



COUNCIL-APPOINTED ADVISORY GROUP APPLICATION

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	Rex
	Last Name	Rhoades
	Today's Date	4/3/2026
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	Do you live in Whatcom County?	Yes
	Do you have a different mailing address?	Field not completed.
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
1	Name of Advisory Group	Business and Commerce Advisory Committee
2	Do you meet the residency, employment, and/or affiliation requirements of the position for which you're applying?	Marine trades
	Position	Yes
3	Which Council district do you live in?	District 2
4	Have you ever been a member of this Advisory Group	No
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
6	Have you declared candidacy (as defined by RCW 42.17A.055) for a paid elected office in any jurisdiction within the county?	No
--	You may attach a resume or detailed summary of experience, qualifications, & interest in response to the following questions	<i>Attached</i>

7	Please describe your occupation (or former occupation if retired), qualifications, professional and/or	Previous Business Owner, OceanAire Yachts, Neptune Boats, Wireless Solutions. Current Business Owner F/V Karelia, coastal crab boat. Former consultant Western Washington University Small Business Development Center, Economic Development Director Lummi Indian Business Council. Board Chair Pacific Northwest Tribal Lending.
8	Please describe why you're interested in serving on this Advisory Group.	I believe my life experiences living in our community, owning businesses, employment history, WWU SBDC, LIBC, 20 year board member at Pacific Northwest Tribal Lending could be a asset to the Advisory Group.
	References (please include daytime telephone number):	Nancy Jordan Executive Director PNTL [REDACTED], Wade Stringfield local banker [REDACTED].
	Appointment Requirements*:	I understand and agree
	Signature of Applicant:	REX MR RHOADES
	Place Signed/Submitted:	[REDACTED]

My signature affirms that the information provided in this application is true and correct. If appointed, I will comply with the [Council & Executive Expectations of Advisory Group Members](#) and complete Open Government Training as required by [RCW 42.30.205](#)

REX ALLEN RHOADES

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Results -oriented Native American Business Development Specialist with over 20 years of supervisory experience in Tribal entity loans and asset growth. Adept at developing and implementing marketing strategies to serve Native businesses. Proven ability to collaborate with both large and small teams, outside consultants, and mid-level management personnel. Successfully established relationships to help strengthen Tribal economics including Governor of Indian Affairs, Department of Treasury, SBA, EDA, ATNI, NCAI, OWESTA, and OFN.

EXPERIENCE:

BOARD CHAIRMAN (CDFI): Pacific Northwest Tribal Lending (PNTL) formerly Lummi Community Development Financial Institution. (Currently Treasurer)

2006 - Present

Lead a Purpose-Driven Board using regional and community-based perspectives to set strategies, goals, and objectives. Offered financial tools and resources for tribal entrepreneurs of the Pacific Northwest to improve the prosperity and well-being of Native American families.

Grew annual operating budget from \$200K to \$750K and Native loan portfolio budget from \$1M to \$5M. Spear headed the authorization of one of the few Native CDFI's awarded PPP lender status through the SBA COVID-19 CARES Act/American Recovery Act Payment Protection Program.

Consulted Northwest Native Development Fund, a certified CDFI, in lending over \$3.5M in funds for the coastal Dungeness crab fishing fleet of the Quinault Indian Nation. Personally lead the PNTL team in lending \$5M to Native American owned business in the Puget Sound and coastal region.

Attended the annual SBA regional gala as Kerrie Hurds, SBA District Director Seattle District Office, guest and received the 2023 Excellence award for assisting Native owned businesses.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT PROVIDER/NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES: University of Washington Sea Grant

2008

Provided data-focused analysis to bring key insights and recommendations for growth strategies for Native businesses. Utilizing strong interpersonal skills, led workshops and counselled one-on-one with emphasis on business efficiency and productivity to help support asset growth for tribal members.

Served as accountability partner to help members navigate regulatory changes, personnel issues, cost increases, and market changes.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR AND DIRECTOR: WWU SBDC and Lummi Nation

2005-2008

Oversaw research and analysis and implemented strategies fostering economic growth for Native American business owners.

Organized, facilitated, and conducted workshops to help build and maintain relationships with relevant partners such as government agencies, private sector, civil society, and academia while maintaining cultural awareness.

OWNER/OPERATOR (FN Karelia): Native American Commercial Fisherman

2006 - Present

A proud member of the commercial fishing fleet representing the Quinault Indian Nation exercising and harvesting in accordance with the treaty tribes and the United States government. The FN Karelia employs a Native crew of five for crabbing and longline season and up to 3 on land support positions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Previously served on the Chinook Tribal Council during Federal Recognition
- Member of the Chinook Nation and Quinault Indian Nation (Federally Recognized)
- Former Vice Chairman, TALA Fund, Quinault Indian Nation
- Certified Small Business Development Specialist (SBA/SBDC National Network)
- Reviewer for Department of Treasury NACA program 2009 (CDFI application funding review)
- Administration for Native Americans SEDS program application reviewer
- Certified ONABEN Indianpreneurship trainer
- Roundtable facilitator Northwest Indian College, Governor of Indian Affairs and strategic partners
- Substitute teacher Northwest Indian College
- Harvard University, Executive Session on Constitution Reform for Indian Tribes participant
- Developer of Tribal Business LINC Program, Western Washington University Small Business Development
- ANA grant reviewer/writer for Chinook Tribe, Lummi Nation

EDUCATION

- Bachelor of Arts: Business Administration, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA
- Associate degree: Business Administration, Shoreline Community College, Seattle, WA

AWARDS

- 2023 SBA Excellence Award Recipient for efforts granting authorization of COVID-19 CARES Act for Native American treaty fisherman.
- 2022 NNDF Bear Award Recipient recognizing individuals as advocates for promoting Native owned Businesses.