

Subject: Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application
Date: Friday, June 3, 2022 3:35:13 PM

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 Bill

Last Name Sager

Today's Date 6/3/2022

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Do you live in & are you registered to vote in Whatcom County? Yes

Do you have a different mailing address? *Field not completed.*

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Step 2

1. Name of Board or Committee Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee

Lummi Island Ferry
Advisory Committee
Position:

I am a resident or property owner on Lummi Island.

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. 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

Field not completed.

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

I have been a software engineer for over 35 years during which I have worked in many different industries (Data Science, International Banking, Healthcare, Network Security, Defense, and Accounting). My responsibilities have included various roles over the years (Software Development, Product Management, Director, Manager, Technical Support). My professional success has been a direct result of my ability to manage and complete complex projects, with many dependencies and often, many challenges along the way. I hold a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington. I currently work for a public benefit corporation whose objective is to create free and open-source software for data science, scientific research, and technical communication.

Throughout my life, I have been driven to improve the community around me by applying the technical skills I've developed during my career. I first did this when I was in high school and college from within the Order of the Arrow (a service organization within the Boy Scouts of America). I am an Eagle Scout and had been awarded a Vigil designation. I was also a vice-chief for several years back in Texas, responsible for organizing district-wide volunteer efforts and events.

More recently, I applied these skills (along with my wife) to rebuild and maintain a website for a pet rescue charity organization out of Texas (Habitat 4 Paws - habitat4paws.org). Before moving to Lummi Island full time, we were also fostering small rescue dogs, saving and finding new homes for more than a dozen dogs. I was also an adoption counselor for this organization.

One of the reasons I moved my family to Lummi Island in 2020 was the real sense of community and my desire to make a difference. It was immediately obvious how important the ferry is to the island, so I focused on becoming active with LIFAC.

Since July of 2021, I have been an active follower of the LIFAC committee. After applying for an opening in January but not being selected, I still found myself wanting to support this very important committee. Starting then this past February, based on need, the committee allowed me to take on a more active volunteer role coordinating and facilitating the monthly zoom meetings. Recently, I've been working with the committee to determine how to make hybrid meetings (both local and remote participants) work best for the committee as well as the community. This has included working with another committee on the island, the Lummi Island Community Association (LICA), to understand their progress in meeting the general hybrid meeting challenges. I anticipate increasing my role within LICA soon, assisting with the community website development.

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

Since purchasing our new home on Lummi Island in 2020, it was instantly clear how important the ferry is to this community. Not a day goes by in which our lives are not impacted by the availability or unavailability of the Whatcom Chief. In this vein, it is quite scary how much we depend on it. Once we made this island our full-time home, I knew I needed to be involved with the work that this committee performs, rather than simply sit on the sidelines. As my experience with the committee has increased over the past year, it is clear that it faces a large number of challenges and I believe I can help with some of them.

The acquisition of public grants to fund the new ferry is a huge task, which continues to require active community participation. It is important that as each grant submission is drafted, it includes informative and humanized supportive material, which highlights how important the ferry is to this community.

To get that support material, I believe we need to increase community awareness of the County's Public Works efforts as well as the LIFAC committee's activities. With increased awareness, we can expect that we will get increased feedback from the community, which has been lacking. I believe the LIFAC committee can improve its efforts in the area of collecting community feedback and passing this info to the County Council so that the council has the information needed to make the best decisions for the county at large.

Having managed many complex projects over the years, I also believe that it is not prudent to have a plan without having an idea of a backup plan or at least considering what mitigation might be needed if the plan encounters problems or fails. I believe strongly that the county needs to have a plan "B" for the ferry funding. While I'm very optimistic that the strategy adopted within the new federal submission will highlight how important a new ferry is to this community, I also have to be realistic that we continue to submit year after year unsuccessfully and that there is a real risk that we will not be successful in the large grant we're seeking. So at the same time, we are doing everything we can to be successful with the federal funding, we have to continue to do whatever we can to make sure the island continues to have an operational ferry.

In the vein of keeping operations going, I believe the LIFAC committee would be well served to allocate some focus on understanding the important issues currently for the ferry. This should then be communicated to the County Council regularly so that short-term improvements can be considered and implemented.

I hope I have given you some a flavor of improvements I can see

for the LIFAC committee and the related flow of information to the County Council. With the need for these improvements, I am committed to the effort required to properly make them happen. I believe my technical skills will support the auxiliary efforts needed to engage the Lummi Island community's participation and collect their feedback. I have shown my ability to step in as a volunteer to assist the LIFAC committee and I have confidence that my increased participation as a committee member will be beneficial to the county as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Cris Colburn - [REDACTED] (Current LIFAC Committee Chairman)
Shery & Quincy Snow [REDACTED] (Quincy was the mayor of Coulee Dam, WA for 16 years)

Signature of applicant:

William "Bill" Sager

Place Signed / Submitted

[REDACTED]

(Section Break)
