



AGENDA

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

223 East 4th Street, Room 160

Port Angeles, Washington

June 9, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

Notes for the Audience

- Assistive listening devices are available. Please notify Clerk before the meeting if you would like a SoundMate personal listening system.
- Please utilize the public comment sign-up sheets located at the front door.

****ATTENTION****

Charter Review Commission meetings will also be available virtually at:

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit www.zoom.com and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

This meeting can be viewed on a live stream at this link: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/669/Live-Archived-Meetings-Online>

Public comment can be directed to the Clerk at 360-417-2256 or Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Meeting Minutes May 27, 2025

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – Please limit comments to three minutes

CORRESPONDENCE/PETITIONS

BUSINESS ITEMS

- Coroner amendment resolution – Commissioner Cameron
- Tribal trust land transfer amendment - Commissioner Richards

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Ethics Committee – Commissioner Cameron
- Water Committee – Commissioner Pickett
- Survey – Commissioner Morris

REPORTS

- Chair Report – Commissioner Fisch

PUBLIC COMMENT – Please limit comments to three minutes

AGENDA for the Meeting of June 9, 2025
CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
Page 2



GOOD OF THE ORDER/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPEAKING AT A
CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEETING:**

- Members of the public wishing to address the Commission on general items may do so during the designated times on the agenda.
- Members of the public wishing to comment at the public hearing are asked to sign in on the sheet provided giving their name, address and topic.
- Public comment is limited to 3 minutes for each speaker subject to the Commissions concurrence.
- Speakers, generally, will be heard in the order they signed up. All comments must be made from the speaker's rostrum and any individual making comments shall first state their name and address for the official record.
- General comments, applause, booing from members of the audience are inappropriate and may result in removal.

These guidelines are intended to promote an orderly system for conducting a public hearing so that each person has an opportunity to be heard and to ensure that exercising their right of free speech embarrasses no one.

Note: Written testimony presented by members of the public during the meeting is considered a public document and must be submitted to the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission. Copies of public documents from meetings are available by contacting the Public Records Department.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Dates are subject to change as needed. For most up to date meeting information visit the Clallam County CivicClerk Portal at: <https://clallamcowa.portal.civicclerk.com/>

- June 23, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
- July 14, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
- July 28, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
- August 11, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
- August 25, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
- September 8, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
- September 22, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
- October 13, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
- October 27, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
- November 10, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
- November 24, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
- December 8, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
- December 22, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Draft Minutes

May 27, 2025



CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES of May 27, 2025

MEETING OF THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)

Chair Susan Fisch called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 27, 2025. Also present were Commissioners Jim Stoffer, Jeff Tozzer, Alex Fane, Ron Cameron, Patti Morris, Paul Pickett, Ron Richards, Christy Holy, Rod Fleck, Chris Noble, Bill Benedict, Nina Sarmiento, and Cathy Walde. Hodgson arrived at the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

REQUEST FOR MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Morris asked to be added to the committee reports for a survey update

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as modified

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Minutes May 12, 202

Richards commented that he is not sure the minutes are reflected correctly for the tribal trust land transfer amendment being considered on May 27. He noted that there is no mention that the commission agreed to that. Fisch asked that Gores check the recording to amend if needed and post minutes. No objection for Gores to amend the minutes and post once she listens to the recording.

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as presented

PUBLIC COMMENT – Please limit comments to three minutes

- Denise Lapio, Sequim, commented on water steward
- Mark Curtis, Sequim, commented on Commissioner Pickett, water
- Norma Turner, Port Angeles, commented on survey, commissioner voting by district
- Karin Cummins, Sequim, commented on timer, ethics committee, water committee
- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on ethics committee, tribal trust lands
- John Worthington, Sequim, commented on water committee, CERN
- Marolee Smith, Port Angeles, commented on taxes, ethics, county response to tribal land transfers

CORRESPONDENCES

Gores noted receipt of correspondences from Lisa Campbell, Gayle Baker, Randy and Jan Tierney, John Hauck, Commissioner Richards, Commissioner Pickett, Commissioner Cameron, Denise Lapio, Commissioner Walde, Maureen McElravy, Kathy Cruz, Shawn Hines, Marolee Smith, Commissioner Holy, Dee Boughton, Commissioner Fleck, Tony Corrado, Commissioner Noble, and John Worthington (see attached).

BUSINESS ITEMS

- **Proposed coroner amendment (step 4) - Commissioner Cameron**

Fisch read the amendment into the record.

Section 4.20: Powers and Duties

All other elected officials shall exercise the powers and duties of their respective offices as provided by law. All elected officials and their departments shall utilize the personnel, budgeting, purchasing, property control and records management systems established by the Commissioners through ordinance except insofar as such utilization would be contrary to the powers and duties of the constitutional officers. ((The Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner without extra compensation.))

CRC Commissioners provided pro and con feedback on the proposed amendment.

ACTION TAKEN: Benedict moved to approve the amendment, Noble seconded, motion passed
(14 voted yes)

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

MINUTES of May 27, 2025

Page 2

Fisch noted that she contacted the Prosecuting Attorney's Office on the next steps in the process. Richards raised concern whether the commission is voting on the amendment or a resolution. CRC Members held a discussion regarding the process.

ACTION TAKEN: Stoffer moved to follow the recommendation as directed by the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Benedict seconded, motion passed

(13 voted yes and 1 voted no)

Cameron will work with the PAO to draft a resolution for a future meeting.

- **Proposed tribal trust land transfer amendment (step 2) - Commissioner Richards**

Fisch read the amendment into the record.

Section 9.00: Tribal Trust Land Transfer and Reservation Proclamation Procedures

The Board of County Commissioners shall be required to respond to all requests from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for written comments on the potential impact of transfers of land into Tribal trust land status on regulatory jurisdiction, real property taxes, and special assessments; and to respond to BIA notices of requests from a tribe to proclaim reservation status of trust land. No later than December 1, 2026, the County Comprehensive Plan shall be amended to add a section setting forth standards under which the Board of County Commissioners must base its responses required by this section. Those standards shall allow for the responses to include a recommendation that the requests be denied, granted, or conditioned; they shall address both the positive and/or the negative impacts, as the case may be, of such transfers on the county's interests; and they shall consider the factors which the BIA gives great weight to in approving transfers of land into Tribal trust land status.

CRC Commissioners provided pro and con feedback on the proposed amendment. CRC Members held discussion regarding procedure on motion and amending the motion.

Tozzer original motion:

ACTION TAKEN: Tozzer moved to approve, Walde seconded, no vote taken

Pickett amended motion:

ACTION TAKEN: Pickett moved to replace the section in the proposed amendment stating *the County Comprehensive Plan shall be amended to add a section* he would replace it with *the Board of Commissioners, in consultation with the Department of Community Development, shall adopt an Ordinance*. Benedict seconded, Pickett withdrew his motion

Benedict amended motion:

ACTION TAKEN: Benedict moved that the proposal needs to be studied again with the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to bring it into alignment with federal law, or satisfy the concerns of the chairperson, Benedict withdrew his motion

CRC Members held discussions about the proposed amendment.

Benedict amended motion:

ACTION TAKEN: Benedict moved to provide the amendment Richards wrote to Dee Boughton – Prosecuting Attorney's Office for review and advice, Holy seconded, motion passed

(15 voted yes)

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

MINUTES of May 27, 2025

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Benedict recommended to forward the resolution to Dee Boughton as is and have him report back to the CRC Commission. CRC Members held discussion. Fisch will forward to Boughton along with the motion and recording.

ACTION TAKEN: Morris moved to forward the recording to Dee Boughton – Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Fane seconded, motion passed

(14 voted yes and 1 voted no)

CRC recessed at 6:53 p.m. and reconvened at 7 p.m.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

• Ethics Committee

Cameron reported that the committee met on May 22 and 27. They invited Dee Boughton – Prosecuting Attorney's Office to attend the May 27 committee meeting. They are working on some research and will bring it back to the next committee meeting on June 4, 2025, at 1 p.m.

• Water Committee

Pickett reported that he and Richards both provided a draft proposal. The committee decided to work off the proposal Richards drafted with some edits. The next committee meeting is on June 5, 2025, at 9 a.m. Tozzer asked several questions that the Water Committee answered. CRC Members held discussion.

• Survey

Morris reported there are 657 responses to the survey. The survey closes on May 31, 2025

REPORTS

• Chair Report – Commissioner Fisch

No Chair report.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Please limit comments to three minutes

- Eric Fehrmann, Sequim, commented on tribal trust, water data, water steward
- Mark Curtis, Sequim, commented on the survey
- Karin Cummins, Sequim, commented on Tim's Place Church, Commissioner Stoffer, shirts
- Patrick Day, Sequim, commented on Veterans, Commissioner Sarmiento, water steward, parliamentary procedure
- Mary Wilson, Sequim, commented on taxes
- John Worthington, Sequim, commented on land use, open space, golf course, water steward
- C.G.H., commented on water committee, positions, Department of Community Development
- Marolee Smith, Port Angeles, commented on Planning Commission, water committee
- Denise Lapio, Sequim, commented on water steward,

GOOD OF THE ORDER/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Coroner resolution
- Tribal trust land amendment
- Survey results
- Public comment issues

CRC Members held a discussion regarding public comment.

ACTION TAKEN: Tozzer moved that the Chairwoman enforce all the rules for all the people, all the time, no seconded, motion failed

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MINUTES of May 27, 2025
Page 4

ACTION TAKEN: Sarmiento moved that the public commenters could refer to Commissioners by name, Walde seconded, motion passed
(12 voted yes and 2 voted no)

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting concluded at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Loni Gores, MMC
Clerk of the Charter Review Commission

Approved:

DRAFT

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION 2025 – Roll Call Voting –May 27, 2025
Y – Yes, N- No, A-Absent

	Adopt the Coroner amendment - Benedict
Susan Fisch	Y
Bill Benedict	Y
Jim Stoffer	Y
Jeff Tozzer	Y
Alex Fane	Y
Ron Cameron	Y
Pattie Morris	Y
Chris Noble	Y
Paul Pickett	Y
Ron Richards	Y
Rod Fleck	Y
Mark Hodgson	A
Christy Holy	Y
Cathy Walde	Y
Nina Sarmiento	Y
Yes	14
No	0
Pass or Fail	Passed

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP SHEET

General Public Comment – 2nd Session

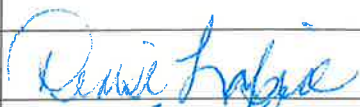
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that any testimony that I give is true and accurate. Please print name and address clearly.

No	PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
1	Eric Fehrmann	Eric Fehrmann	Sequim
2	Mark Curtis	Mark Curtis	Sequim WA
3	KAREN Cummins		Sequim
4	Ed Brown	Ed Brown	PUB. H. 56
5	Patricia Day		SEQuim
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CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN-UP SHEET

Public Comment on Agenda Items – 1st Session

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that any testimony that I give is true and accurate. Please print name and address clearly.

NO	PRINTED NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS
1	Denise Lapio		Sequim, WA
2	Mark Curtis		Sequim, WA
3	Norma Turner		PA
4	Ken Cummings		Sea
5	ED BOWEN		POB 111 CB
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all
Public comment
May 27, 2025
Ed Bowen

Ed Bowen

~~1st Comment
Revised
12 MAY 2025~~

If Treaties are claimed to be the supreme law of the land, consider the citizen's rights that are as supreme as those others addressed in such treaties:

...to be friendly with all citizens thereof, and they pledge themselves to commit no depredations on the property of such citizens.

Resubmitted comment
to support my
comment at 27 May 2025

Ed Bowen

END comment for OC
12 MAY 2025

Submitted for consideration for addressing the public's engagement with the county's processes where I feel those accountable are fully living up to my needs and expectations for how my comments and testimony are properly considered. Two options for adding a section in the Charter regarding the public's input in order to serve the citizens' needs.

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT shall include responses to substantive concerns raised by the public in comments and during public meetings if received within 30 days of such meetings and opportunity to comment.

or

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC Testimony shall include responses to substantive aspects raised by the public in testimony during a public hearing if received within 30 days of such meetings and opportunity to testify.



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
OLYMPIC PENINSULA AGENCY
2707 COLBY AVENUE
SUITE 1101
EVERETT, WA 98201

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Real Estate Services
TR-4609-P5

Case Number: 63356

RECEIVED
CLALLAM CO. COMMISSIONERS
MAY 13 2025
1...2...3...A...

NOTICE OF NON-GAMING LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 25, INDIANS, 151.10 On-Reservation, notice is given of the application filed by the JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBE to have real property accepted "in trust" for said applicant by the United States of America. The determination whether to acquire this property "in trust" will be made in the exercise of discretionary authority which is vested in the Secretary of the Interior, or his authorized representative, U.S. Department of the Interior. To assist us in the exercise of that discretion, we invite your comments on the proposed acquisition. In order for the Secretary to assess the impact of the removal of the subject property from the tax rolls, and if applicable to your organization, we also request that you provide the following information:

- (1) If known, the annual amount of property taxes currently levied on the subject property allocated to your organization;
- (2) Any special assessments, and amounts thereof, that are currently assessed against the property in support of your organization;
- (3) Any governmental services that are currently provided to the property by your organization; and
- (4) If subject to zoning, how the intended use is consistent, or inconsistent, with the zoning.

We provide the following information regarding this application:

Applicant:

JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBE

Legal Land Description/Site Location:

See "Exhibit A" for legal descriptions.

Project Description/Proposed Land Use:

Short Legal: SLIVER IN PTN W2 SW S12-T29N-R3W WM; and, Tax Parcel Number: 03-29-12-320205, no change in land use is proposed.

NOLA001



Office Codes: P,P,06,129 AD Number: 4200492110 Case: 63356

As indicated above, the purpose for seeking your comments regarding the proposed trust land acquisition is to obtain sufficient data that would enable an analysis of the potential impact on local/state government, which may result from the removal of the subject property from the tax roll and local jurisdiction.

This notice does not constitute, or replace, a notice that might be issued for the purpose of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

Your written comments should be addressed to the Bureau of Indian Affairs office listed at the top of this notice. Any comments received within thirty days of your receipt of this notice will be considered and made a part of our record. You may be granted one thirty day extension of time to furnish comments, provided you submit a written justification requesting such an extension within thirty days of receipt of this letter. Additionally, copies of all comments will be provided to the applicant for a response. You will be notified of the decision to approve or deny the application.

If any party receiving the enclosed notice is aware of additional governmental entities that may be affected by the subject acquisition, please forward a copy to said party.

A copy of the application, excluding any documentation exempted under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), is available for review at the above address. A request to make an appointment to review the application, or questions regarding the application, may be directed to the OLYMPIC PENINSULA AGENCY Office attention: Monica Dahrens, Realty Specialist, (360) 614-5883.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by KELLY
MILLHOUSE
Date: 2025.05.09 12:02:47 -07'00'

Kelly F. Millhouse, Acting Superintendent, Puget Sound Agency

Enclosure(s)

NOLA001

Office Codes: P-P-06-129 AD Number: 4200492110 Case: 63356

Ed Bowen

CC:

BY CERTIFIED MAIL:

STATE OF WASHINGTON GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

1110 CAPITAL WAY SOUTH

SUITE 225

OLYMPIA, WA 98501

Certified Mail ID: 7020 0640 00021037 4781

CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CLALLAM COUNTY

223 EAST FOURTH STREET, SUITE 4

PORT ANGELES, WA 98362

Certified Mail ID: 7020 0640 00021037 4798

CITY OF SEQUIM

152 W. CEDAR STREET

SEQUIM, WA 98382

Certified Mail ID: 7020 0640 00021037 4804

BY FIRST CLASS MAIL:

JAMESTOWN S'KLALLAM TRIBE

1033 OLD BLYN HIGHWAY

SEQUIM, WA 98382-7670

7020 0640 00021037 4774

NOLAQ01



Case Number: 63356

Applicant Name: JAMESTOWN
S'KLALLAM TRIBE

LEGAL DESCRIPTION EXHIBIT A

Tract ID:

Tract Name: BLYN BASIN XI

Land Area	Land Area Name	Tract Number	LTRO	Region	Agency	Resources
129	JAMESTOWN KLALLAM (CLALLAM)		PORTLAND, OR	NORTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE	OLYMPIC PENINSULA AGENCY	All Minerals (Except O&G)

Section	Township	Range	State	County	Meridian	Legal Description	Acres
12	029.00N	003.00W	WASHINGTON	CLALLAM	Willamette		.370

METES AND BOUNDS: THAT PORTION OF THE EAST HALF OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 29 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, W.M., CLALLAM COUNTY, WASHINGTON; EXCEPT THE NORTH 510 FEET AND THE SOUTH 664.88 FEET THEREOF; ALSO EXCEPT THAT PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER IN SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 29 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, W.M., DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE WEST LINE OF CORREIA ROAD #5675 WITH EAST-WEST CENTERLINE OF SAID SECTION; THENCE SOUTH 00°00'24" WEST 1421.85 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 89°14'51" EAST 400 FEET, MORE OR LESS TO THE EAST LINE OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER; THENCE SOUTHERLY ON SAID EAST LINE TO A POINT 664.68 FEET NORTH 1°11' EAST OF THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER; THENCE WEST PARALLEL WITH THE SAID SOUTH LINE 400 FEET; THENCE NORTHERLY ALONG THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SAID CORREIA ROAD EXTENDED SOUTHERLY TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING. ALSO EXCEPT ALLMAN SHORT PLAT RECORDED SEPTEMBER 25, 1992 IN VOLUME 24 OF SHORT PLATS, PAGE 29, UNDER AUDITOR'S FILE NO. 675187, BEING A PORTION OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 29 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, W.M., CLALLAM COUNTY, WASHINGTON. ALSO EXCEPT AMENDED BAMFORD SHORT PLAT ACCORDING TO SHORT PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN VOLUME 11 OF SHORT PLATS, PAGE 88, UNDER CLALLAM COUNTY AUDITOR'S FILE NO. 534993, BEING A PORTION OF PARCEL 3 AS DELINEATED ON SURVEY RECORDED IN VOLUME 7 OF SURVEYS, PAGE 100, UNDER CLALLAM COUNTY AUDITOR'S FILE NO. 531322, BEING A RE-SURVEY OF VOLUME 5 OF SURVEYS, PAGE 107, UNDER CLALLAM COUNTY AUDITOR'S FILE NO. 511193, BEING A PORTION OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 29 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, W.M., CLALLAM COUNTY, WASHINGTON. ALSO EXCEPT THAT PORTION OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 29 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, W.M., CLALLAM COUNTY, WASHINGTON, DESCRIBED AS PARCEL 2 AS DELINEATED ON SURVEY RECORDED SEPTEMBER 2, 1980 IN VOLUME 7 OF SURVEYS, PAGE 100, UNDER AUDITOR'S FILE NO. 531322. AND ALSO EXCEPT THAT PORTION OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 29 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, W.M., DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE WEST QUARTER CORNER OF SAID SECTION 12; THENCE ALONG THE EAST-WEST CENTER LINE OF SAID SECTION 12, SOUTH 89°54'47" EAST 924 FEET TO POINT "A" AT THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY OF COUNTY ROAD NO. 5675 (CORREIA ROAD); THENCE SOUTH 0°00'24" WEST 509.00 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 89°54'47" EAST 431.39 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER, SOUTHWEST QUARTER BEING SOUTH 1°13'30" WEST 510 FEET FROM THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SUBDIVISION; THENCE SOUTH 1°13'30" WEST 416.39 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89°14'51" EAST 100 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 1°13'30" WEST 78.76 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89°14'51" WEST 520.90 FEET; THENCE NORTH 0°00'24" EAST 490.16 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING. SITUATE IN CLALLAM COUNTY, STATE OF WASHINGTON.

WDAEAD1

Office Codes: P,P,06,129 AD Number: 4200492110 Case: 63356

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

CORRESPONDENCES RECEIVED



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Water Committee has scheduled a Water Committee meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. at the Board of Commissioners Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the water issues raised by CRC Commissioners and Citizens and consider the possibility of a Charter amendment regarding County water management.

Zoom:

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83692664344> and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Dated this 2nd day of May, 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Loni Gores".

Loni Gores, MMC

Clerk to the Charter Review Commission



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Ethics Committee has scheduled an Ethics Committee meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 11:45 a.m. at the Board of Commissioners Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss ethics and what actions the CRC should consider regarding ethics in county governance.

Zoom:

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83692664344> and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Dated this 19th day of May, 2025

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Loni Gores".

Loni Gores, MMC

Clerk to the Charter Review Commission



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Ethics Committee has scheduled an Ethics Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 12:30 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss ethics and what actions the CRC should consider regarding ethics in county governance.

Zoom:

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83692664344> and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Dated this 22nd day of May, 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Loni Gores".

Loni Gores, MMC

Clerk to the Charter Review Commission



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Water Committee has scheduled a Water Committee meeting to be held on Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 9 a.m. at the Board of Commissioners Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the water issues raised by CRC Commissioners and Citizens and consider the possibility of a Charter amendment regarding County water management.

Zoom:

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83692664344> and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

Dated this 22nd day of May, 2025

Loni Gores, MMC

Clerk to the Charter Review Commission

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 1:25 PM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Gores, Loni; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Subject: CRC Notice - Coroner
Attachments: CRC Notice of amend Coroner 5-27-25.pdf

FYI only - This has been posted on the County website news flash, CRC page, sent to press/media and posted on the doors/notice board in the courthouse.

"My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*



NOTICE OF MEETING CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

May 14, 2025

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission will be conducted a meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room, 223 East 4th Street, Room 160, Port Angeles, Washington.

The Charter Review Commissioners will be voting on a proposed amendment to Section 4.20 of the Clallam County Charter regarding the powers and duties.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that Article IV – OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS, Section 4.20: Powers and Duties, be amended to read as follows:

All other elected officials shall exercise the powers and duties of their respective offices as provided by law. All elected officials and their departments shall utilize the personnel, budgeting, purchasing, property control and records management systems established by the Commissioners through ordinance except insofar as such utilization would be contrary to the powers and duties of the constitutional officers. ~~((The Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex officio coroner without extra compensation.))~~

Any language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing Clallam County Charter language and will be taken out of the Charter if this measure is approved by voters. Any underlined language does not appear in current Clallam County Charter language but will be added to the Charter if this measure is approved by voters.

**Public comment can be directed to the Clerk at 360-417-2256 or
Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov**

****ATTENTION****

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit www.zoom.com and use meeting ID: 836 9266 4344 and passcode: 12345

Charter Review information can be found on the County website at the following links:
<https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/210/Charter-Review-Commission-CRC> and
<https://clallamcowa.portal.civicclerk.com/>

Public comment can be directed to the Clerk at 360-417-2256 or
Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov

Gores, Loni

From: Linda Campbell <lcampbell@peak.org>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 10:17 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Potential glitch with survey

Hi Loni

I attended the CRC meeting tonight & during the break, I filled out the survey on my phone from the CC Dems Facebook page.

When I got home, I filled it out again from my laptop from a link on Democratic Womxn in Clallam County Facebook page. I did this experimentally, fully expecting to be blocked because I had already filled it out. But it seemed to go thru to the end, to the "Thank you for taking this survey" page.

SO! It appears one can fill it out more than once if using more than one device. Someone on the committee might want to look into this issue.

I hope you have a way to delete one of my responses - I'd hate to think I skewed the results!

Thank you.

~Linda Campbell
lcampbell@peak.org
541-231-0187

From: Gayle Baker <gaylebaker7458@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 11:02 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: For Charter Review Commissioners Review

Dear CCCR Commissioners,

I have taken the liberty to organize and prioritize the very long list that the Charter is reviewing. Two of the items I have left off my list are because they are cost prohibitive: Rank Choice Voting & the Water Steward should not even be considered at this point in time when Clallam County is facing a budget crisis.

My organizing of the list was simply a way of tying a big bow onto what needs to be done to rein in Commissioners who exceed their power. Many of the listed items have the same outcome, so maybe there is a better way of conveying that but honestly, I think at this point there needs to be a firm and definitive understanding of what the Board of County Commissioners are allowed and not allowed to do. This is not the lawless wild west, but watching Clallam County Commissioners is like watching the TV series, Longmire. If you haven't seen that series, I suggest you find it and watch it. It will hit home.

My priorities, based on my reorganization, are but seven in number. I thank you for your consideration of my suggestions.

Gayle Baker
PCO 259

1. Roles of Commissioners:

- a. **Code of Ethics with civil penalties:** Currently, there is a Code of Ethics for elected officials, but the Board of Commissioners removed penalties for violations. This amendment could establish enforceable penalties.
- b. **Recusal requirement for commissioners:** Would mandate that County Commissioners recuse themselves from votes where they have a conflict of interest.
- c. **Restrictions on elected officials' advocacy:** Would limit commissioners' ability to endorse policies that directly benefit organizations they are involved with.
- d. **Restrictions on board membership for commissioners:** This amendment would restrict commissioners from sitting on boards of organizations that receive county funding or influence county policies, addressing potential conflicts of interest.

- e. **Board of County Commissioners spending transparency:** This amendment would require detailed financial reporting.
 - f. **Requirement to notify Bureau of Indian Affairs on adverse effects:** Would mandate the county notify the BIA when land use changes affect county interests.
 - g. **Increase number of County Commissioners:** Increase the number of commissioners from 3 to 5.
 - h. **Require quarterly town halls** with the Board of Commissioners.
 - i. **Public access to meetings:** Would mandate greater transparency in decision-making processes involving public funds and require that meetings be held on land governed by county policy and state law.
 - j. **Budget town halls:** Would ensure that budget presentations are free, public, and interactive.
2. **Aligning elections with WA State Constitution:** This amendment would hold elections at the precinct level, vet voters, and require hand-counting ballots.
3. **Elected Director of the Department of Community Development:** Clallam County is the only county in the U.S. with an elected DCD director, rather than appointed, which presents unique benefits and challenges.
4. **Budget:**
- a. **Fair bidding process:** Could level the playing field for local businesses bidding against foreign corporations that avoid fees and taxes.
 - b. **General fund reserve minimum:** This amendment would establish a fiscal reserve threshold to ensure long-term financial stability.
 - c. **Transparency in public funds to non-governmental organizations (NGOs):** This amendment would require financial transparency from any NGO the county contracts with, ensuring that public funds are allocated to organizations with clear and accessible financial records.
 - d. **Tax increases by voter approval:** This amendment would require voter approval for any future property or sales tax increases.
 - e. **Trust land transfer program:** Affects the county's collaboration with the Department of Natural Resources in managing forestland.
5. **Lower permit costs for property and business owners:** Would reduce financial barriers for development.
6. **Public Defender's Office:** Clallam Public Defender's Office is currently a private nonprofit that receives funding from the county. This amendment would incorporate it into county government.
7. **Independent hearing examiner:** Would ensure that land use and zoning decisions are made impartially, free from political influence.

Gores, Loni

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 12:01 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Online Form Submission #7248 for Contact the Clerk of the Board

Contact the Clerk of the Board

First Name Randy & Jan
Last Name Tierney
Email er.tierney@wavecable.com
Phone 360-461-3765
Subject Water Steward
Comments May 15, 2025

Dear Charter Review Commissioners:

We are in trouble with water. Our county and cities predicate their water usage on severely outdated allotments from the Department of Ecology in the 1990's—before our snowpack disappeared. Each year more and more water is rationed by the irrigation districts. Yet water use and aquifer levels are for the most part unmonitored. We have no reliable data with which to determine that we have enough water now and will have enough in the coming years.

We support the establishment of the position of water steward—a person who will be a clearinghouse for water information for government entities and citizens alike. We believe that the position should be independent and that the steward should facilitate, recommend and advise, but have no regulatory or enforcement authority.

Thank you for your attention to this serious problem.

Randy & Jan Tierney

er.tierney@wavecable.com

Please Note

This form is not for emergencies. If you have an emergency, please phone 911.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

Gores, Loni

From: PDN News <news@peninsuladailynews.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 2:56 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Re: CR notice of amendment Coroner May 27

I just listened to that part of Monday's meeting.

Do the commission members realize that if the charter doesn't address something then existing state law takes effect?

In this case RCW 36.16.030: Elective county officers enumerated. (Effective January 1, 2025.)

Also, did they ever decide if they would be conducting a public hearing on this proposed amendment or just taking action on May 27?

John Hauck

From: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 13:23
To: Forks Editor <editor@forksforum.com>; KONP News <news@konp.com>; KONP Radio <todd@konp.com>; news@ksqmf.com <news@ksqmf.com>; PDN News <news@peninsuladailynews.com>; Brian Gawley <brian.gawley@soundpublishing.com>; pfisher@radio-pacific.com <pfisher@radio-pacific.com>; Matthew Nash <matthew.nash@sequimgazette.com>; Sequim Editor <editor@sequimgazette.com>
Cc: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: CR notice of amendment Coroner May 27

See attached.

"My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

Gores, Loni

From: Richards, Ron
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 8:04 PM
To: Gores, Loni; Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy; news@peninsuladailynews.com; Forks Forum-Herald; KONP News; KONP Radio; news@ksqmf.com; news@peninsuladailynews.com; Brian Gawley; pfisher@radio-pacific.com; Matthew.Nash@sequimgazette.com; Sequim Gazette
Subject: Re: CR notice of amendment Coroner May 27

Dear Mr. Hauck:

Although the first question in your email below [Do the commission members realize that if the charter doesn't address something then existing state law takes effect?] does not state the law exactly as it is, it comes close enough to raise a serious issue. I will try and explain.

Article 11, Section 4, of our state constitution says in part:

"All the powers, authority and duties granted to and imposed on county officers by general law, except the prosecuting attorney, the county superintendent of schools, the judges of the superior court and the justices of the peace, shall be vested in the legislative authority of the county unless expressly vested in specific officers by the charter. The legislative authority may by resolution delegate any of its executive or administrative powers, authority or duties not expressly vested in specific officers by the charter, to any county officer or officers or county employee or employees . . .

The provisions of sections 5, 6, 7, and the first sentence of section 8 of this Article 11 as amended shall not apply to counties in which the government has been established by charter adopted under the provisions hereof."

Under the first paragraph of Article 11, Section 4, quoted above, if the charter doesn't assign a county responsibility to a certain officer that county responsibility falls on the legislative authority, in our case the County Commissioners. They can then assign that responsibility to another county officer.

This result is further supported by the second paragraph of Article 11, Section 4, quoted above that says Article 11, section 5, does not apply to charter counties. That Section 5, says:

"The legislature, by general and uniform laws, shall provide for the election in the several counties of boards of county commissioners, sheriffs, county clerks, treasurers, prosecuting attorneys and other county, township or precinct and district officers, as public convenience may require, and shall prescribe their duties, and fix their terms of office. . ."

The statute you quote, RCW 36.16.030, would be one of the laws that Article 11, Section 5 says do not apply to a charter county.

At this point you would be justified in wondering why the Prosecutor can't continue to serve as coroner since the constitution says so clearly that it's up to the County Charter in most circumstances to determine which county responsibilities will be handled by which officer.

However, there is a doctrine developed by Washington State Supreme Court decisions that says charter county laws cannot conflict with laws of state-wide significance.

It is that doctrine that Mark Nichols relied upon in deciding that he could no longer serve as coroner because of two state laws, RCW 36.24.170 and RCW 2.48.200, that prohibit coroners from practicing law. Those laws were cited by the Attorney General in AGO 2024 No.3 to argue that a prosecutor in a non-charter county with a population under 40,000 could not also be coroner. Although that AGO did not address whether prosecutors in charter counties with a population over 40,000, such as Clallam County, could also act as coroners, or whether RCW 36.24.170 and RCW 2.48.200 were laws of statewide significance, Mr. Nichols believes that RCW 36.24.170 and RCW 2.48.200 are laws of statewide significance and that the aforesaid doctrine regarding such laws prohibits him from also being the coroner.

The charter amendment proposed by the Coroner Committee of the CRC, and that the CRC will be considering on May 27, satisfies Mr. Nichols' concern, the attorney general's concern, and will most probably result in the County Commissioners assigning the coroner's responsibilities to another officer if the proposed charter amendment is approved by the voters.

There is, admittedly, one nagging question. If the statute you quote, RCW 36.16.030, is a law of statewide significance, it could be argued that it controls over the clear language of Article 11, Section 4 of our state constitution. If that were the case, the coroner position, as well as the county clerk position, would have to be elected.

It is my opinion that the laws of statewide significance doctrine does not apply to charter provisions and county ordinances that assign certain county responsibilities to certain county officers, and that it only applies to charter provisions and county ordinances that establish county policies (such as shoreline management, growth management, etc.) This opinion is supported by at least two Washington State Supreme Court decisions, as well as the clear language of our state constitution. There are also arguments that can be made that RCW 36.16.030 is not a law of statewide significance. Consequently, I do not believe the coroner's position, nor the county clerk's position, must be elected in our county.

Regarding your last question as to whether a hearing will be held on the proposed charter amendment on May 27, it is my understanding that no formal hearing is required or will be held. However, because the issue will be on the Charter Review Commission's agenda on May 27, the public will have an opportunity to comment on the issue in the first public comment period prior to any action being taken. I would hope anyone with any concerns on this matter will attend and make comments.

Please keep in mind that even if the CRC takes affirmative action on the proposed charter amendment on May 27, the voters have the final say. The CRC cannot amend the charter, it can only propose charter amendments to be placed on a general election ballot and voted on by the people.

The above represents my personal opinion and should not be considered as an official response of either the Coroner Committee or the CRC. I do believe, however, what is stated is accurate.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

Ron Richards
Charter Review Commissioner, District 2

Member, CRC Coroner Committee
360-477-5367

From: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 3:01 PM

To: Benedict, Bill <bill.benedict@clallamcountywa.gov>; Boughton, Dee <dee.boughton@clallamcountywa.gov>; Cameron, Ron <ron.cameron@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fane, Alex <alex.fane@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fleck, Rod <rod.fleck@clallamcountywa.gov>; Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>; Hodgson, Mark <mark.hodgson@clallamcountywa.gov>; Holy, Christy <christy.holy@clallamcountywa.gov>; Morris, Patti <patti.morris@clallamcountywa.gov>; Noble, Chris <chris.noble@clallamcountywa.gov>; Pickett, Paul <paul.pickett@clallamcountywa.gov>; Richards, Ron <ron.richards@clallamcountywa.gov>; Sarmiento, Nina <Nina.Sarmiento@clallamcountywa.gov>; Stoffer, Jim <jim.stoffer@clallamcountywa.gov>; Tozzer, Jeff <jeff.tozzer@clallamcountywa.gov>; Walde, Cathy <cathy.walde@clallamcountywa.gov>

Subject: FW: CR notice of amendment Coroner May 27

“My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!”

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

From: PDN News <news@peninsuladailynews.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 2:56 PM

To: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>

Subject: Re: CR notice of amendment Coroner May 27

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Also, did they ever decide if they would be conducting a public hearing on this proposed amendment or just taking action on May 27?

John Hauck

From: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 13:23
To: Forks Editor <editor@forksforum.com>; KONP News <news@konp.com>; KONP Radio <todd@konp.com>;
news@ksqmf.com <news@ksqmf.com>; PDN News <news@peninsuladailynews.com>; Brian Gawley
<brian.gawley@soundpublishing.com>; pfisher@radio-pacific.com <pfisher@radio-pacific.com>; Matthew Nash
<matthew.nash@sequimgazette.com>; Sequim Editor <editor@sequimgazette.com>
Cc: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: CR notice of amendment Coroner May 27

See attached.

“My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!”

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

Gores, Loni

From: Pickett, Paul
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 7:07 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Cc: Holy, Christy; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina
Subject: Re: Water Committee Minutes
Attachments: CRC Water Committee draft minutes 9May2025.docx; Water Committee report to CRC 12May2025 Final_ Draft.pdf

Loni,

I put Commissioner Sarmiento's draft minutes in a word document, which is attached. Post, if appropriate.

Also could you post the draft Water Committee report to the CRC on the website as well? This is the version presented at the May 12th meeting, and should probably be attached to the minutes for that meeting.

Thank you!

Paul Pickett
Charter Review Commissioner, District 2

From: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 10:44 AM
To: Sarmiento, Nina <Nina.Sarmiento@clallamcountywa.gov>; Richards, Ron <ron.richards@clallamcountywa.gov>; Holy, Christy <christy.holy@clallamcountywa.gov>; Pickett, Paul <paul.pickett@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: FW: Water Committee Minutes

“My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!”

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

From: Sarmiento, Nina <Nina.Sarmiento@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 9, 2025 4:53 PM
To: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: Water Committee Minutes

Hi Loni, could you forward these minutes to the other water committee members for approval? Thank you!

Nina

Water Committee Friday May 9th 2025.

Commissioners in attendance: Ron Richards (online), Christy Holy, Paul Pickett, Nina Sarmiento.

Commissioner Pickett suggested changes to the previous meeting minutes

Commissioner Sarmiento made a motion to approve the minutes

Commissioner Holy Seconded, the changes to the meeting minutes were approved.

The agenda was approved

No one made a public comment

Commissioner Pickett presented a draft status report that includes people we have interviewed and topic titles where problems have been identified.

Feedback was given to Commissioner Pickett.

Proposals were discussed for an amendment.

Commissioner Sarmiento made a motion for Commissioner Pickett to integrate all the comments on the problem statement and proposal direction for the commission.

Commissioner Holy seconded.

There was a brief discussion. Commissioners Holy, Pickett and Sarmiento said i. Commissioner Richards said Nay.

Public Comment heard from Robert Beck, Craig Smith and Tony Corado.

Meeting Adjourned.

Clallam County Charter Review Commission Water Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 9th, 2025

Commissioners in attendance: Ron Richards (online), Christy Holy, Paul Pickett, Nina Sarmiento.

Commissioner Pickett suggested changes to the previous meeting minutes

Commissioner Sarmiento made a motion to approve the minutes

Commissioner Holy Seconded, the changes to the meeting minutes were approved.

The agenda was approved

No one made a public comment

Commissioner Pickett presented a draft status report that includes people we have interviewed and topic titles where problems have been identified.

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Commissioner Holy seconded.

There was a brief discussion. Commissioners Holy, Pickett and Sarmiento said i. Commissioner Richards said Nay.

Public Comment heard from Robert Beck, Craig Smith and Tony Corado.

Meeting Adjourned.

Status Report to the Charter Review Commission – Final DRAFT

The Water Committee is presenting the Commission with a written status report to help clarify the work we've been doing.

Information Collection

Up to this point in our Committee work we have been collecting information about water management on our County and the role of County government in management. Towards this end we have interviewed:

- Community Activists Ann Soule (hydrogeologist and former County employee) and Craig Smith (Sequim resident and professor at UW)
- Bowen Kendrick, Water Manager at Clallam PUD
- Bruce Emery (Director of Community Development) and Jennifer Garcelon (Environmental Health Manager)
- A meeting with Tribes in Clallam County has been planned.

We have also been reviewing various report on water resources developed for our county.

Problem Statement

The Water Committee has identified problems that support the proposal of a Water Steward (or Chief Scientist, Water Science Information Officer). In summary:

- 1) Clallam has vast and important water resources. It covers all or parts of four Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs). A review of the WDFW Stream catalog shows 59 rivers and major streams. WDFW populations data shows 71 different salmonid populations in the County.
- 2) Water data is sparse, often old. There is no central person identifying and sharing data. Other Counties have addressed this challenge in varying ways.
- 3) Multiple agencies and entities have a stake in Clallam's water – for municipal and residential supply, for agriculture, and fish habitat. Coordination of these entities is ad hoc, at best.
- 4) Actual water availability is poorly understood, including the impacts of existing water rights and exempt wells, and the County's water budget.
- 5) Long term sustainability of Clallam's water resources is unknown: for population and economic growth, and for maintenance of fish and our quality of life.
- 6) Clallam County is facing multiple impacts of climate change, including declining summer stream flows, hotter weather, and less precipitation in the dry season.
- 7) For all these needs, there are immense data needs that are not being met.
- 8) Clallam County is in a unique position to provide a central role in improving data collection, management, and sharing. This is especially important as the County moves into an updated Comprehensive Plan and continues to manage growth and climate change impacts.

Interim Decisions

- A Chief Water Scientist position will not be a volunteer position, but a paid professional
- Any proposal would be for data collection, analysis, sharing and networking. It would not be for enforcement or regulation, which is already covered by DCD and Environmental Health.

Next steps

This Committee, based from public comments and our discussion, will continue to explore possible proposals:

1. Proposed Charter Amendment (preferred option): Create a Chief Water Scientist position (probably independent, reports to BOCC)
2. Recommendation to BOCC (Alternative Option): Propose a Water Steward (Chief Scientist, Water Science Information Officer) position to the BOCC - responsible for listening to water and fishery users and sharing information. Could be supported by volunteers.

More details need to be worked out, such as the preferred name, where in the organization, how to support the independence of the position.

Summary of ideas from interviews and public comment

The following information we've received from interviews and public comments. These support our summary of the problems above:

- 1) Water data collection and management
 - a) Most water data is old – 15 years ago or more.
 - b) Lack of a central repository for water data and the integration of data to support education and policy development. Existing data is intermittent, a lot is older, no one is looking at all available data.
 - c) There are so many water purveyors and some are aquifer-based while others rely on streamflows that it is difficult to know how they are all interconnected
 - d) Multiple agencies, often with conflicts of interest, tap the same aquifers without appropriate monitoring or inter-agency communication
 - e) Lack of expertise among County staff. Contracted out in the past. Comp plan may add conditions needing that expertise. Water will be an increasing issue for the County into the future. Loss of consistency from intermittent hydrogeologist vacancy.
- 2) Long-term sustainability
 - a) Little or no recent information on water supply, which raises concern around the impact of new developments.
 - b) Sustainability of our water resources is uncertain
 - c) There are water rights, but don't know much about the presence or abundance of actual, physical water.
 - d) Groundwater monitoring in the Dungeness Valley is showing declining groundwater levels in some areas

- 3) Climate impacts:
 - a) Declining stream flows
 - b) Declining snowpack with earlier runoff
 - c) Recession and disappearance of glaciers
 - d) Reduced groundwater recharge
 - e) Increased fire risk from hotter, drier summers and drier soils and forest stands
 - f) Increasing summer water shortages for cities and other large water systems.
 - g) Increasing competition between different water uses and fish needs.
- 4) There is a lack of data to meet critical County needs:
 - a) Quantifying the status of countywide water systems, inclusive of groundwater, river and stream flow, aquifer status, and water storage systems
 - b) Forecasts of future water availability with consideration of planned county wide growth, climate impacts, and ecological needs;
 - c) MOUs and interlocal agreements
 - d) A county-wide strategic plan for water
 - e) A county-wide Coordinated Water System Plan
 - f) A water balance for the County
 - g) Supporting water conservation efforts
 - h) Storage reservoirs, aquifer recharge, and other water storage projects
 - i) Development of Instream Flow Rules and support for Adjudication
 - j) Identify water available in growing areas of the county
 - k) Identify saltwater intrusion problems
 - l) Support identification and correction of water quality problems
 - m) Other policy and education needs

These issues came from Commissioners, staff of local agencies, and public commenters, which include the individuals we interviewed listed above, and other citizens:

- 1. Carol von Borstel
- 2. Tony Corrado
- 3. Tree Stokan
- 4. Alex Fane
- 5. Janine Blaeloch
- 6. Martha Rudersdorf
- 7. Nicole Hartman

Gores, Loni

From: Cameron, Ron
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 2:23 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Re: Ethics committee

Ethics Committee Agenda for May 21

- Welcome
- Appointment of Chair and Record keeper
- Roundtable discussion of defining our goals and objectives.
- Assignment of action items for next meeting if necessary
- Establish meeting calendar
- Public comment

From: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 9:24 AM
To: Cameron, Ron <ron.cameron@clallamcountywa.gov>
Cc: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: RE: Ethics committee

Ron,
Please review the attached notice and let me know if you want any changes.
I'll need the agenda to attach to the notice for posting.
Loni

"My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

From: Cameron, Ron <ron.cameron@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 10:26 AM
To: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>; Fleck, Rod <rod.fleck@clallamcountywa.gov>; Walde, Cathy <cathy.walde@clallamcountywa.gov>; Benedict, Bill <bill.benedict@clallamcountywa.gov>; Tozzer, Jeff <jeff.tozzer@clallamcountywa.gov>; Noble, Chris <chris.noble@clallamcountywa.gov>
Cc: Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: Re: Ethics committee

Clallam County Charter Review Commission Ethics Committee

May 21, 2025 at 11:45 a.m.

Board of Commissioner Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA

Agenda

- Welcome
- Appointment of Chair and Record keeper
- Roundtable discussion of defining our goals and objectives.
- Assignment of action items for next meeting if necessary
- Establish meeting calendar
- Public comment

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Citizens with comments or questions regarding the Charter Review Commission may contact the Clerk of the Charter Review Commission at loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or 360-417-2256.

May 15, 2025

Attention: Loni Gores, Board Clerk

Forward to: Charter Review Commission

RE: CRC Survey/November Ballot



Dear Commissioners,

After attending CRC town halls and regular meetings, I have carefully perused several drafts of the survey and have come to decide on the following that I would like to see on the November ballot.

- 1.) The Board of Clallam County Commissioners shall have a Code of Ethics with Civil Penalties to include:
 - A.) Establishing Penalties
 - B.) Recusal of a County Commissioner where there is a conflict of interest
Due to being involved with a non-profit or NGO
 - C.) Restrictions on advocacy to negate a Commissioner's ability to endorse policies that directly benefit organizations with which he/she may be involved
 - D.) Transparency of any involvement of any executive or committee position
In any organization which coincides with the Commissioner's term in office
- 2.) Clallam County shall align its elections with the Washington State Constitution to hold elections at the precinct level, vet voters, and require hand-counting ballots.
- 3.) Clallam County shall add "American governments" to intergovernmental relations section 1.20 to ensure that any and all Clallam County partnerships with foreign nations are subject to federal oversight to prevent conflicts of interest or foreign influence.
- 4.) Clallam County shall return to district voting so that only voters within a district vote for their district representative; i.e., commissioner in District #1 shall be elected in both the primary and general elections by voters in only District #1.
- 5.) The Board of Clallam County Commissioners shall be required to notify the Bureau of Indian Affairs when land use changes affect county interests.

- 6.) Clallam County shall restrict and limit mail-in ballots while establishing same day voting with paper ballots for all elections.

I am submitting my ballot choices to Charter Review Commission and the CRC Town Hall Outreach Committee by way of County Clerk, Loni Gores. Thank you for your consideration and tally of my ballot choices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Denise Lapio". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Denise Lapio

Gores, Loni

From: Cat Walde <cathywalde@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 11:56 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Fw: Water
Attachments: Water.eml

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Gores, Loni

From: Maureen Mcelravy <beachitmo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 2:29 PM
To: cathywalde@hotmail.com
Subject: Water

The truth of the water steward position is found in the grant Ozias has been discussing with the office of drinking water and PUD, long before the charter commissioners thought it up. Search The Consolidation feasibility Study Grant Application Guidelines. Or wa odw consolidation. Fleck expressed concern for the people of Forks paying for the east side at the May 1st MTG. That assures me they intend to take our systems and charge what they want to pay for the east side property owners who bought property without water rights and other requiring costly inclusions to the systems. Group A systems are subject to the most stringent and costly ODW regs. Just because someone has an exempt well does not mean they have water rights! I gave Ozias and French an opportunity to confirm this was the same grant, but they won't respond, so I'm putting it out there and would bet a bucket of my water for a glass of yours I'm right.

Has the commission even spoken with any of the 466 A and B systems owned experts? I doubt it.

Gores, Loni

From: Cat Walde <cathywalde@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 11:57 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Fw: 5-8 mtg
Attachments: 5-8 mtg.eml

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Gores, Loni

From: Maureen Mcelravy <beachitmo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 3:46 PM
To: cathywalde@hotmail.com
Subject: 5-8 mtg

I again pushed star to comment and was ignored. I would have supported your statement for further public meetings with comment particularly in light of the commissioners being unable to explain the duties etc of the water steward. Thank you for supporting further meetings for public comment. I don't know who Jim was, but he did right for the citizens as did you.

Please remind the others that it is costly to travel to their meetings, take a day off work without pay and aggravating when they, like the bocc, cancel public comments. I suppose they are all in favor of the mileage tax too.

I thought I could attend the Forks meeting from home and furious when i tried to get in with the instructions given on the co site only to receive a sentence saying there is no video. I just wanted audio, but wasn't given that either.

If every child is/was able to connect to zoom for public school, there is no excuse for denying the public access.

They don't want anyone to know what i know and will rely on their experts. How many water system owners have they discussed this with? PUD said they would be glad to help the bboc but wanted customers included. That was about two years ago. PUD knows who the experts are and it isn't Ozias or ODW.

How can they ridicule Tozzer and watchdog readers if no one else is willing to answer the publics questions. Glad to have found the site.

Maureen

37 years associated directly with the odw, but the charter has their own experts and wont say who they are. Ozias and ODW b(*&^% Jocelyne Gray. Our system has been under the state thumb and fist for nearly a hundred years. co management for almost 5 years, but we have no expertise or worthy experience and suggestions? right. left.....

Consolidation against our will is what led us Bullman Beach to where we are today!!!

Gores, Loni

From: Pickett, Paul
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 2:30 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Re: agenda - Water Committee - 6-5-25
Attachments: CRC Water Committee Agenda 5June2025.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Here you go!

Thanks for your help with the meeting. I was a bit bleary...

Paul Pickett
Charter Review Commissioner, District 2

From: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 1:24 PM
To: Pickett, Paul <paul.pickett@clallamcountywa.gov>
Cc: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: agenda - Water Committee - 6-5-25

Paul,
Please email me over the agenda for the water committee meeting so I can post it with the notice. I'll need it no later than tomorrow morning by 9 a.m.
I'll be out of the office on Thursday 1/2 day and all-day Friday. The courthouse is also closed on Monday. So, I'll need to post tomorrow morning before I leave.
Loni

"My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

Clallam County Charter Review Commission Water Committee

June 5, 2025 at 9 a.m.

Board of Commissioner Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA

Agenda

- 9:00 Meeting called to order. Approve agenda for the meeting and minutes of last meeting.
- 9:05 Public Comments
- 9:15 Discussion and decisions on how to proceed with proposed amendments and what to present to the Commission on June 9th.
- 11:15 Public Comments
- 11:25 Next steps
- 11:30 Adjourn

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Gores, Loni

From: Pickett, Paul
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 10:28 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Fw: Sequim Gazette Opinion Editorial May 21: "Our Water Our Future"

Please share with the Commission.

Thank you!

Paul Pickett
Charter Review Commissioner, District 2

From: nwmsdoc@cs.com <nwmsdoc@cs.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 11:50 PM
To: Pickett, Paul <paul.pickett@clallamcountywa.gov>
Cc: 'Tony Corrado' <tony.corrado@gmail.com>; msheffernan54@aol.com <msheffernan54@aol.com>; 'Louise Hill' <louisehill@gmail.com>
Subject: Sequim Gazette Opinion Editorial May 21: "Our Water Our Future"

Paul,

Tony and I placed this Opinion Editorial into the May 21st Sequim Gazette, and I'll be sending this opinion piece out to my entire

Our water, our future

Securing Clallam County's most essential resource

BY TONY CORRADO AND CRAIG SMITH

Water is far more than a simple commodity. It is the lifeblood of our planet, essential for the survival and thriving of all flora and fauna. As we confront the realities of climate change, the sustainability of our water systems faces potentially significant challenges.

Here on the Olympic Peninsula, an area historically without a need to deeply consider water system sustainability, it has now become an urgent issue demanding both appropriate management and robust public awareness.

The Dungeness River, beloved and essential for Sequim, exemplifies this challenge. It is renowned not for its length but for its steepness; the Dungeness River is relatively short, approximately 28 miles from its headwaters to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and drops over 7,000 feet in elevation along its course. It serves as the proverbial "canary in the coal mine" as an indicator of overall Dungeness River Basin health.

Traditionally fed by a substantial mountain snowpack reservoir, the river's summer flow now increasingly depends on spring and summer rainfall due to earlier and more severe warming weather, with a diminishing snowpack.

Recognizing this, the Clallam County Charter Review Commission (CRC) is considering a significant proposal: the creation of a water steward position. This advisory role would be tasked with pulling together all available information on water resources, predicting climate impacts, assessing the availability of "wet water" versus state-granted "water rights," recommending conservation methods, and identifying potential changes to water usage allocations.

Currently, numerous agencies manage water resources, but a unified, locally-focused approach to assessment, monitoring, and guideline development is lacking.

A water steward would provide this critical unified basis, assessing the needs of the entire county, from Neah Bay to Forks and the Jefferson County borders

Here on the Olympic Peninsula, an area historically without a need to deeply consider water system sustainability, it has now become an urgent issue demanding both appropriate management and robust public awareness.

This role requires gathering factual, up-to-date data on groundwater and surface water, understanding diverse regional needs, and engaging with all stakeholders to recommend equitable solutions.

Effective communication of technical issues and proactive policies will be paramount. Our citizens are demanding this information, and outreach to the general public on this important issue will require an open communication of the water steward's findings and recommendations.

The path to optimal water sustainability involves navigating diverse opinions. However, without the participation of all stakeholders and a willingness to appropriately assess current and projected future water reserves, components and reallocate water usage, Clallam County risks failing to implement necessary regulatory modifications in time for them to be effective.

Citizens are urged to support this critical initiative by attending CRC water-related hearings and providing comments and concerns to ensure the final decision reflects the community's needs.

Tony Corrado, BSME, is former chairman of the Water Advisory Committee at Elbert County, Colorado, and an Olympic Peninsula activist. Craig Smith, MBA, is a resident of Clallam County, is former senior advisor for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and affiliate professor at the University of Washington.

network. Even Prior to sending, however, we've had substantial, and

very supportive input. Many concerned individuals are now watching this closely.

The process that you are guiding in the CRC Water Committee meetings is essential to craft the critical aspects of the Water Steward position that will allow an appropriate individual with some knowledge of water, excellent networking skills, and an ability to speak to all segments of our community regarding appropriate surface, ground and deep aquifer water aggregation knowledge.

Tony and I stand ready to work alongside, and with, this position as an advisory board; knowledge of the critical components of our water system will require uniquely gifted individuals to educate and unite, the various community factions. We have additional thoughts on how best to integrate an optimal system.

As the CRC Water Committee process matures to the point where it need vocal citizens to push the need to bring the concept of a water Steward to the people in the form of a vote, we will rally our numbers to make sure this gets to a vote of the citizens of our great County.

Let us know how we might best work together on this essential process.

Craig

Gores, Loni

From: Cameron, Ron
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 3:59 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Re: agenda - Ethics

May 27 Ethics committee

Agenda items (not necessarily in this order)

- Welcome
- Review and discussion of information received from Loni (previous BOCC minutes etc)
- Review and discussion of emails provided by Comm. Tozzer from previous communications with Prosecutor.
- Discussion and or presentation of thoughts and observations from other Charters addressing Ethics
- Discussion with Dee Boughton if available.
- Public comment/input
- New assignments if appropriate
- Next meeting

From: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 1:25 PM
To: Cameron, Ron <ron.cameron@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: agenda - Ethics

Hi Ron,
Please send me over the agenda for the May 27 meeting. I'll need it by tomorrow morning at 9 a.m. I'm only working ½ day tomorrow and hoping to be off all day Friday.
Thanks, Loni

"My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!"

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

Clallam County Charter Review Commission Ethics Committee
May 27, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.
Board of Commissioner Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA

Agenda

- Welcome
- Review and discussion of information received from Loni (previous BOCC minutes etc)
- Review and discussion of emails provided by Comm. Tozzer from previous communications with Prosecutor.
- Discussion and or presentation of thoughts and observations from other Charters addressing Ethics
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Gores, Loni

From: Kathy Cruz <kathy.cruz@soundpublishing.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 1:13 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Fw: Water Steward op-ed

You don't often get email from kathy.cruz@soundpublishing.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Loni, per your request, I am forwarding the email I received from Charter Review Commission member Jeff Tozzer.

Kathy Cruz

Special Sections Editor
Sequim Gazette Editor
Direct: 360-417-7685
Internal: 57650
175 W. Washington St., Sequim, WA. 98382
kathy.cruz@soundpublishing.com

From: Jeff Tozzer <jeff.tozzer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 10:55 AM
To: Kathy Cruz <kathy.cruz@soundpublishing.com>
Subject: Water Steward op-ed

You don't often get email from jeff.tozzer@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I would like to write an op-ed, similar to the article that Craig Smith and Tony Corrado wrote, but opposing the creation of a Water Steward position. Would that be possible?

Thank you,

Jeff Tozzer

Gores, Loni

From: Shawn Hines <shines@jamestowntribe.org>
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 2:58 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Cc: Ozias, Mark
Subject: FW: DRMT Exec Comm - update and questions

Hi Loni,

This is a heads up that a DRMT member has asked for DRMT agenda time to recommend that DRMT write a letter of support for a water steward concept. This question will be brought to the June 11th DRMT meeting. The DRMT has heard that a water committee of the Charter Review Commission has formed but otherwise has not heard much about the water steward idea. I wanted to extend an invite to the Chair of Charter Review Commission or water committee in case any questions come up during this topic. DRMT meetings are open to the public.

The June 11th DRMT agenda has not yet been drafted, but I'm happy to forward when it's ready.

Thank you,
Shawn

From: Ozias, Mark <mark.ozias@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 2, 2025 8:56 AM
To: Shawn Hines <shines@jamestowntribe.org>; bens@olypen.com; Lear, Cathy <cathy.lear@clallamcountywa.gov>; Hansi Hals <hhals@jamestowntribe.org>; Robert Beebe <rlbeebe007@gmail.com>; Tony Corrado <tony.corrado@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Water Steward or Water Board

THIS IS AN EXTERNAL SENDER OUTSIDE OF THE JAMESTOWN ORGANIZATION. Please PAUSE before you click, open attachments, or respond.

Should DRMT wish to hear from "the county" with regard to the water steward concept, it would be appropriate for that outreach to go to the Chair of the Charter Review Commission since that is the elected body that is contemplating the suggestion. That communication can be facilitated through Loni Gores, who is the Clerk to the Charter Review Commission and I can assist when the time is right.

Thanks,

Mark Ozias

Clallam County Commissioner

* Please note my new email address: mark.ozias@clallamcountywa.gov

* This correspondence may be subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act.

Gores, Loni

From: Holy, Christy
Sent: Sunday, May 25, 2025 1:06 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Cc: Pickett, Paul
Subject: Notes from Water Committee Meeting 5.21.25
Attachments: Notes from CRC Water Committee Meeting 5.21.25.docx

Hi Loni,
Please see the attached notes from the water committee meeting for posting.

Best,
Commissioner Holy

Notes from CRC Water Committee Meeting 5/21/25 at 9:30 am

Recorded by : Commissioner Holy

Attendees: Commissioners Pickett, Richards, Sarmiento, Holy, 4 public commenters in room, some on zoom

Call to order – 9:30 am

Action – Motion to approve agenda – Christy Holy. Ron Richards seconded. Motion approved.

Action – Motion to approve minutes from 5/9/25 – Christy Holy. Ron Richards seconded. Motion approved.

Public Comment –

- Where did the idea of a water steward come from? How did the committee arrive at this position? How did the county alleviate the need to have this position? What are the cost benefits for the county over a 5-10 year time span?
- Linda Campbell – Suggested that, rather than a water specialist, prone to political spin – have a group of people appointed by the commissioners would be more effective. We need more info about water quantity and water quality.
- Jamie Porter – agreed w/ Linda. Supports better oversight over water planning, and a water steward may not be the best option. An advisory board would provide transparency – a county commissioner sits on each of these committees and strongly supports stakeholders (tribes, stakeholders, etc.)
- Maureen McAlvey – There's been no discussion of what these issues are. Concerned about drinking water. There are 466 water management systems. Everything else is regulated. What is county water management to do? How is county water management connected to Ozias?

Responses

- Commissioner Pickett – Made sure with Loni that last status report was posted on the web showing what the water committee is trying to do. This idea came from people in the public bringing it forward. As for benefits, there are many intangible benefits – costs of planning ahead, costs of avoiding crisis.
- Commissioner Richards - Some of us have followed this cause for a long time and are trying to make decisions on what is out there. This position will serve as a clearinghouse for information where everyone in the county could go to get info.

We're talking about big money compared to costs lessened by having more information. More people are moving here. We need more info than we have.

- Commissioner Holy – There seems to be some misinformation out there and some confusion. This is purely a data-gathering position. No regulatory power.
- Commissioner Pickett – the community has major resources, and there are so many ways that water touches our lives. There is a data gap in the coordination of data.

Business

- Commissioner Pickett – What do we want to present at the next commissioner's meeting? Explain why we need what we need and what it will and won't do. What form will position take? Put it in a form that the state statutes require.
Commissioner Pickett drafted two proposals for review. Commissioner Richards drafted one.
 - 1) Draft 1 – Commissioner Pickett – one person can do all data gathering
 - 2) Draft 2 -Commissioner Pickett – board advisory committee – have one person do the research and then have a board weighing in
 - 3) Draft 3 – Commissioner Richards – one person with surrounding volunteers
- Commissioner Richards – Water is complex issue, but the need is simple. The right person can zero in on it, and this person can get people to help them. County has policies that volunteers have to meet.
- Commissioner Pickett – On a tight deadline. Need to decide if we want a charter amendment or go toward a resolution to county commissioners, for which there is no timeline.
- Commissioner Richards – The county commissioners said five years ago unanimously that they don't like the resolutions. Our job is to find the problem and address it in the charter.
- Commissioner Holy – Agreed to prioritize a charter amendment. Disagreed that recommendation to commissioners is off the table.
- Commissioner Sarmiento – Agreed to move forward with a charter amendment. Proposed we work off Commissioner Richards' proposal and try to have something ready for the next commission meeting.
- Commissioner Pickett – What do we want to propose? 1) one position, 2) an advisory board, 3) position with volunteers
- Commissioner Holy – How do we pay for this?
- Commissioner Richards – By providing adequate info. Savings beyond costs incurred. Cost complaints are interchanged with idea that this is managerial. Proposed consulting his proposal, which takes what Paul wrote and adds to it.

- Commissioner Sarmiento – Propose to systematically go through Commissioner Richards’ proposal and edit it. More discussion.
- Action – Motion to move forward with Ron’s proposal and go through it systematically to edit it- Commissioner Sarmiento. Commissioner Richards seconded.
- More discussion. Commissioner Holy – point of order – motion on the floor. Commissioner Richards called for the question and an end to debate. Commissioner Sarmiento seconded. Majority voted to end debate.
- Vote on motion to move forward with reviewing and editing Commissioner Richards’ proposal and move on to the actual language of the amendment. Motion carried.
- All agreed to move forward with a paid professional.
- Editing Commissioner Richards’ proposal- below discussion. C. Pickett also red-lined items on proposed amendment form that reflect changes made.
 - #1 – C. Sarmiento – accurate 1st statement to give background on long-term factors
 - #2– C. Sarmiento – add “existing” water resources. Add info about historical projects to manage water have led to a decline in resources. C. Pickett – increased population growth and water management decisions. * add “historically”. C. Sarmiento – agreed.
 - #3 – C. Sarmiento – strike “population is poised to increase more rapidly”. Change poised to will. C. Pickett – add other reasons. C. Holy – disagree. C. Sarmiento – people need to process “Clallam County as a climate refuge”. C. Pickett – move the adverse effects of climate change that are predicted will increase population more rapidly
 - #4 – Change to “therefore, it has become increasingly”
 - #5 – C. Sarmiento – spend time discussing water rights – actual available water may not be sufficient to fulfill existing water rights that exist on paper. C. Richards – PUD said others don’t have water rights. C. Holy – take out last sentence about cost and move to new bullet point.
 - #6 – Should cost less than responding
 - #7 – C. Richards – need another bullet point that says PUD doesn’t do hydrological assessments and DCD doesn’t do watershed planning
 - #8 – work on where we go from here at next meeting
- C. Holy – Point of order – need to move to public comment due to time
- Next steps – C. Pickett will provide copy of what we have. We will give a status report at the May 27th meeting and present an amendment to the commission on June 9th.

Public Comment

- Patrick Gay - #3 is arrogant to think we can stop climate change. Disagree with statement that the DA's office is not as important. Public safety is more important. "White people" comment was not appropriate. You've not shown any cost-saving aspects, rather than create two more county commissioners to deal with all these jobs. Nowhere else do they have a water steward. Need to create some savings. He remembers public comment at town hall was 2 to 1 against a water steward. Doesn't understand the need vs. having the county create a board. Why spend money on something that doesn't control anything?
- Commenter – Didn't like "white people" comment, which places her in victim status
- Linda Campbell – Agreed with everyone's right to speak, disagrees with other 2 speakers. She's been on both sides of this process. Easier to be in audience. Commends work of committee, particularly wordsmithing.
- Jamie Porter – Water rights vs. water availability. Committee should review document to accurately provide facts.

Good of the Order

- C. Richards – response to public comment – they don't always know if there is enough water to fulfill water rights. Response re: C. Sarmiento – she has put a lot of work into this, and her "white people" comment was taken out of context
- C. Pickett – intends to look into adjudication and the Dungeness Rule and water rights
- C. Sarmiento – apologized if any of her comments were construed to bring race into the issue. That was not her intent.
- Set meeting date - June 5th – 9 am – 11:30 am

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn- C. Holy. C. Sarmiento seconded. Adjourned at 11:38.

Gores, Loni

From: marolee diane smith <maroleedsmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2025 12:19 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Charter Review 4 wishes

My wishes for the charter review:

1.) Create a Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) in Clallam County which would require voter approval (simple majority) for all new taxes or fees and existing tax increases exceeding a set revenue cap. (The Washington State Constitution allows for voter approval.) This would not be an “advisory vote” but an actual decision by the people.

These voting periods for taxes can only be on a regular ballot (November) and not a special ballot. The TABOR would also limit all school bonds, levies, and other initiatives on a regular November, or August (primary) ballot. (Eliminate the February special ballot.)

2.) Require the cities within Clallam County to have set of working ethics rules, complete with various mechanisms, including state laws, local ethics codes and internal processes for handling complaints that will exceed the Washington State Ethics in Public Service Act (RCW 42.52) and Code of Ethics for Municipal Officers (RCW 42.23) and Prohibited Uses of Public Office (RCW 42.23.070). These would be to INVOLVE a fact-finding committee (appointed, 4 citizens, and one ex-judge, or legal expert) to gather information and help bring an ethics complaint to a conclusion. Have reasonable repercussions of ethics violations.

3.) Limit NGO and non-sovereign entities involvement in local government by establishing clear guidelines for NGO-government collaboration, which would include transparency and accountability mechanisms. Require NGOs and non-sovereign entities to be transparent in all dealings with our local elected government, transparent about funding sources, and accountability. Eliminate any meetings on non-public land, so that all meetings are subject to the OPMA.

4.) Require our county respond to the BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) as required when a tribal entity seeks to remove land from the county tax rolls into a trust or restricted tribal status. Clallam County must respond to a BIA request to remove tribal land from tax rolls by reviewing the request within 30 days, and state clearly (in open public documents and through notification of all property owners in Clallam County) an impact statement that would outline the potential impacts on the local jurisdiction, including budget impacts, and subsequent potential increase in real property taxes and special assessment of all property holders. It should be stated clearly the loss of revenue for the county and potential impacts on services provided to the area by removing land from the tax rolls.

Gores, Loni

From: Richards, Ron
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2025 5:19 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Melting Glaciers

Hi Loni,

Please copy the CRC on this. It's pertinent information for the water resources issue.

[Melting Glaciers Are Threatening the U.S. Water Supply | Watch](#)

Ron

Gores, Loni

From: Pickett, Paul
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 8:59 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Fw: Concerned Water Users

Loni,

Correspondence. Please share with the other Commissioners.

Paul Pickett
Charter Review Commissioner, District 2

From: nwmsdoc@cs.com <nwmsdoc@cs.com>
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2025 12:24 PM
To: nwmsdoc@cs.com <nwmsdoc@cs.com>
Subject: Concerned Water Users

Concerned Water Users

Many of you know me as “The Guy with Shorts and a Hat, Who Walks West Sequim Bay Road and the Olympic Discovery Trail.” Others may know me from my work in helping preserve our beautiful farm and forested lands on the Olympic Peninsula. A few may know me from my work in the field of medicine – and for my forensic work in traumatic brain injuries.

At the heart of all I do, however, my intentions are based upon a deep love of the Olympic Peninsula; it’s pristine beauty - and its’ varied inhabitants. Having grown up in this area, it shaped me into who I am today; a person who stacks hay bales and reads complex MRI studies in his dreams.

Over the past few years I have spoken with all on this copy of your interests, and your substantial concerns, regarding several issues facing the newer developments proposed on the Olympic Peninsula. The most commonly voiced concern I’ve encountered has been regarding whether or not the water “rights” documented to support large developments, in fact, would support the substantial populace in the development parcels. In planned development meetings, this has been a voice well-heard.

In extensive research, I’ve come to realize that water “rights” do not equate to “water presence;” in snow packs, on the ground or in aquifers. I’ve also realized that we have many well-meaning agencies giving out these water “rights,” but doing so without updated information on how much water resource there actually is; and then basing “updated” spreadsheets on outdated, pre-climate-change numbers. Lastly there appears to be no coordination of information between these multiple agencies gathering this information - or a unified plan to coordinate what appears to be a diminishing resource. Farmers as well as those in urban growth areas are equally concerned; but for differing personal reasons but with a common base problem. A trusted farmer in the Dungeness Valley has equal concerns to those decrying the proposed Seabrook development next to Sequim Bay.

My concern about water resources has led me to speak with multiple hydrologists, listen to city and county water agency leaders – and to attend the Clallam County Charter Review Commission (“CRC”) Water Committee meetings. My discussions and committee attendance, along with your many voiced concerns over this issue, led to the co-authoring an Opinion piece in the Sequim Gazette (below) with Tony Carrado, another well-educated and

very concerned member of our community. I'm delighted that this Opinion piece fired up a community activist to suggest that there is little community support for the issues that Tony Carrado and I discussed in the Sequim Gazette. You, however, know differently. And, it is now time to act.

The time has come. You have shared your concerns, and here is one thing you can do ***with a click of your mouse*** for input a recent Clallam County Charter Review Commission opinion survey:

Click on the below SurveyMonkey and request that “Yes” – “The Charter should create a Water Steward position to gather necessary information. It would not have regulatory or enforcement authority.”

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MZSFB38>

Item #4 is our primary concern, but others might be of interest as well.

If enough support is shown in this survey, then the issue of having a Water Steward will be placed on the ballot in the fall for a vote of the community. As noted in the editorial below, Tony Carrado and I support this issue as a first step toward appropriately documenting our water resources, and then working with “the participation of all stakeholders” to preemptively guide our community forward in an environment of changing water resources and increasing demands. We need active participation here, and whether you vote “yes” or “no,” you will help guide our community in this very important resource issue. We are not advocating for a new regulatory agency, we are not advocating for a substantial cost; we are advocating for a better understanding and for more optimal coordination of a precious asset, your water.

Thanks for throwing in your vote, and please pass along this message to your neighbors and friends for their input. Community participation is essential. And, I thank you for your continued slowing, moving off of the no-side-walk part I'm trying to walk on – and the friendly waves and smiles.

Best,

Craig Smith

1. Survey Question:

#4. There are multiple jurisdictions that are involved in county-wide water management. No one is currently proactively identifying county-wide concerns regarding water supplies, and reactive measures are more expensive to the county taxpayers. Available water resources information is inadequate and outdated.

Yes - The Charter should create a Water Steward position to gather necessary information. It would not have regulatory or enforcement authority. It shall operate as an independent information gathering, analysis, and advisory office.

No - The Charter should not create a Water Steward position to gather necessary information.

Our water, our future

Securing Clallam County's most essential resource

By TONY CORRADO AND CRAIG SMITH

Water is far more than a simple commodity. It is the lifeblood of our planet, essential for the survival and thriving of all flora and fauna. As we confront the realities of climate change, the sustainability of our water systems faces potentially significant challenges.

Here on the Olympic Peninsula, an area historically without a need to deeply consider water system sustainability, it has now become an urgent issue demanding both appropriate management and robust public awareness.

The Dungeness River, beloved and essential for Sequim, exemplifies this challenge. It is renowned not for its length but for its steepness; the Dungeness River is relatively short, approximately 20-plus miles from its headwaters to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and drops over 7,000 feet in elevation along its course. It serves as the proverbial "canary in the coal mine" as an indicator of overall Dungeness River Basin health.

Traditionally fed by a substantial mountain snowpack reservoir, the river's summer flow now increasingly depends on spring and summer rainfall due to earlier and more severe warming weather with a diminishing snowpack.

Recognizing this, the Clallam County Charter Review Commission (CRC) is considering a significant proposal: the creation of a water steward position. This advisory role would be tasked with pulling together all available information on water resources, predicting climate impacts, assessing the availability of "wet water" versus state-granted "water rights," recommending conservation methods, and identifying potential changes to water usage allocations.

Currently, numerous agencies manage water resources, but a unified, locally-focused approach to assessment, monitoring, and guideline development is lacking.

A water steward would provide this crucial unified basis, assessing the needs

Here on the Olympic Peninsula, an area historically without a need to deeply consider water system sustainability, it has now become an urgent issue demanding both appropriate management and robust public awareness.

This role requires gathering factual, up-to-date data on groundwater and surface water, understanding diverse regional needs, and engaging with all stakeholders to recommend equitable solutions.

Effective communication of technical issues and proactive policies will be paramount. Our citizens are demanding this information, and outreach to the general public on this important issue will require an open communication of the water steward's findings and recommendations.

The path to optimal water sustainability involves navigating diverse opinions. However, without the participation of all stakeholders and a willingness to appropriately assess current and projected future water reserves, compromise, and reallocate water usage, Clallam County risks failing to implement necessary regulatory modifications in time for them to be effective.

Citizens are urged to support this critical initiative by attending CRC water-related hearings and providing comments and concerns to ensure the final decision reflects the community's needs.

Tony Corrado, BSME, is former chairman of the Water Advisory Committee of Elbert County, Colorado, and an Olympic Peninsula activist. Craig Smith, MD, a resident of Clallam County, is former senior advisor for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Gores, Loni

From: Fleck, Rod
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 1:02 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Other Charter Counties Ethics Provisions

[Visited each Charter County and searched their charter for 'ethic' - below is what I found provided via a "cut and paste" approach. This way it is easier for folks to find these things.]

Rod

Other Charter Counties and Ethics Provisions

Clark

Section 8.12 Code of Ethics

On or before July 31, 2022, the County Council shall adopt an ordinance establishing a code of ethics, and shall establish penalties for the violation of this code. The ethics code must be adhered to by all departments and entities that receive funding through the County budget, and all officials elected or appointed to administer County government.

[New, Sec. 1, Res. 2021-5, Nov. 2021]

Also - <https://clark.wa.gov/county-manager/ethics-review-commission>

King

[Amendment] 2848 - Creating an independent board of ethics
3/310; 8/825
11/4/1997 - DEFEATED

Yet, in 2013, King County did adopt a code of ethics
<https://cdn.kingcounty.gov/-/media/king-county/depts/executive-services/risk-management-services/documents/code-of-ethics-complete.pdf>

Pierce

Section 9.40 Code of Ethics

The County Council shall establish a Code of Ethics and shall establish penalties for the violation of this Code. The Ethics Code must be adhered to by all departments and entities that receive funding through the County budget, and all officials elected or appointed to administer County government. (Originally Adopted November 4, 1980)

San Juan

Section 2.42 – Interactions with County Employees

In all interactions with County employees, County Council members shall exhibit ethical and respectful behavior. No individual County Council member shall direct or discipline, or threaten to direct or

discipline, any County employee, whether department head, supervisor or volunteer unless such direction or disciplinary action, or warning concerning such direction or disciplinary action, has first been duly approved by a majority of the County Council. Any directives or discipline by County Council members shall be made through the established chain of authority. No disciplinary action by the County Council may be taken with respect to another elected official or an employee or volunteer hired by or reporting to other elected officials.

Snohomish

Section 9.30

Public Disclosure and Ethics Ordinance

The county council shall by ordinance provide for the disclosure of financial interests by elected officials, a code of ethics for other officers and employees of the county and provide penalties for violations of the ordinance.

Section 2.160 Office of Public Advocate - [entity empowered to look at ethic issues arising in Snohomish County.]

Whatcom

Not in the Charter - but they have an Ethics Board

<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/400/Ethics-Commission>

And this portion of the County Code

<https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/WhatcomCounty/html/WhatcomCounty02/WhatcomCounty02104.html#2.104.010>

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 1:15 PM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Gores, Loni; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Subject: FW: Question for Dee Boughton

FYI for next steps in process for amendments.

“My email address has changed! The new format is Loni.Gores@clallamcountywa.gov Please update my contact card as your earliest convenience, Thank you!”

*Loni Gores
Clerk of the Board
Commissioners Office
223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362
Phone: 360-417-2256*

From: Boughton, Dee <dee.boughton@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 12:03 PM
To: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>; Deckard, Madison <Madison.Deckard@clallamcountywa.gov>
Cc: Reno, Jay <Jay.Reno@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: RE: Question for Dee Boughton

Loni,

In Response to Chairwoman Fisch’s question:

After voting on the amendment, and assuming it passes, the CRC should adopt a resolution. This will be true for any proposed charter amendments. In the past, the CRC has adopted a single resolution and identified separate proposed amendments as exhibits to the resolution. I believe it would be cleaner to adopt separate resolutions for each proposed amendment.

If the CRC votes to propose the coroner amendment tonight, the next step is for the CRC to adopt a resolution. From my perspective, the prosecutor’s office would assist the commission in drafting the resolution in the two weeks prior to the next regular meeting, at which time the commission would discuss the draft resolution, and decide on edits etc. Once the draft resolution language is approved by the CRC it could be adopted.

When the resolution is adopted, then the CRC would choose when to forward to the Auditor. The Auditor then will forward to the PAO for creation of the ballot title and explanatory statement.

[Bert Dee Boughton | Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney | Clallam County](#)
223 E. 4th Street, Ste. 11 | Port Angeles, WA 98362 | desk: 360.565.2720 | cell: 360.477.3125 | fax: 360.417.2543 |
dee.boughton@clallamcountywa.gov

From: Fisch, Susan <susan.fisch@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 10:08 AM
To: Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: Question for Dee Boughton

Loni: Could you ask Mr. Boughton the following: If the proposed amendment regarding the coroner is approved on May 27th, what does the Commission need to forward to him? Does the Commission just forward the proposed amendment language? Are there any other documents he needs to form the ballot title and explanatory statement?

Thanks- Susan

Gores, Loni

From: Tony Corrado <tony.corrado@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 3:39 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water Steward
Attachments: 250528-Proposed CRC Amendment ACCS.pdf

Hello Ms. Gores,

I am submitting the attached PDF as revised comments for consideration to the attention of the Water Committee of the CRC. This revised commentary is submitted on behalf of myself and Mr. Craig Smith.

Ciao,
Tony Corrado

Title: Amend the Clallam County Charter to Establish the Office of County Water Steward

Section X: Clallam County Water Steward

Position to be Established:

The Office of Clallam County Water Steward is hereby established as a County wide elected, nonpartisan, compensated position. The Steward shall serve as an independent agent to analyze and quantify Clallam County's water system¹ resource for sustainability and availability. The Steward will recommend policies that ensure the adequacy of water for all users in the face of climate change. The Steward shall operate to ensure fairness, and equity among stakeholders based upon data and science with full transparency and public oversight.

Authority:

1. The Water Steward shall not have regulatory or enforcement authority and shall operate as an independent analysis and advisory office.
2. The water Steward shall have the authority to utilize volunteer resources to conduct any or all tasking associated with this position, as required.
3. Any related third-party contractual effort required in support of this effort shall be accomplished through normal Clallam County approval, funding, solicitation and award processes.

Duties: The Water Steward shall have the following duties and/or responsibilities:

1. Conduct data gathering efforts, inclusive of expert opinions from professional hydrologists/hydrogeologists and all water stakeholders, to include irrigation companies, domestic users, city and utility agencies, affected Tribal Nations, fish and wildlife responsible agencies and interested members of the general public.
2. Quantify the status of countywide water systems, inclusive of groundwater, river and stream flow, aquifer status, and water storage systems.
3. Determine the current operative state of documentation, infrastructure and consumption within the current water system.
4. Forecast future water availability with consideration of planned county wide growth, climate impacts, and ecological needs;
5. Determine the maximum sustainable County growth correlated with a direct relationship to the projected, worst case, wet water availability;
6. Recommend a prioritized hierarchy of consumptive uses correlated with calendar related precipitation events and a prioritized hierarchy of sustainable conservation practices; This requirement shall include, in addition to the designated river flow reductions for irrigation water extraction correlated to the preservation of a minimum flow for Salmon, a prioritized list of conservation practices, to include:
 - Reductions in nonfood uses of irrigation water; (defined as other than vegetable, forage and animal consumption)
 - Reductions for domestic use consumption;

¹ The term, "water system", does not refer to water infrastructure. This term implies that *all* water is interrelated, regardless of its source or final usage. These complex and nuanced interactions form an ever changing and vital natural system, herein referred to as the "water system".

- Increased fees for non-essential uses;
- 7. Propose changes to water-related regulations, laws, and conservation strategies at the local level of government with aspirational changes recommended for Federal and State regulation to enable higher efficiency conservation and sustainability;
- 8. Include the ecological needs of all wildlife and flora, native to the river basins, in these considerations.
- 9. Provide reports, updates and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and appropriate county departments in public meeting settings only.

Qualifications and Terms:

1. The Water Steward shall be a qualified Clallam County resident with no financial or stakeholder conflicts in water-related entities or policies.
2. The position shall be nonpartisan, elected by countywide vote to a three-year term, and shall receive compensation in addition to reimbursement for approved expenses.

Support and Resources

The County shall provide the Water Steward with:

1. Operating funds sufficient for public media outreach, data research, public meetings and travel;
2. Access to County data, staff coordination, and meeting space;
3. The ability to initiate studies and recommendations through existing County procedures, contracts, and departments.

Ballot Title (75-word limit):

Shall the Clallam County Charter be amended to create an elected, nonpartisan, compensated position of Water Steward which shall not have regulatory or enforcement authority and shall operate as an independent analysis and advisory office. This function shall consider water use priorities, sustainability, climate induced impacts, projected population growth impacts and conservation methodologies. The Water Steward shall operate with transparency, fairness and equal weight to all stakeholders.

Pro Statement (in support of the measure):

Vote YES to protect Clallam County's water future. This amendment creates a fact-based, transparent, and independent voice for water planning—free from political or financial pressures and elected countywide. As droughts increase and snowpack diminishes, we need someone accountable only to the people, to ensure a sustainable water supply. This position has minimal direct taxpayer costs associated with its operation, yet its impact on sustainability, planning, and equity will be profound and is needed NOW. Let's lead with wisdom. Vote YES.

Gores, Loni

From: Noble, Chris
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 4:21 PM
To: Gores, Loni; Cameron, Ron
Subject: Notes from ethics committee meetings
Attachments: Ethics Committee Notes 0521 and 0527.docx

Loni,

The attached document provides my notes of the first two meetings of the ethics committee. Please distribute them to the entire CRC.

Thank you!
Chris

Clallam County Charter Review Commission
Ethics Committee
Meeting Notes May 21, 2025

Present in person: Commissioners Cameron, Noble, and Tozzer

Present electronically: Commissioner Fleck

Absent: Commissioners Benedict and Walde

Also in attendance as a non-committee member: Commissioner Stoffer

Meeting convened at 11:45

Commissioner Cameron selected by consensus to chair the committee

Commissioner Noble volunteered to take notes

The Chair led an open discussion of what we want to do

Commissioner Tozzer expressed the view that a county commissioner sitting on the board of a nonprofit or NGO with which the county has business is a conflict of interest. He cited Commissioner Ozias's participation on the board of NODC as an example. Commissioner Fleck observed that this is not a conflict of interest under the RCW and Commissioner Noble pointed out language in RCW describing the example as a Remote Interest. At Commissioner Fleck's suggestion, the committee decided to pursue legal advice about what rules the county could impose on remote interests (either through the charter or ordinance) that would not conflict with state law. [Subsequent to the meeting, the CRC Executive Committee approved a request by the ethics committee to invite Dee Boughton to a later ethics committee meeting to address this and related questions.]

Discussion about the 2006 changes to the county's code of ethics (specifically, the removal of civil penalties) led to a request to Loni Gores to see what minutes might be available to shed light on the rationale for the change.

The committee received public comment, agreed on the time of its next meeting, then adjourned at approximately 12:45.

Clallam County Charter Review Commission
Ethics Committee
Meeting Notes May 27, 2025

Present in person: Commissioners Cameron, Noble, and Tozzer

Present electronically: Commissioner Fleck

Absent: Commissioners Benedict and Walde

Meeting convened at 12:30

Committee agreed that one public comment period would be sufficient and appropriate.

Dee Boughton asked to be the first order of business.

As best the note taker could discern, Mr. Boughton advised the committee as follows:

- Common Law Doctrine of Incompatible Offices might possibly apply to county commissioners participating in governance of nonprofits with which the county does business, but that is not clear. A 1960 opinion of the state Attorney General dealt with a county commissioner serving on the state highway board. The AG's opinion indicates that the potential for a conflict arising from an individual holding two offices is sufficient to determine that two offices are incompatible, but it is unclear if that opinion could be applied to participation in a nonprofit.
- To facilitate clarification, Commissioner Tozzer offered several examples from the current county commissioners' involvement in nonprofits or NGOs that could potentially be incompatible offices.
- Mr. Boughton replied that:
 - RCW 42.23 defines Beneficial Interests (and contains rules around them), but does not define a Conflict of Interest. He expressed the view that none of the examples would likely rise to the level of a beneficial interest, but he was uncertain if they may violate the doctrine of incompatible offices.
 - The Appearance of Fairness Doctrine only applies when officials are working in a quasi-judicial capacity, so is not applicable in the examples.

The committee continued discussion of what might be appropriate for the CRC. The idea of putting an *Ethics Board* into a charter amendment seemed to be gaining traction, but no decisions were made.

Public commenters suggested it would:

- It would be important to not chill county commissioners' participation in other organizations in the county
- We should consider whether an ethics board should have latitude to create civil penalties
- The county administrator should not be part of the ethics process because that office reports to the BOCC
- Recusal is not used often enough when commissioners have a remote interest
- As discussed on the MRSC website, the Doctrine of Incompatible Offices applies only to *public* offices, so presumably to government offices (such as county commissioner) but not non-public offices like non-profit boards.

The committee's next meeting will be Wednesday, June 4 at 1:00. Committee members should be prepared to discuss how another county that we think would be a good model handles ethics and what is in their ethics code.

Gores, Loni

From: john worthington <worthingtonjw2u@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 5:26 PM
To: Loni.Gores@clallamcounty.wa.gov; Gores, Loni; Jeff Tozzer
Subject: Re: Vote no on water steward

John Worthington

Virtually every topic has been decided by SERN. SERN is the "local integrating Organization" and they make the call for every land use, shoreline, homelessness, watershed, salmon restoration, estuary restoration all things climate and ecosystem.

The real travesty here is continuing to make all the decisions at SERN and NODC and then "integrating" the decisions thru high paid county run dog and pony shows. Craig Smith and NOLT are in SERN and NODC. Think about it for a second, their version of ""integrating" means " The bringing of people of different racial or ethnic groups into unrestricted and equal association, as in society or an organization." That is SERN and NODC, they wear it on their sleeves and cover page. Bamboozling the public into thinking they are achieving some bullshit environmental bliss, when they are just playing grabass in the World Economy through a retribution against "colonizers" formula. They have put it all on paper. I have seen enough.

Ron Richards, Pickett and the rest of the league want another paid for dog and pony show on the backs of taxpayers.

Its a house of cards that runs 10-12 deep in Non-Profits all deciding (collating) the same public policy. They have a shadow government of duplication in this county that is international, tribal, federal, state, county, city governments and activists. SERN boasts 25 government organizations. These "consortiums have 5 hydrologists including water conservation district who have the expertise that Mr. Richards claims does not exist.

The Democratic Party and the Peninsula daily news are members. By the time they take the same policy through the 10-12 layers of NGO, they have a final "collated" policy.

The County Commissioners , City Councils and Mayors, Charter Review Commission deliberation is sheer dog and pony show, as if the policy is open for public input, when only possible policy is the "collated" policy. Now we have seen Mr. Benedict and the Charter review commenters on the right side of the room (LWV) explain that once the vote is won the deliberation process is over. They only have interest for special interest not grass roots input from "Jeff's People."

It was almost funny to watch Craig Smith of NOLT and Gates Foundation go down there and set the Charter Review Commission straight, and watch the Dem PCO's suck up to him once they found out he was with NOLT, and claiming to represent hundreds of people. A clearing house was born and the paid hydrologist died.

Meanwhile Ann Soule and her LWV partners are still crusading for a paid hydrologist position. The house of cards has so many cards they can't keep the "collated" message straight. The LWV are partners with every SERN and NODC member so their water coup for water steward doesn't make sense.

https://lwvcla.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=851536&module_id=450073

Like (12)

Reply (2)

From: john worthington <worthingtonjw2u@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 5:21 PM

To: Loni.Gores@clallamcounty.wa.gov <loni.gores@clallamcounty.wa.gov>; Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>; Jeff Tozzer <jeff.tozzer@gmail.com>

Subject: Vote no on water steward

Irrigation Resources & Tools

- Clallam Conservation District – [Irrigation Water Management](#)
- WSU Regional Small Farms Program – [Water, Weather & Drought](#)
 - [Irrigation in the PNW website](#)
- WSU Extension Publications – [Water & Irrigation](#)
 - [Ag Weather Net by WSU](#)
 - [Irrigation Schedule Mobile](#)
 - [Weather Guided Irrigation Management Seminar](#)



Dry & Low Water Farming

Dry farming is crop production without irrigation during a dry season by utilizing moisture stored in soil from the rainy season. This can be done in regions that receives at least 20 inches of rainfall annually. Applying some practices used in dry farming could help reduce water needs on your farm:

- [Dry Farming Institute](#)
- [Washington Water Resilience Field Tour Series](#)
- [Dry Farming Techniques in the PNW](#)
- [Dry Farming Zine](#) – intro to dry farming & crop types by OSU
- [Organic Vegetables](#) – introduction dry farming veggie crops
- [Dry Farming Collaboration YouTube Channel](#)

FbD Backbone Team

1. [Home](#)
1. /

1. [About](#)

1. /

1. Backbone

Supporting Integrated Floodplain Management

The FbD Backbone Team is led by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation with support from The Whitener Group, Carol MacIlroy Consulting, and others. The backbone team supports tribal, local, regional, and federal partners in advancing integrated floodplain management through the FbD grant program and complementary funding sources.

The backbone team works together to communicate the many stories of successful integrated floodplain management in WA, and to support new and ongoing investments, policy improvements, capacity building efforts, learning and collaboration. Action groups (Culture and Capacity Action Group and Funding and Policy Action Group) provide forums to connect, vet priorities, hear concerns and needs, share information and learn together.

The Backbone Team works with Ecology through the Operations Team, Action Groups and in other informal and ad hoc ways. The Steering Group supports the overall vision and direction, and the Science and Monitoring Team leads efforts to track whether the partnership and structures are making progress.

NGO Backbone Purpose & Focus

1. Championing the vision of integrated floodplain management
2. Supporting communications, collaboration, and learning across the network of floodplain practitioners
3. Evaluating outcomes to enable continual learning and improvements
4. Supporting changes in policies to support a transition to integrated, watershed-scale river management
5. Increasing funding for planning and project implementation

FBD Spotlight



Renelle Smith

Department of Natural Resources

"Focusing on floodplain reconnection helps reduce the impacts of flooding on local communities and contributes to ecosystem health and recovery of our endangered salmonid species."

Our Team



Kathleen "Kas" Guillozet, PhD

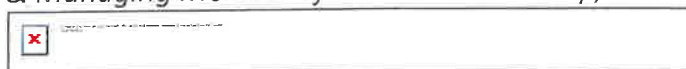
GOTTA CLOSE TOWNE ROAD!

Senior Director, BEF Watersheds Program



Bob Whitener

Contractor Specialist: Owner & Managing Member of the Whitener Group, Enrolled Squaxin Island Tribal Member



Carol MacIlroy

Contractor Specialist, Owner of Carol MacIlroy Consulting Corporation



Allan Warren

Senior Program Manager, BEF Watersheds



Austin Bernales

Communications Coordinator, BEF Watersheds



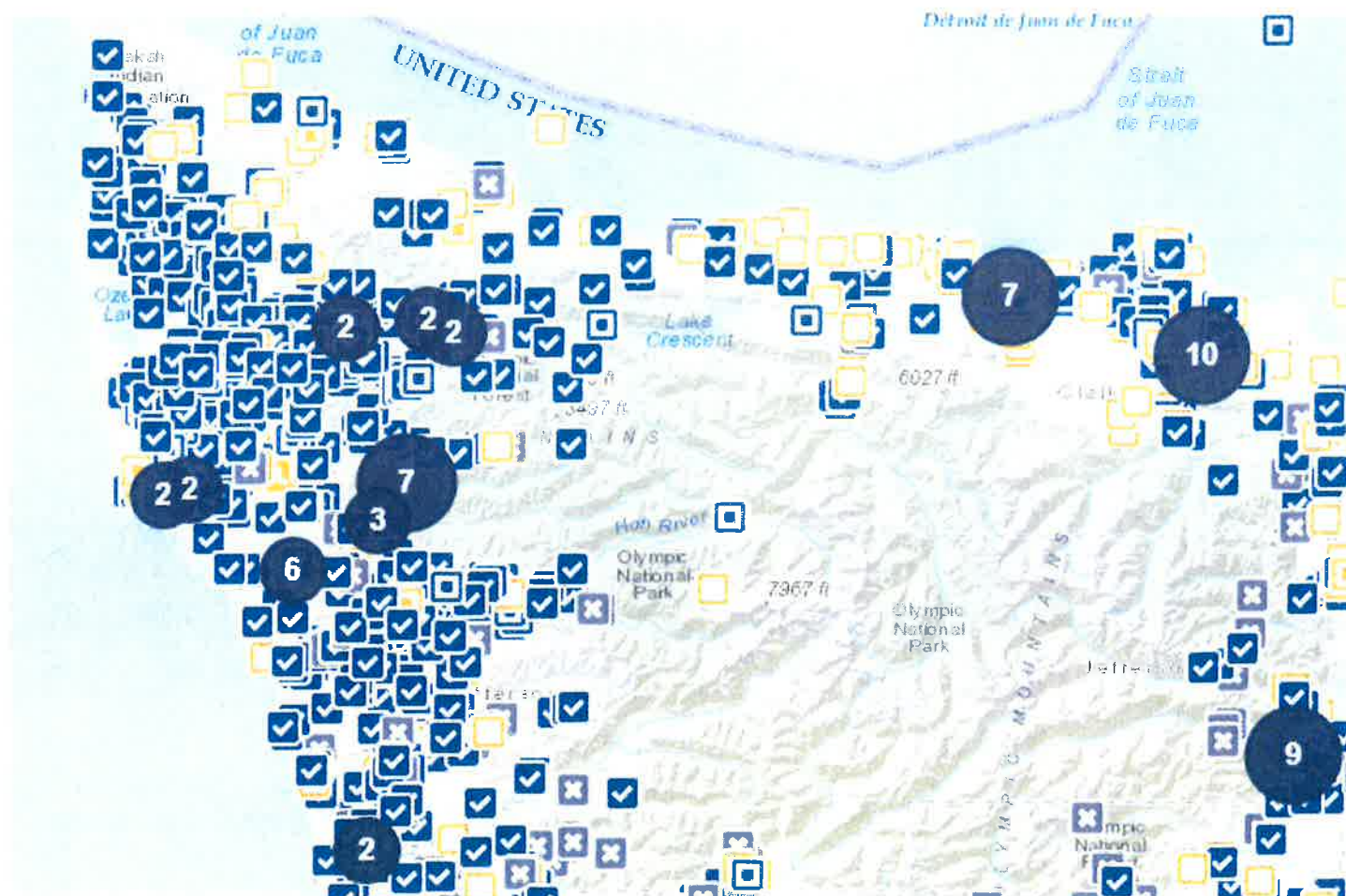
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NOPL WRIA 17,18, 19



Contact information

Amanda Gillen

Rule Writer

Amanda.gillen@ecy.wa.gov

360-480-2389

Don Bloomquist, P.E.

Reclaimed Water Engineer

Don.bloomquist@ecy.wa.gov

509-723-6219

WAC 246-290-415

Operations and maintenance.

(1) The purveyor shall operate the system in accordance with the operations and maintenance program as established in the approved water system plan required under WAC [246-290-100](#) or the small water system management program under WAC [246-290-105](#).

(2) The operations and maintenance program must include the following elements as applicable:

- (a) Water system management and personnel;
- (b) Operator certification;
- (c) Comprehensive monitoring plan for all contaminants under WAC [246-290-300](#);
- (d) Emergency response program;
- (e) Cross-connection control program; and
- (f) Maintenance of service reliability in accordance with WAC [246-290-420](#).

(3) Seasonal system startup.

(a) Seasonal systems shall submit a start-up procedure to the department for review and approval.

(b) Seasonal systems shall certify in accordance with WAC [246-290-480](#) (2)(f)(ii) that a department-approved start-up procedure, which may include a requirement for start-up sampling, was completed prior to serving water to the public.

(c) A treatment technique violation occurs when a seasonal system fails to complete a department-approved start-up procedure prior to serving water to the public.

(4) The purveyor shall operate the system in accordance with good operations procedures such as those available in texts, handbooks, and manuals available from the following sources:

- (a) American Water Works Association (AWWA);
- (b) American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE);
- (c) Ontario Ministry of the Environment;
- (d) The Chlorine Institute;
- (e) California State University;
- (f) Health Research Inc.; and
- (g) Any other standards acceptable to the department.

Protection

Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)



Efforts

Efforts describe the work of workgroups

Involved Workgroups:

- [Knowledge Creation](#)
 - [Adaptive Management](#)
 - [Arts and Crafts](#)
 - [Lessons](#)
 - [Monitoring](#)
 - [Research](#)
- Protection
 - [Acquisition](#)
 - [Green Infrastructure](#)
 - [Regulation](#)
- [Restoration](#)
 - [Beach Nourishment](#)
 - [Engineered Log Jams](#)
 - [Fish Passage](#)
 - [Revegetation](#)
- [Social Change](#)
 - [Advocacy](#)
 - [Coordination](#)
 - [Education](#)
 - [Funding](#)
 - [Integrated Ecosystem Management](#)
 - [Legislation](#)
 - [Planning](#)

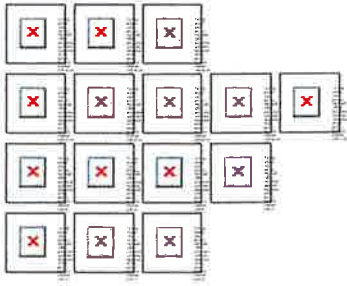
Effort References

- [RCO's PRISM Project Search](#)
- [Salmon Recovery Portal](#)
- [Ecology's Administration of Grants and Loans](#)
- [USACE Regulatory In-lieu Fee and Bank information Tracking System](#)

Wiki Rules

- *Wiki text does not reflect the policy or opinion of any agency or organization*

- Please adhere to our [Social Contract](#) and [Style Guide](#)
- [Complain here](#), and be nice.



Protection Efforts aim to change private behavior to avoid, minimize or mitigate damage to ecosystem from human activity. [Acquisition](#) does so through purchasing property rights. [Regulation](#) uses the police powers of government to restrict the actions of citizens. Protection actions are different than [Social Change](#) efforts which lack the force of law, however protection depends on [Knowledge Creation](#), [Legal](#) frameworks and [Planning](#) to be implemented well. [Green Infrastructure](#) is a form of protection that aims to integrate ecological functions into human [Infrastructures](#) that have historically degraded ecosystems.

Workgroups and Efforts in Protection by Region



Workgroups

2 workgroups in South Puget Sound

- [Olympia Ecosystems](#)
- [City of Tumwater](#)

One workgroup in Whidbey Basin

- [Skagit Land Trust](#)



Efforts

4 Efforts in South Puget Sound

- [Thurston County Aquisition Assessment](#)
- [Nisqually Community Forest](#)
- [Teanaway Community Forest](#)
- [Nisqually Watershed Ecosystem Service Transaction Pilot](#)

7 Efforts in Whidbey Basin

- [Haskell Slough Protection and Restoration](#)
- [Snohomish Basin Forest Ecosystem Services Pilot Project](#)
- [Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area](#)
- [Stillaguamish Valley Protection Initiative](#)
- [Skagit Farmland Legacy Program](#)
- [Snohomish Floodplain Acquisition Strategy](#)
- [Culvert Replacement Regulatory Coordination](#)

One Effort in San Juan Islands

- [San Juan County Marine Stewardship Area](#)

2 Efforts in Fraser Lowlands

- [Canyon Lake Community Forest](#)
- [Floodplain Permit Streamlining Workgroup for Nooksack](#)

All Workgroups and Efforts in Protection



Workgroups

- [Agrarian Commons](#)
- [Chehalis River Basin Land Trust](#)
- [City of Tumwater](#)
- [Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries](#)
- [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)
- [North Olympic Development Council](#)
- [Olympia Ecosystems](#)
- [Olympic Climate Action](#)
- [Olympic Forest Coalition](#)
- [Protect the Peninsula's Future](#)
- [Salmon Recovery Funding Board \(SRFB\)](#)
- [Skagit Land Trust](#)
- [Whatcom Million Trees Project](#)



Efforts

- [Anacortes Community Forest Lands](#)
- [Canyon Lake Community Forest](#)
- [Conservation Using Acquisition](#)
- [Culvert Replacement Regulatory Coordination](#)
- [Estimation of Typical High Intertidal Beach-Face Slope in Puget Sound](#)
- [Fish Passage](#)
- [Floodplain Permit Streamlining Workgroup for Nooksack](#)
- [Green Infrastructure](#)
- [Haskell Slough Protection and Restoration](#)
- [Improving Acquisition Systems Workshop](#)
- [Jefferson County Eelgrass Protection](#)
- [King County Farm Preservation Program \(FPP\)](#)
- [Kitsap Natural Resource Asset Management Project](#)
- [Kwaxala](#)
- [Nason Ridge Community Forest](#)
- [National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant](#)
- [Nisqually Community Forest](#)
- [Nisqually Watershed Ecosystem Service Transaction Pilot](#)
- [Port Susan Marine Stewardship Area](#)
- [Puget Sound Ecosystem Funding](#)
- [Puget Sound Nearshore Habitat Conservation Calculator](#)

- [San Juan County Marine Stewardship Area](#)
- [Science Sprints to Support Regulation](#)
- [Skagit Farmland Legacy Program](#)
- [Snohomish Basin Forest Ecosystem Services Pilot Project](#)
- [Snohomish Floodplain Acquisition Strategy](#)
- [Standard Conservation Project Description](#)
- [Stillaguamish Valley Protection Initiative](#)
- [Teanaway Community Forest](#)
- [Thurston County Aquisition Assessment](#)
- [Washington Channel Migration Zone Mapping](#)

Clea Rome

Protecting our Waters



Program Contact: Bob Simmons, Regional Water Resources Specialist
(360) 379-5610 x207 • simmons@wsu.edu



Protecting the water quality on the Strait of Juan de Fuca is of utmost importance to the residents of Clallam County. WSU Extension has many opportunities available so our community can learn what actions can be taken to keep our waters clean.

[New Rural Stormwater Solutions website!](#)

WSU Extension and the Washington Stormwater Center are excited to announce a new suite of educational materials to help landowners manage stormwater and reduce polluted runoff in rural areas. All the materials are available on the **[Rural Stormwater Solutions website](#)**. There are videos, fact sheets, a white paper, demonstration sites, a glossary of terms, and in-depth resources on the website. Note: Most of the video footage was filmed in Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap counties and the bioinfiltration swale demonstration site is at Peninsula College!

[WSU Stream Stewards Class](#)

This class is over for now. This 6-week course combines classroom presentations by regional experts around the Olympic Peninsula focusing on the rivers/ streams that flow into the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and the

environments that impact them. Registration is now open for the Spring 2021 class. The class will be held Wednesdays starting in May.

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

You'll be surprised how many different kinds of opportunities there are right here on the Peninsula. Whether you have a few hours, or are looking for a regular activity, there are plenty of choices. Scroll through the listings to find just the right fit for you.

[Managing Pet Waste](#)

Have you heard how many dogs are in Clallam County and how much waste they produce? Amaze your friends with this fact and more!

[Rain Gardens](#)

Washington State University and Stewardship Partners are leading a new groundbreaking campaign to install 12,000 rain gardens in the Seattle/Puget Sound Region by 2016.

- [Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington](#)

[Virtual Classes and Field Trips](#)

Take a class or a field trip virtually.

[Water.wsu.edu](#)

Whether you're a homeowner, farmer, citizen scientist, or simply enjoy life-long learning, here you'll find WSU publication, training opportunities, partner information, research programs and timely news on important water-related issues.

[Shore Stewards](#)

If you live on or near the Salish Sea in western Washington state, this website is for you. The WSU Shore Stewards program provide guidelines and resources for living on or near waters of the Salish Sea regions, including Puget Sound, Strait of Juan de Fuca, Strait of Georgia, and lakes, rivers, streams, and coasts in the area.

- [Guide for Shoreline Living](#): A booklet that gives homeowners tips on how to protect our waters.
- [Shore Stewards TV](#): Video clips on shoreline living

[Low Impact Development Program](#)

The mission of the WSU Puyallup LID Research Program is to reduce the impacts of stormwater on streams, lakes, wetlands, and coastal areas through effective, research-based application of LID management principles and practices.

[Clallam County Water Quality Resources](#)

- [Clallam County Conservation District](#)
- [Clallam County Water Information](#)
- [Sequim Stormwater Stewardship Program](#)
- [Port Angeles Stormwater Management Program](#)
- [Clallam County Marine Resource Center](#)
- [Coastal Watershed Institute](#)
- [Dungeness River Management Team](#)
- [Feiro Marine Life Center](#)
- [Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary](#)
- [Washington Sea Grant](#)
- [Olympic National Park](#)

[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

- [Dungeness River Audubon Center](#)
- [Coast Savers](#)

- [Shore Stewards](#)
- [Streamkeepers of Clallam County](#)
- [Feiro Marine Life Center](#)

From: john worthington <worthingtonjw2u@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 27, 2025 6:58 PM
To: Loni.Gores@clallamcounty.wa.gov; Gores, Loni; Jeff Tozzer; Boughton, Dee
Subject: TRIBAL TRUST ISSUE

The federal language should be written in. The commissioners should be required to answer federal criteria.

(d) Upon receipt of a written request for land to be acquired in trust when a Tribe does not have a reservation or land held in trust, the Secretary shall notify the State and local governments with regulatory jurisdiction over the land to be acquired. The notice will inform the State or local government that each will be given 30 calendar days in which to provide written comments to rebut the presumption of minimal adverse impacts to regulatory jurisdiction, real property taxes, and special assessments. If the State or local government responds within 30 calendar days, a copy of the comments will be provided to the applicant, who will be given a reasonable time in which to reply, if they choose to do so in their discretion, or request that the Secretary issue a decision. In reviewing such comments, the Secretary will consider the location of the land and potential conflicts of land use. The Secretary presumes that the Tribe will benefit from the acquisition.

The Commissioners should be required to identify any potential criteria in sections b and d:

§ 151.12 How will the Secretary evaluate a request involving land for an initial Indian acquisition?

(b) The Secretary shall give great weight to acquiring land that serves any of the following purposes, in accordance with [§ 151.3](#):

- (1) Furthers Tribal interests by establishing a Tribal land base or protects Tribal homelands;
- (2) Protects sacred sites or cultural resources and practices;
- (3) Establishes or maintains conservation or environmental mitigation areas;
- (4) Consolidates land ownership;
- (5) Reduces checkerboarding;
- (6) Acquires land lost through allotment;
- (7) Protects treaty or subsistence rights; or
- (8) Facilitates Tribal self-determination, economic development, or Indian housing.

(d) Upon receipt of a written request for land to be acquired in trust when a Tribe does not have a reservation or land held in trust, the Secretary shall notify the State and local governments with regulatory jurisdiction over the land to be acquired. The notice will inform the State or local government that each will be given 30 calendar days in which to provide written comments to rebut the presumption of minimal adverse impacts to regulatory jurisdiction, real property taxes, and special assessments. If the State or local government responds within 30 calendar days, a copy of the comments will be provided to the applicant, who will be given a reasonable time in which to reply, if they choose to do so in their discretion, or request that the Secretary issue a decision. In reviewing such comments, the Secretary will consider the location of the land and potential conflicts of land use. The Secretary presumes that the Tribe will benefit from the acquisition.

Closing.

The recent land acquisitions have created "checkerboarding" and the Commissioners should have written to the BIA to inform them of that fact.

Land use should still be left in because the feds wanted it to be considered in subsection d.

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Business Item **Coroner amendment**

Gores, Loni

From: Cameron, Ron
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 1:00 PM
To: Gores, Loni; Fisch, Susan; Noble, Chris; Hodgson, Mark
Cc: Walde, Cathy; Fane, Alex; Richards, Ron
Subject: Coroner amendment
Attachments: Draft Coroner Proposed Amendment.docx

After having town halls in all district areas, and receiving comments on topics including the coroner issue, please place on the agenda steps to advance the committees draft amendment regarding the coroner position.

Thank you
Ron

Ron Cameron
Charter Review Commission District 2
Clallam County
223 E 4th St
Port Angeles WA 98362
ron.cameron@clallamcountywa.gov



2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

Resolution Number _____

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission elected by the voters of Clallam County for the year 2025 finds that:

1. Article IV, Section 4.20, of the Clallam County Charter provides in pertinent part that “The Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner without extra compensation.”
2. The Washington State Attorney General has determined that a prosecuting attorney in a county with less than 40,000 population cannot serve as a coroner. That determination was based on a state statute that says a coroner cannot practice as an attorney in any court.
3. Clallam County’s Prosecuting Attorney has resigned his position as ex-officio coroner, based on his belief that the Attorney General’s determination referred to above might also apply to Clallam County despite the requirement in the Clallam County Charter that the Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner.
4. Since the Prosecuting Attorney’s resignation as ex-officio coroner, a District Court Judge has been acting as coroner under a state statute providing that if the office of coroner is vacant the duties of the coroner’s office may be performed by any district judge.
5. Continuing with a District Court Judge as coroner because the coroner’s position is vacant is not a viable, long-term solution to the situation that now exists because of the conflict between what the Clallam County Charter requires and what the Attorney General and the Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney believe a state statute requires.
6. Attempting to obtain a definitive court decision or an Attorney General’s opinion on whether Clallam County’s Charter would control over conflicting state law and allow the county’s Prosecuting Attorney to serve as coroner could be a lengthy and costly proceeding.
7. Even if Clallam County’s Charter would control over conflicting state law, having the Prosecuting Attorney serve as ex-officio coroner is increasingly thought of as involving conflicts of interest and is not a preferred alternative.
8. A state statute, RCW 36.16.030, only allows counties with a population exceeding two hundred fifty thousand to adopt a medical examiner system, therefore precluding that alternative from being considered for Clallam County.
9. If the Clallam County Charter is amended to remove the requirement that the Prosecuting Attorney also serve as ex-officio coroner, the responsibility for performing those duties,

or having those duties performed, would fall on the Clallam County Commissioners under a provision of Article 11, Section 4, of the Washington State Constitution that provides that any duties of county officials prescribed by state law, with certain exceptions, if not assigned to specific officers by the County Charter, will fall on the Board of County Commissioners. In such a case, the County Commissioners could hire personnel with the appropriate training to serve as the coroner, much as was being done under the Prosecuting Attorney, and is now being done under a District Court Judge. That would result in a satisfactory solution to the current situation.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that Article IV – OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS, Section 4.20: Powers and Duties, be amended to read as follows:

All other elected officials shall exercise the powers and duties of their respective offices as provided by law. All elected officials and their departments shall utilize the personnel, budgeting, purchasing, property control and records management systems established by the Commissioners through ordinance except insofar as such utilization would be contrary to the powers and duties of the constitutional officers. ~~((The Prosecuting Attorney will serve as ex-officio coroner without extra compensation.))~~

Any language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing Clallam County Charter language and will be taken out of the Charter if this measure is approved by voters. Any underlined language does not appear in current Clallam County Charter language but will be added to the Charter if this measure is approved by voters.

Further, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Sub-Sections 11.20.10 and 11.20.20 of the Clallam County Charter, calls for this Resolution, and the Charter amendment hereby proposed, to be filed with and registered by the Auditor, and for the Charter amendment hereby proposed to be submitted to the voters at the next statewide general election occurring at least 90 days after registration of the proposed amendment by the Auditor.

This Resolution is passed and approved on this _____ day of _____, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Business Item

Tribal trust land amendment

Gores, Loni

From: Richards, Ron
Sent: Friday, May 2, 2025 9:19 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Proposed Tribal Trust Land and Reservation Proclamation Charter Amendment
Attachments: Proposed Tribal Trust Land and Reservation Proclamation Charter Amendment.pdf

Hi Loni,

Attached is a draft of a proposed charter amendment that I as a member of the CRC am asking to be provided to the CRC at our next meeting pursuant to Article IX, Section 1, Step 1, of the CRC bylaws. At our next meeting I will ask, also pursuant to Step 1, that the CRC place this draft on the agenda at the following meeting for consideration of proceeding to Step 2 of considering a proposed charter amendment.

In preparing this draft of a proposed charter amendment, I have referred to Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 151. I have also used as guidance a Bureau of Indian Affairs Fee-To-Trust Acquisitions and Reservation Proclamations Handbook. Citations to these documents are, respectively, [eCFR :: 25 CFR Part 151 -- Land Acquisitions](#) and [52 IAM 12-H: Fee-to-Trust Acquisitions and Reservation Proclamations Handbook](#). Anyone reviewing this proposed charter amendment would find reading those documents helpful.

Ron Richards

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission
Resolution Number ____

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission elected by the voters of Clallam County for the year 2025 finds that:

1. Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 151 (25 CFR §151), sets forth provisions whereby Tribes and Tribal Citizens can apply to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to have land transferred into Tribal trust land status.
2. Depending on the specifics of an application to transfer land into Tribal trust land status, several provisions within 25 CFR §151 require the BIA to give state and local governments with regulatory jurisdiction over the land to be transferred 30 calendar days in which to provide written comments on the potential impact of the transfer on regulatory jurisdiction, real property taxes, and special assessments. The BIA must also give state and local governments notice of requests from a tribe to proclaim reservation status of trust land.
3. A transfer of land into Tribal trust land status can affect the regulatory jurisdiction, real property taxes, and special assessments of state and local governments. State and local government land use laws no longer apply to land transferred into Tribal trust land status; criminal law jurisdiction issues become more complicated, real property taxes levied on the property by state and local governments are eliminated, and the Tribe and Tribal members can obtain other benefits due to the land being in trust land status. Proclaiming reservation status of trust land brings with it additional benefits to Tribes and Tribal members and also facilitates the transfer of contiguous property into tribal trust land status.
4. The BIA is required to give great weight to approving a transfer of land into Tribal trust land status if it furthers Tribal interests by establishing a Tribal land base or protects Tribal homelands; protects sacred sites or cultural resources and practices; establishes or maintains conservation or environmental mitigation areas; consolidates land ownership; reduces checkerboarding; acquires land lost through allotment; protects treaty or subsistence rights; or facilitates Tribal self-determination, economic development, or Indian housing.

5. Despite having received many requests from the BIA for written comments on the potential impact of such transfers on regulatory jurisdiction, real property taxes, and special assessments, Clallam County has only infrequently, if ever, commented to the BIA on such potential impacts. The more land that is transferred into Tribal trust land status the greater these potential impacts are, especially if such transfers result in a checkerboard jurisdictional situation.
6. It is therefore becoming increasingly important for Clallam County to provide the BIA with written comments on the potential impacts of such transfers and reservation proclamations on regulatory jurisdiction, real property taxes, and special assessments.
7. It is important that Clallam County base any such comments on well thought out and considered standards which have been developed through an orderly process such as can be provided through the procedures for amending the County Comprehensive Plan.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that the Clallam County Charter be amended by adding to Article VIII – The Public Interest, a Section 9.00: Tribal Trust Land Transfer Procedures, to read as follows:

Section 9.00: Tribal Trust Land Transfer and Reservation Proclamation Procedures

The Board of County Commissioners shall be required to respond to all requests from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for written comments on the potential impact of transfers of land into Tribal trust land status on regulatory jurisdiction, real property taxes, and special assessments; and to respond to BIA notices of requests from a tribe to proclaim reservation status of trust land. No later than December 1, 2026, the County Comprehensive Plan shall be amended to add a section setting forth standards under which the Board of County Commissioners must base its responses required by this section. Those standards shall allow for the responses to include a recommendation that the requests be denied, granted, or conditioned; they shall address both the positive and/or the negative impacts, as the case may be, of such transfers on the county's interests; and they shall consider the factors which the BIA gives great weight to in approving transfers of land into Tribal trust land status.

Any language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing Clallam County Charter language and will be taken out of the Charter if this measure is approved by voters. Any underlined language does not appear in current Clallam County Charter language but will be added to the Charter if this measure is approved by voters.

Further, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Sub-Sections 11.20.10 and 11.20.20 of the Clallam County Charter, calls for this Resolution, and the Charter amendment hereby proposed, to be filed with and registered by the Auditor, and for the Charter amendment hereby proposed to be submitted to the voters at the next statewide general election occurring at least 90 days after registration of the proposed amendment by the Auditor.

This Resolution is passed and approved on this ____ day of _____, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

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Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Committee Report Water Committee

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission
DRAFT – under review

Resolution Number _____

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission elected by the voters of Clallam County for the year 2025 finds that:

1. Changing climatic conditions in Clallam County are resulting in shrinking glaciers, lower winter snowpacks, hotter summer temperatures, less summer precipitation, and lower late summer stream flows.
2. The above factors, combined with increased population growth and management decisions historically, have resulted in lower water tables in many parts of the county and a reduced ability to provide water from existing ground water resources.
3. At the same time, the desire to avoid the adverse effects of climate change, that are predicted to be more adverse elsewhere, will increase Clallam County's population more rapidly.
4. Therefore, it has become increasingly difficult to supply water for domestic, agricultural, industrial, and environmental purposes in most parts of the county, especially in the late summer months.
5. Water data for the County is sparse, and often old and out of date; the long-term sustainability of the County's water resources is unknown; and the actual water availability is poorly understood. Actual available water may not be sufficient to fulfil existing water rights that exist on paper.
6. The cost of water planning with existing limited data is likely much greater than the cost of improving this information. Adequate and improved information is needed.
7. Multiple local, state, federal and tribal agencies, and many public and private water purveyors, have roles to play in managing and/or supplying water for the many purposes water is needed. None of these players do comprehensive water planning, but all could benefit from improving the information necessary to make wise and informed water supply decisions.
8. In 2018, Clallam County shifted its water resources science expertise from a general role to specific projects. This disrupted the continuity of the County's water resources data acquisition, analysis, and sharing. The County is the government authority in the best position to provide the expertise to address county-wide water data needs.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that the Clallam County Charter be amended by adding to Article _____, a Section _____: _____, to read as follows:

The position of Water Resources Specialist is hereby created. The Specialist shall be a senior hydrologist, hydrogeologist, water resources engineer, or someone who holds other equivalent qualifications. This position shall serve as an independent agent to analyze and quantify Clallam County's water resources for sustainability and availability, and would have absolutely no water resource management authority. Its sole purpose would be to make available to those entities that do manage Clallam County's water resources the information necessary to make wise and informed water supply decisions.

The Water Resource Specialist shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. Candidates for the position will be recommended by an ad-hoc independent nonpartisan hiring committee appointed by the County Commissioners. The Hiring Committee shall include County staff – one each from Public Works, Director of Community Development, and Environmental Health – and four members representing entities with significant stakes in water resources in Clallam County.

The Specialist shall provide reports, updates and recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and appropriate county departments in public meeting settings only.

Any language in double parentheses with a line through it is existing Clallam County Charter language and will be taken out of the Charter if this measure is approved by voters. Any underlined language does not appear in current Clallam County Charter language but will be added to the Charter if this measure is approved by voters.

Further, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Article XI, Sub-Sections 11.20.10 and 11.20.20 of the Clallam County Charter, calls for this Resolution, and the Charter amendment hereby proposed, to be filed with and registered by the Auditor, and for the Charter amendment hereby proposed to be submitted to the voters at the next statewide general election occurring at least 90 days after registration of the proposed amendment by the Auditor.

This Resolution is passed and approved on this _____ day of _____, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

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Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

DRAFT