

**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Board and Commission Application  
**Date:** Saturday, November 11, 2023 1:25:23 PM

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## Board and Commission Application

### Step 1

Application for Appointment to Whatcom County Boards and Commissions

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#### 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.*

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Title Dr.

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First Name Ellyn

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Last Name Murphy

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Today's Date 11/11/2023

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Street Address [REDACTED]

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City [REDACTED]

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Zip [REDACTED]

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

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

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Primary Telephone [REDACTED]

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Secondary Telephone *Field not completed.*

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Email Address [REDACTED]

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### Step 2

1. Name of Board or Committee Forest Resilience Task Force

Forest Resilience Task Force	Community member with expertise in forest management and/or wood products industry
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 2
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

Please see attached brief resume

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

I would like to see a balanced approach among the multiple uses of our local forests: ecosystem services especially fresh water; recreation & education; wood products; cultural activities; and carbon mitigation & storage.

References (please include daytime telephone number):

Jayne Freudenberger 360 734-5283  
Judy Hopkinson 360 920-1728

Appointment Requirements

I understand and agree

Signature of applicant:

Ellyn Murphy

Place Signed / Submitted



# Ellyn Murphy



## Relevant Experience

- As chair of the Climate Impact Advisory Committee (CIAC), I spent most of my time during the 2020-2021 pandemic writing and editing chapters for the Whatcom County Climate Action Plan. The plan was meant to be educational while providing specific action items to reduce the County's carbon footprint.
- As a reforestation forester for Crown Zellerbach in 1979-80, I planned and supervised all the activities related to reforestation, including seed collection, selection of tree species by site, site preparation, planting, animal protection, and weed control. More recently, I spent numerous hours researching the latest science and interviewing stakeholders on reforestation and stand management; accessing the last decade of R&D on forest climate adaptation to write the forestry chapter in the 2021 Whatcom Climate Action Plan.
- I launched the Community Research Project in 2019 for CIAC in order to engage community members and stakeholders on climate change issues. This effort resulted in a final report that was a culmination of over 100 interviews by ~12 volunteers. Several Whatcom Watch articles have been published based on this work and the entire report is available on the county website.
- Prior to moving to Bellingham, I was a member of the Mid-Columbia Energy Initiative (sponsored by the Tri-Cities Economic Development Council). I served on a subcommittee which developed guidelines for community sustainability with an emphasis on water and energy.
- Chaired a committee and published a report on Sustainable Communities for the Tri-Cities (Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland) for the local League of Women Voters (LWV).
- Co-chaired a state-wide committee for the Washington LWV to develop a tool-kit on climate change.
- Served on a nation-wide LWV committee on climate change and attended the December 2009 United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP 15) meeting on climate change in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- As a member of the Tri-Cities chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby, I have written multiple letters to the editor and an op-ed on adaptation to climate change.
- In addition to a career in hydrology and forestry, I have also focused on strategic planning in energy and environment and science communication.

## Education

B.S.	General Science	University of Iowa, 1975
M.S.	Forest Science	Oregon State University, 1979
Ph.D.	Hydrology	University of Arizona, 1987

## Technical Experience

- Strategic research planning and development in energy and environment, specifically on the use of performance assessment models for understanding the regional impacts of climate

change on communities. Also led committees that developed research initiatives on subsurface carbon sequestration and advanced energy storage.

- Hydrology research areas included contaminant fate and transport in groundwater; groundwater recharge rates; groundwater age; and bioremediation.
- Forestry research areas included tree/plant physiology and reforestation.
- Science communication

## Work Experience

Research Associate	1975-1977	University of Iowa Medicine
Reforestation Forester	1979-1980	Crown Zellerbach Corp., Seaside, OR
Senior Program Manager & Department Manager	1987-2013	Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) Energy & Environment Directorate

Most of my career was spent at PNNL, a Department of Energy National Laboratory, as a research scientist, line manager, and in strategic planning of new research areas for the Laboratory. I retired in September 2013. Publications and reports available upon request.

## Community Activities

### Citizens Climate Lobby:

As part of the Tri-Cities chapter of CCL, I authored letters to the editor that were published in the Tri-Cities Herald and wrote an op-ed for the bilingual newspaper, *You Decide or Tu Decides* on climate change adaptation. The latter was a ten-part series on Climate Matters: Causes, impacts and solutions to climate change. *Tu Decides* is a weekly publication that reaches small farming communities in the Yakima Valley.

### League of Women Voters:

Chaired a committee and published a report on Sustainable Communities for the Tri-Cities (Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland). Conducted interviews of city officials to determine best practices in buildings and energy, transportation and mobility, waste management, food security, and planning, analysis, vision and community outreach. Our premise for the report was that sustainable practices lead to more cost-effective provision of services, which means a more efficient use of revenue and/or taxes, and overall, a higher quality of life. Report:

[http://www.lwv-bf.org/files/Sustainable\\_Communities.pdf](http://www.lwv-bf.org/files/Sustainable_Communities.pdf)

Co-Chaired a state-wide committee to develop a tool-kit on climate change with an emphasis on the impacts of climate change in Washington state. This Climate Action tool-kit is available on the League of Women Voters state website.

I also served on the LWV nation-wide committee on Climate Change. This committee developed material for the national website. As part of this committee, I attended the December 2009 United Nations Conference of the Parties (COP-15) meeting on climate change in Copenhagen, Denmark.

### Tri-Cities Economic Development Council (TRIDEC):

As part of the Mid-Columbia Energy Initiative, we developed material to showcase community sustainability practices in the Tri-Cities. The focus of the committee was energy and water, but also emphasized research and innovation, waste management, and reuse and recycling.

**Hobbies:** camping, kayaking, and fishing, woodworking, reading and travel.