does
business with Whatcom
County?

If yes, please explain My husband and I own a 37 acre farm that produces market vegetables and seeds
where we have been practicing regenerative agriculture systems, conservation
programs and direct to consumer sales.

6. Have you declared candidacy No
(as defined by RCW
42.17A.055) for a paid elected
office in any jurisdiction within
the county?

You may attach a resume or *Field not completed.*
detailed summary of
experience, qualifications, &
interest in response to the
following questions

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

I am currently a farmer during the growing season and a residential designer / permitter during the off season. My first education as a child growing up was on a farm and I then decided to pursue architecture for a career. I'm not one to prescribe to an office job so my career path has had a different look than the "normal" path so to speak. I worked hard physically when growing up and so being outside and using my body is part of my make up. I worked in a design office in downtown Boston for a year out of school and then decided to move to the PNW in 2010. There was a draw to learn how to actually build houses rather than just design them so I ended up working on a carpentry construction crew at a design build company for 5 years. During this time I did start working part time under an architect and also started my own design business. About 5 years ago I ended up not working for anyone else and have been the lead on projects with my clients since then. This has allowed me to gain vast amounts of knowledge about the permitting process in regards to land use, critical areas, international building codes, etc.

I also have been dedicated to volunteering for the greater good of my local and global community by being a member of Rotary International for seven years (2014-2021). I was on the board as the Global Grant Chair as well as on the Global Grant Committee for my district. I lead on international projects, secured and managed funding and was on the committee of approving Global Grants that were being applied for in my district.

About seven years ago I got the opportunity to live and work on a farm and this is where all of my passions and skills united. After gaining experience for 3 years, my husband and I decided to pursue farming as our career and we moved forward with purchasing a farm. Growing food for my community hits the nail on the head for me in terms of serving my community, using my body physically, running a business, and being environmentally sensitive with our operation. We are not only farming the land but we are actively working to restore its viability of being a high yielding small farm operation by incorporating regenerative best management practices.

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

I feel that I have a unique knowledge base from "both sides of the fence" that would be helpful in navigating how codes (and their changes) can and do affect agriculture. It's incredibly important to get the input from all aspects of the agricultural sector and how they are currently impacted by regulation and also to inform them on how they could and will be protected in the future. We are dealing with a quickly growing population in Whatcom County and the importance of preserving agricultural land is in the best interest of all people who live here.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Brian Kerkvliet [REDACTED] Inspiration Farm
Tristan Simmons [REDACTED] Whatcom Conservation District
Don Roberts [REDACTED] Don Roberts Construction

Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Eliza Steele

Place Signed / Submitted

Deming, WA
