

Subject: Online Form Submittal: Advisory Group Application
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 3:37:40 PM

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	Ms.
First Name	Emily
Last Name	Wirtz
Today's Date	4/23/2024
Street Address	██████████
City	████████
Zip	████
Do you live in Whatcom County?	No
Do you have a different mailing address?	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Primary Telephone	██████████
Secondary Telephone	██████████
Email Address	████████████████████

Step 2

1. Name of Advisory Wildlife Advisory Committee

Group

Wildlife Advisory
Committee (WAC)
Position:

Yes

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 5

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?

Yes

If yes, please explain

I am employed by the Lummi Indian Business Council that has other businesses in Whatcom County.

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

Field not completed.

7. Please describe your
occupation (or former

Wildlife Program Manager/Biologist-Lummi Natural Resources

occupation if retired),
qualifications,
professional and/or
community activities,
and education

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

Ensure wildlife species with cultural and spiritual significance to the Tribe are being protected and that concerns for the Tribe are being met and the tribal members' Treaty rights are being protected with Wildlife and Habitat Planning in Whatcom County.

References (please
include daytime
telephone number):

Frank Bob-LNR Wildlife Policy Coordinator-(360)-410-5083
Robert Waddell-WDFW-District Wildlife Biologist-(425)-422-0537

Appointment
Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Emily Wirtz

Place Signed /
Submitted



(Section Break)



Lummi Indian Business Council

2665 Kwina Road · Bellingham, Washington 98226 · (360) 312-2000

'Working together as one to Preserve, Promote and Protect our Sche Lang en'

May 8, 2024

Whatcom County
Wildlife Advisory Committee
Planning and Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive
Bellingham, WA 98226

RE: Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Advisory Groups

To the Whatcom County Wildlife Advisory Committee:

The Lummi Nation and Lummi people are original inhabitants of Washington's northernmost coast. We are fishers, hunters, gatherers and harvesters of nature's abundance and have been since time immemorial. We envision our homeland as a place where we enjoy an abundant, safe, and healthy life in mind, body, society, environment, space, time, and spirituality. The Point Elliott Treaty of 1855 ceded the original lands of the Lummi people, including what is now known as Whatcom County. The tribes agreed to settle on a reservation as defined by the Point Elliott Treaty in an exchange for sovereign rights that include the right to take fish at usual and accustomed grounds and stations and together with the privilege of hunting and gathering roots and berries on open and unclaimed lands. The Treaty established tribal sovereignty for managing its people and their way of life, which includes enhancing, managing, and protecting the natural resources of the Lummi people into perpetuity for the benefit of Lummi tribal members.

The purpose of the Whatcom County Wildlife Advisory Committee (WAC) is to advise the County Planning and Development services on the value of wildlife and habitat management issues in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan formally published in 2017 and now being updated in 2024. Also, the purpose of the Committee is to integrate wildlife management and protection into Whatcom County's community planning process as well as to protect and enhance ecosystems that support native fish and wildlife populations and habitat.

Lummi Natural Resources (LNR) gained greater capacity for managing wildlife resources and habitats in 2022 by starting a Wildlife Program. The mission of the Wildlife Program is to defend and protect treaty rights related to wildlife management, hunting, and gathering, as well as maximize and protect wildlife, hunting, and gathering resources and opportunities. The LNR Wildlife Program manager, Emily Wirtz, was hired in 2022 with 12 years of experience working with wildlife programs for Western Washington Tribes and 9 years of experience working with Point Elliott Treaty Tribes. The LNR Policy Representative, Frank Bob, formally a WAC member recommended her involvement with the Whatcom County WAC to ensure that the Tribe's treaty protected wildlife resources and culturally significant wildlife species are being considered for WAC meetings, plans, and operations.

Emily Wirtz, the LNR Wildlife Program Manager, will accept the nomination if the Committee selects her for a tribal representative seat.

Thank you for including tribal representation in the County planning process as the Tribe is an important government and manager within the County as well as one of the largest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Merle Jefferson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Merle Jefferson Sr.

Executive Director
Lummi Natural Resources