



CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES of July 28, 2025

MEETING OF THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)

Chair Susan Fisch called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., Monday, July 28, 2025. Also present were Commissioners Jim Stoffer, Jeff Tozzer, Alex Fane, Patti Morris, Paul Pickett, Ron Richards, Christy Holy, Rod Fleck, Chris Noble, Bill Benedict, Cathy Walde, Mark Hodgson and Nina Sarmiento. Ron Cameron was excused.

REQUEST FOR MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Richards requested to move the Executive Session discussion to the August 11 meeting

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as modified

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- Minutes July 14, 2025

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted as presented

PUBLIC COMMENT – Please limit comments to three minutes

- Tony Corrado, Sequim, commented on the Water Resource Specialist amendment
- Craig Smith, Sequim, commented on Water Resource Specialist amendment
- Carol von Borstel, Sequim,, commented on Water Resource Specialist amendment
- Mark Curtis, Sequim, commented on Water Resource Specialist amendment
- Denise Lapio, Sequim, commented on Water Resource Specialist amendment (see attached)
- Mary Wilson, Sequim, commented on Water Resource Specialist amendment
- Grant Herman, Sequim, commented on Water Resource Specialist amendment
- Administrator Mielke, commented on County budget
- Ed Telenick, Sequim, commented on the Water Resource Specialist amendment
- John Worthington, Sequim, commented on the Water Resource Specialist amendment
- Eric Fehrmann, Sequim, commented on Water Resource Specialist amendment
- Patrick Day, Sequim, commented on survey, being in the service
- Bev Dulis, Port Angeles, commented on water supply, Water Resource Specialist amendment
- Papai Whipple, Sequim, commented on email between Whipple, Commissioner Richards and Commissioner Pickett, treatment of Commissioners
- Don Eisenberge, Sequim, commented on the Water Resource Specialist amendment
- Karin Cummins, Sequim, commented on Water Resource Specialist amendment, town hall meetings
- Judith Parker, Sequim, commented on Water Resource Specialist amendment
- Dale Jarvis, Sequim, commented on Water Resource Specialist amendment
- Ellen Menshew, Sequim, commented on Water Resource Specialist amendment
- Dr. Sarah Huling, Forks, commented on Water Resource Specialist amendment
- Lisa Dekker, commented on Water Resource Specialist amendment
- Number ending in 9418, commented on Water Resource Specialist amendment
- Jacob Seeger, District III, commented on Water Resource Specialist amendment

CRC recessed at 6:37 p.m. and reconvened at 6:42 p.m.

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CORRESPONDENCES

Gores noted receipt of correspondences from Papai Whipple, Sue Coffman, Commissioner Richards, Commissioner Pickett, Commissioner Sarmiento, Clerk Gores, Barbara Vanderwerf, John Worthington, Mary Foster, Dale Jarvis, Katherine Birdwell, Henry Howe, Mike and Lisa, Elizabeth Schilling, Shannon Gaydeski, Joan Cotta, Dianne Salyer, Sarah Huling, Lisa Schwartz, Pamela Caldwell, Lois Perry, Eileen Cummings, Lori Callahan, Sue Forde, Marguerite Glover (see attached).

BUSINESS ITEMS

• **Water Resource Specialist (Step 4) – Commissioners Pickett and Sarmiento**

Frisch reminded that step for is as follows:

Step 4: HOLD MEETING TO ADOPT AMENDMENT: The proposed Charter Amendment shall be placed on the agenda for a roll-call vote by the Commission. A majority vote in favor of the proposed Charter amendment will be required to file such amendment with the Auditor for submission to the voters in the manner required by the Charter. The Commission shall make no substantive changes to the language of a proposed amendment at this meeting. If the Commission decides to make substantive changes, the process returns to Step 2.

Fisch read the amendment into the record:

The Director shall retain, through a personal services contract bidding procedure, a Water Resources Specialist, with the necessary expertise to collect, analyze and provide water resources data to all entities managing water resources in the County. The position would have no water management, regulatory, or enforcement authority. Bids shall be ranked by an ad hoc Committee with seven members comprised of: three county employees, one from Department of Community Development; one from the Department of Public Works, one from the Environmental Health Section of County Health and Human Services Department; two citizens selected by the Director; and two citizens selected by the Board of County Commissioners. The bid price may be considered in the ranking, but shall not be determinative of the ranking of a bid. This position shall be contracted for four-year terms, with the first term starting no later than July 1, 2026. Subsequent bids shall be solicited to ensure the position is filled on a continuous basis unless a vacancy develops prior to a contract expiring, in which case bids shall be solicited to ensure the position is filled within four months of the vacancy occurring. The Specialist's position need not be filled unless the annual cost of the winning bid is less than the annual salary of a County Commissioner. If the Specialist's position is not filled at any time for this reason, it shall be re-bid within one year of that occurrence.

Richards original motion

ACTION TAKEN: Richards moved to approve the Resolution to be numbered 2 as set forth on pages 110-112 of the agenda packet, Holy seconded

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

Benedict motion

ACTION TAKEN: Benedict moved to call the question, Hodgson seconded, motion passed
(14 voted in favor)

Richards original motion

ACTION TAKEN: Richards moved to approve the Resolution to be numbered 2 as set forth on pages 110-112 of the agenda packet, Holy seconded, motion failed
(7 voted in favor of and 7 voted opposed)

• **Executive Session Request**

Richards requested to postpone item to the August 11, 2025 meeting.

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SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Ethics Committee**

Noble provided a report for the Ethics Committee. He noted that there was Clark County Ethics Board research completed by Committee members and Dee Boughton Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Clark County Ethics Commission comprises of 3 qualified members and is assisted by the Managers Office. Fisch noted that there was some legal research forwarded to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Next meeting will be on August 12, 2025

- **Water Committee**

Pickett questioned if the Commission would like to give the Committee direction on next steps. He stated that the Commission could disband the Committee, ask them to work on a recommendation, or create a different Charter amendment. If the Commission doesn't want to give direction the Committee will meet and decide the next direction.

ACTION TAKEN: Benedict moved to have the Water Committee draft a recommendation and bring it back to the Commission, Hodgson seconded, motion passed

(12 voted in favor and 1 voted opposed)

- **Land Acquisition Committee**

Richards reported that the Committee held their first meeting on July 28, 2025. The Committee attempted to develop a work plan to decide what direction the Committee needed to go. Committee members were assigned research tasks for the next meeting to be held on August 13, 2025.

- **Town Hall Meetings Committee**

Sarmiento reported that the Town Hall Meetings Committee will be holding their first meeting on July 30, 2025 at 9 a.m.

REPORTS

- **Chair Report – Commissioner Fisch**

No Chair report.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Please limit comments to three minutes

- John Worthington, Sequim, commented on the Water Resource Specialist amendment, CERN, public comment
- Eric Fehrmann, Sequim, commented on Ethics Committee report, Water Resource Specialist amendment
- Papai Whipple, Sequim, commented on Commissioners Tozzer and Stoffer conflict, Eric Fehrmann conflict, requesting the board to ask Commissioner Stoffer to resign, Administrator Mielke, Commissioner Pickett
- Gayle Baker, Sequim, commented on officer of the law, free speech, survey responses, constitution (see attached)
- Ed Bowen, Clallam Bay, commented on water, Land Acquisition Committee, government to government meetings
- Patrick Day, Sequim, commented on Law Enforcement, Tribal, emergencies
- Mark Curtis, Sequim, commented on the Water Resources Specialist amendment
- Ed Telenick, Sequim, commented on Water Resources Specialist amendment, Department of Community Development roll, Charter Review Commission roll, BOCC town hall meetings, accountability
- Karin Cummins, Sequim, commented on the water amendment, comments, rights as a citizen, BOCC town hall meetings

GOOD OF THE ORDER/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Executive session discussion
- Committee reports

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ADJOURNMENT - Meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lori Gores, MMC

Clerk of the Charter Review Commission

Approved: August 11, 2025

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION 2025 – Roll Call Voting – July 28, 2025

Y – Yes, N- No, A-Absent

	Motion to call the question - Benedict	Motion to number the resolution 2 – Richards	Motion to send back to the committee for development of recommendation - Benedict	
Susan Fisch	Y	N	Y	
Bill Benedict	Y	N	Y	
Jim Stoffer	Y	Y	Y	
Jeff Tozzer	Y	N	N	
Alex Fane	Y	Y	Y	
Ron Cameron	A	A	A	
Pattie Morris	Y	N	Y	
Chris Noble	Y	Y	Y	
Paul Pickett	Y	Y	Y	
Ron Richards	Y	Y	Y	
Rod Fleck	Y	N	A	
Mark Hodgson	Y	N	Y	
Christy Holy	Y	Y	Y	
Cathy Walde	Y	N	Y	
Nina Sarmiento	Y	Y	Y	
Yes	14	7	12	
No	0	7	1	
Pass or Fail	Passed	Failed	Passed	

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	TONY CORRADO	Tony Corrado	Daya Loop, Sequim
2	GAIL SMITH	Gail Smith	2019 W SEQUIM BAY RD
3	Carol von Borstel	Carol von Borstel	2922 W. Sequim Bay Rd
4	Mark Curtis	Mark Curtis	Sequim WA.
5	Derrise Lapid	Derrise Lapid	Sequim
6	May Wilson	May Wilson	Sequim
7	GRANT HERMAN	Grant P. Herman	Sequim
8	TODD MIELKE	Todd Mielke	CLALLAM COUNTY
9	ES TELLMICK	Es Tellmick	DISTRICT 2
10	JOHN WORTHINGTON	John Worthington	SEQUIM
11	Eric Fehrmann	Eric Fehrmann	Sequim
12	Patrick Day	Patrick Day	SEQUIM
13	Ben Dulis	Ben Dulis	571 Township Line Rd PA
14	Pepai Whipple	Pepai Whipple	Sequim
15	DON EISENBERG	Don Eisenberg	SEQUIM
16	KAREN CUMMINS	Karen Cummins	Sequim
17			
18			
19			
20			

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	JOHN WORTHINGTON	M. Worth	SEQUIM
2	Eric P. Kinn	E P	Sq
3	Pepai Whipple	Pepai Whipple	Sequim
4	G. L. BAKER	[Signature]	Sequim
5	El Bown	[Signature]	West end
6	Patrick	Day	SEQUIM
7	Mark Curtis	Mark Curtis	sequim
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July 28, 2025

Public Comment
Denise Lapid
7/28/25 CRC

To: Loni Gores, Board Clerk

Forward to: All Charter Review Commissioners

Re: Water Resource Specialist

Dear Commissioners,

After many months of meetings and public comments regarding the issue of a water resource specialist, formerly known as a water steward, I recognize that this issue is no longer about the name of the position and the responsibilities of this new county department, but, instead, only about the amendment and its survival.

This Commission disregarded the will of **all** of the voting citizens of Clallam County. The 70% of respondents to the survey represented all political preferences, and still they were summarily dismissed and disrespected by the forming a committee that continued to pursue the water resource specialist issue. While 74% of respondents wanted to have District Only Voting on the November ballot, the issue that was brought forth by a committee did not pass beyond Step 1. Why is it so hard to remember that you were elected to represent all of Clallam County, not just yourselves and your special interest partners?

These past few months have clearly demonstrated that certain elected commissioners have no will to represent their constituents. It is an elitist attitude that disregards democracy. You are essentially appropriating the will and the money of the people, and that's called Kleptocracy. Shamefully, only a small group of commissioners understands that its responsibilities are to the **people** who elected them.

The commissioners in the water resource specialist committee and those commissioners who voted to continue to advance the amendment are on record as to how each commissioner voted. We will remember the aloof and denigrating remarks some of you made to those who spoke out and testified against this issue and the unprofessional treatment with which we received. You will, also, have to face your family, friends, neighbors, and fellow congregants and defend your position of promoting another unnecessary county department along with the increase in taxes, all in order to pursue your personal quest for more power and influence.

You have greatly insulted and disappointed the citizens of Clallam County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Denise Lapio". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Denise" and last name "Lapio" clearly distinguishable.

Denise Lapio

Public Comment
Gayle Baker
7/28/25 CRC

Clallam County Home Rule Charter Board of Commissioners

July 28, 2025

Comment by Gayle Baker

I welcome a deputy Sherriff here today, because if anyone understands the constitution, it will be an officer of the law. It is unfortunate that some here on the commission do not understand the concept of free speech, as afforded to us by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America.

And I quote: "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."¹

Some of you came onto this Commission with an agenda that was set in stone before you were even elected and then pretty much took over the Board: Ignoring surveys and the voices that you so vehemently wish to silence; censoring a sitting board member simply because he is not embracing your preconceived list of very expensive solutions to problems that DON'T exist; and, finally, attempting to sic law enforcement on those of us who speak up—in order to silence and intimidate us into compliance. That is Marxism/Socialism and absolutely not in accordance with the Constitution of the United States of America.

Disagreeing with an elected official, passionately challenging an elected official, does not rise to harassment, but rather, is our right under both our state and federal constitutions. If an elected official doesn't like the heat they encounter due to their arguably poor decisions, lack of transparency and the catering to special interests that has been so abundant in the Governmental halls of Clallam County, they should not have campaigned and accepted the positions they hold.

I have a gift for you; a condensed version of the Constitution. I suggest you read it as it may save you the embarrassment of calling on Law Enforcement for protection whenever your feelings get hurt. Really! Our men and women in Law Enforcement have better things to do—like stopping crime and saving lives.

¹ [U.S. Constitution - First Amendment | Resources | Constitution Annotated | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

CORRESPONDENCES RECEIVED

Gores, Loni

From: Pepai Whipple <pepalapu@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, July 14, 2025 10:30 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Please forward to County Commissioners and Charter Review Commissioners

Dear Commissioners,

The Charter Review Committee meeting, Monday, July 14, 5:30pm, was another very politicized event. The votes for several agenda items went along party lines and did not go by the will of the people.

The ethics agenda item should be in order due to the fact that Commissioners are voting taxpayer dollars to groups which they hold board member seats. That is a conflict of interest when Commissioners are voted in by the taxpayers and are voting money to groups they have control over. The people spoke on this but the Commissioners dismissed their will.

The charter vote for electing Commissioners by district was voted party line. The seated Democrats don't want any Republicans to have power anywhere so the Democrat Charter Members presented how much more fair it would be to have the three top winners elected from the whole County instead of a Commissioner from each district. Voted strictly party line.

The Water position which the taxpayers have already spoken is being pushed down anyone's throat that is

breathing. The charter continues to push lies by Commissioner Pickett (who BTW had some terrible outcomes from the last County he came from) falsified his comments to the public and the board that Clallam County has a \$17M County budget and can afford another County position with no problem. Todd Mielke couldn't get to the microphone quick enough during public comment to refute the lies Pickett had pushed to the Board and the public. Which was after a vote to proceed to Stephanie 3 was taken! Big lie to push agenda item!

Jim Stoffer apparently went to another commissioners church, Jeff Tozzer, and tried to get him kicked out of his church.

We were hoping the charter would be able to do the work for the people but all we hear is about "I" this and "I" that, and what we see is a political group who puts party before tax payers and wants to keep control through their political party at any cost, even lying to the Board and the people.

Of course any issue can go to the ballot and let the voters decide but in the meantime what a huge waste of taxpayer dollars when our City, State, and County is struggling financially. What a joke this Commission has been!

Regards, Tom and Pepai Whipple

Sent from my iPad

Gores, Loni

From: sue coffman <doulasue@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 9:27 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water Steward position

Hello Clallam County.

I just want to state an absolute "NO" to the position of Water Steward. Here are just a few of my reasons why this position is unnecessary:

- There is no justification (we already have the data they are claiming we need)
- In a time of budget shortfalls, they are creating a new full time position with staff and needed office space at tax payer expense
- Lack of transparency - to date no details have been provided to justify this position
- AND the County does not have that kind of money to waste

In essence, I am completely against the creation of a Water Steward in Clallam County.

Looking for truth and transparency in our corrupt county government,

Sue Coffman
county resident

Gores, Loni

From: Richards, Ron
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 9:21 AM
To: pepalapu@sbcglobal.net; Gores, Loni
Cc: Pickett, Paul; Mielke, Todd; Sarmiento, Nina; Holy, Christy; Eric Fehrmann; normagene@olympus.net
Subject: Clallam County Budget

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Whipple:

The "lies" you accuse Mr. Pickett of making in the email you sent to the Charter Review Commission last night, you misstate; they are not lies; and I, not Mr. Pickett, should have been accused of having made them. Here's where this situation all started.

In the Question and Answer document the Water Committee submitted, which I authored to a significant degree, the following statement was made:

"The county's Current Expense budget for 2025 showed a beginning fund balance of \$13,404,238 and an ending fund balance of \$14,131,925. That means there is a surplus for rainy day situations of over \$13 Million dollars and growing."

Mr. Mielke jumped on the word "surplus" in this statement to suggest we were saying there was a general fund surplus of \$13,000,000, which as I interpreted him to say meant there was a \$13,000,000 dollar excess of income over expenditures in the current expense fund each year. I think it is very clear from the Q & A statement that we were not saying that. What we said was that there is an amount of money (whether you call it a "surplus", or a "balance", or a "reserve", or whatever) for rainy day situations of over \$13 Million dollars and growing. This is all very true.

Mr. Mielke went on to say some people have advocated that we have a reserve equal to 25% of annual revenues. Checking on that assertion, I have found that according to the National Association of Counties, the Government Finance Officers Association recommends a reserve of 16.7% of annual revenues. From the figures presented below, you can see Clallam County's reserve exceeds that figure by between \$3,832,366 and \$4,559,964. Various arguments can be made whether the 16.7% figure should be more or less (and whether people are being taxed too much if the figure is excessive). Arguments can also be made that the current situation in Washington, D.C., creates some question as to what future revenues might be. But I think it is clear from these figures that what we said was very true, and that there are sufficient funds in the county budget to fund the proposed Water Resources Specialist's contract. I also believe the urgency of our water situation is tantamount to a situation that would justify the use of rainy-day funds for the proposed contract, even if such a fund were at its minimum recommended value.

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

Sincerely,

Ron Richards

Clallam County Predicted Revenues from 2025 Budget: \$57,317,139

16.7 % of 2025 Predicted Revenues: \$9,571,962

Excess of Clallam County actual reserves over GFOA recommended local government’s reserves based on 2024 Ending Fund Balance: \$13,404,328 - \$9,571,962 = \$3,832,366

Excess of Clallam County actual reserves over GFOA recommended local government’s reserves based on predicted 2025 Ending Fund Balance: \$14,131,926 - \$9,571,962 = \$4,559,964

	Predicted Ending Fund Balance	Actual Ending Fund Balance
2022	\$10,135,834	\$11,831,000
2023	\$10,505,289	\$13,127,039
2024	\$10,452,424	\$13,404,328
2025	\$14,131,926	?

Gores, Loni

From: Pickett, Paul
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 10:01 AM
To: pepalapu@sbcglobal.net
Cc: Richards, Ron; Mielke, Todd; Sarmiento, Nina; Holy, Christy; Eric Fehrmann; normagene@olympus.net; Gores, Loni
Subject: Re: Clallam County Budget

I will add that your personal attack was unnecessary, rude, and unethical.

Our committee agreed on the language in the Q&A, so blaming me is inappropriate. I personally regret the poor wording we chose. But my understanding is that the numbers are correct - we were referring to a "reserve", not a "surplus".

Also, you should not believe everything you read. Your personal attack on me about my record before moving to Clallam County is apparently based on an attack piece in a blog filled with lies and distortions, which was repeated by a local blog. I'm proud of my record as an elected official in Thurston County and accomplished many good things. You should avoid repeating slander.

I appreciate your engagement in the process as a concerned citizen, and recognize that you are disappointed with the outcome of many of the votes. I honestly believe that most Commissioners, despite differences of opinion, are all working for the good of the County and are making decisions based on facts and analysis of the implications of policy changes. Being unhappy with a vote does not excuse personal attacks.

Paul Pickett
Charter Review Commissioner, District 2

From: Richards, Ron <ron.richards@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 9:21 AM
To: pepalapu@sbcglobal.net <pepalapu@sbcglobal.net>; Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Cc: Pickett, Paul <paul.pickett@clallamcountywa.gov>; Mielke, Todd <Todd.Mielke@clallamcountywa.gov>; Sarmiento, Nina <Nina.Sarmiento@clallamcountywa.gov>; Holy, Christy <christy.holy@clallamcountywa.gov>; Eric Fehrmann <efehrm_3@hotmail.com>; normagene@olympus.net <normagene@olympus.net>
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If you would like to discuss this situation further, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

Ron Richards
360-477-5367

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Gores, Loni

From: Pepai Whipple <pepalapu@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 11:11 PM
To: Pickett, Paul; Gores, Loni
Subject: Re: Clallam County Budget

Loni, this is an email reply to Ron Richards & Paul Pickett but can go to all charter commissioners, thank you.

Mr. Pickett, please spare me your name calling like I've seen you do at the Charter Meetings to your fellow Commissioners and calling taxpayers "vocal minority". So please spare me.

Are you not on the committee with Mr. Richards? Do you not have the ability for input making sure the information being distributed is accurate and correct, yes you do.

Please spare me your explanations to justify a wrong and attempt to make it a right....because you are very very wrong. I have been to several budget meetings, haven't seen you or Mr. Richards in attendance once. Clallam County taxpayers are not as stupid as your committee obviously thinks we are, deaf, dumb and blind, infact, those of us can spot the obvious quickly. Mr. Meilke has had the facts all along, nothing has changed since last year. The water position is not an emergency we last checked.

Mr. Pickett you take a lot for granted. You have no idea how we heard about your past so spare me again cause you are wrong once again. It's amazing how you can recognize that I'm disappointed in the vote, that's amazing! What we're disappointed in is people like you who can't present the true facts. I feel sorry for the Commissioner's who rely on your word for their vote, that is our disappointment. We are disappointed that a survey overwhelming said "no", yet you continue to push, and use lies to do it.

You can pretend anything you want to justify pushing lies, facts are facts. I didn't call you an "asshole", I didn't attack you. You have attacked me for calling you out.

Regards, Tom & Pepai Whipple

Commissioner Richards,

Thank you for your reply. However this wrong is serious. This wrong misled the Commission and the public. A vote has been taken on false information that neither you or Mr. Pickett can change. I don't care to hear why your committee chose to move forward with the misleading information that seriously can affect our County and the tax payers that are accessed. The lying vote was 7-6 as it was so that should indicate there are Commissioners who are not buying the lies either. I have transcription of Todd Meilke and he contradicted everything you and Mr. Pickett said. Mr. Pickett even deferred to you, I really wonder why?

Commissioner Walde was correct, the public does not trust people like you to give us the honest truth. You are obviously so intent on pushing through something the public does not want you stretch the truth to push it through, regardless! This is a bald face lie to everyone!

Regards,
Tom and Pepai Whipple

Sent from my iPad

On Jul 15, 2025, at 10:01 AM, Pickett, Paul <paul.pickett@clallamcountywa.gov> wrote:

I will add that your personal attack was unnecessary, rude, and unethical.

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Paul Pickett
Charter Review Commissioner, District 2

From: Richards, Ron <ron.richards@clallamcountywa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 9:21 AM
To: pepalapu@sbcglobal.net <pepalapu@sbcglobal.net>; Gores, Loni <loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov>
Cc: Pickett, Paul <paul.pickett@clallamcountywa.gov>; Mielke, Todd <Todd.Mielke@clallamcountywa.gov>; Sarmiento, Nina <Nina.Sarmiento@clallamcountywa.gov>; Holy, Christy <christy.holy@clallamcountywa.gov>; Eric Fehrmann <efehrm_3@hotmail.com>; normagene@olympus.net <normagene@olympus.net>
Subject: Clallam County Budget

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Whipple:

The "lies" you accuse Mr. Pickett of making in the email you sent to the Charter Review Commission last night, you misstate; they are not lies; and I, not Mr. Pickett, should have been accused of having made them. Here's where this situation all started.

In the Question and Answer document the Water Committee submitted, which I authored to a significant degree, the following statement was made:

"The county's Current Expense budget for 2025 showed a beginning fund balance of \$13,404,238 and an ending fund balance of \$14,131,925. That means there is a surplus for rainy day situations of over \$13 Million dollars and growing."

Mr. Mielke jumped on the word "surplus" in this statement to suggest we were saying there was a general fund surplus of \$13,000,000, which as I interpreted him to say meant there was a \$13,000,000 dollar excess of income over expenditures in the current expense fund each year. I think it is very clear from the Q & A statement that we were not saying that. What we said was that there is an amount of money (whether you call it a "surplus", or a "balance", or a "reserve", or whatever) for rainy day situations of over \$13 Million dollars and growing. This is all very true.

Mr. Mielke went on to say some people have advocated that we have a reserve equal to 25% of annual revenues. Checking on that assertion, I have found that according to the National Association of Counties, the Government Finance Officers Association recommends a reserve of 16.7% of annual revenues. From the figures presented below, you can see Clallam County's reserve exceeds that figure by between \$3,832,366 and \$4,559,964. Various arguments can be made whether the 16.7% figure should be more or less (and whether people are being taxed too much if the figure is excessive). Arguments can also be made that the current situation in Washington, D.C., creates some question as to what future revenues might be. But I think it is clear from these figures that what we said was very true, and that there are sufficient funds in the county budget to fund the proposed Water Resources Specialist's contract. I also believe the urgency of our water situation is tantamount to a situation that would justify the use of rainy-day funds for the proposed contract, even if such a fund were at its minimum recommended value.

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

Sincerely,

Ron Richards
360-477-5367

Clallam County Predicted Revenues from 2025 Budget: \$57,317,139

16.7 % of 2025 Predicted Revenues: \$9,571,962

Excess of Clallam County actual reserves over GFOA recommended local government's reserves based on 2024 Ending Fund Balance: \$13,404,328 - \$9,571,962 = \$3,832,366

Excess of Clallam County actual reserves over GFOA recommended local government's reserves based on predicted 2025 Ending Fund Balance: \$14,131,926 - \$9,571,962 = \$4,559,964

	Predicted Ending Fund Balance	Actual Ending Fund Balance
2022	\$10,135,834	\$11,831,000
2023	\$10,505,289	\$13,127,039
2024	\$10,452,424	\$13,404,328
2025	\$14,131,926	?

Gores, Loni

From: Sarmiento, Nina
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 7:34 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Cc: Pickett, Paul; Holy, Christy; Richards, Ron
Subject: Minutes for July 9th water meeting
Attachments: July 9th Water Committee Minutes.docx

Hi Loni,

These minutes are late, I apologise for them being so late. Thanks for the reminder. I cc'd the committee members so they can respond to you asap if there are edits. I appreciate you getting the minutes out to the rest of the committee after commissioner Pickett approves them.

Thank you!!

Nina

*Nina Sarmiento
Charter Review Commission
District 3*

Clallam County Charter Review Commission
Water Committee Meeting, Wednesday July 9th, 2025.

Commissioners in attendance: Ron Richards, Paul Pickett, Nina Sarmiento. Commissioner Sarmiento taking notes.

Call to order at 9:03 am

Action – The agenda was approved and the minutes from the July 2nd meeting were approved.

Public Comment – None

Business items - Final edits were made to the charter amendment and recommendation (job description).

- Going back to a longer amendment as previously proposed to address concerns of the public, the extra words are consistent with word counts for other county positions outlined in the charter, see FAQ.
- Editing the recommendation of a job description drafted by commissioner Sarmiento using public comments and a current job description for whatcom county hydrogeologist position.
- At the next BOCC meeting the final draft resolution, amendment document, and the recommendation document will be shared to the commission, currently in step 2.
- Final editing the FAQ document Ron first drafted.

Public comment 11:35: none

Adjourned: 11:36

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Thursday, July 17, 2025 4:28 PM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Cc: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water Committee Meeting Notice - July 21
Attachments: 07-21-25 CRC Water Committee Agenda Full Packet.pdf

CRC,

Attached is the Water Committee meeting notice for July 21:

- 1) Water Committee meeting notice on July 21 at 1 p.m. at NOLS

The notices have been posted on the County website at the following links:

CRC page: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/210/Charter-Review-Commission-CRC>

County homepage: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/>

I've also emailed to the press/media, posted on the BOCC office door and the courthouse public notice board.

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

July 21, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

**North Olympic Library System, Margaret Coffey Room, 2210 South Peabody Street,
Port Angeles**

Agenda

- Meeting called to order.
- Approve agenda for the meeting and minutes of last meeting.
- First Public Comments
- Review and edit draft of Recommendation
- Discuss and make decisions regarding next Charter Review Commission meeting
- Second Public Comments
- Next steps
- Adjourn

Zoom:

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 844 6619 9096 and passcode: 497060 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84466199096?pwd=xKR5iAvUPx6OCCLatZnKzJsnWI0kfS.1>

and use meeting ID: 844 6619 9096 and passcode: 497060

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.



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Water Committee has scheduled a Water Committee meeting to be held on July 21, 2025 at 1 p.m. at North Olympic Library System, Margaret Coffey Room, 2210 South Peabody Street, Port Angeles.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and consider actions regarding the proposed Charter amendment for a County Water Resources Specialist and the associated draft Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

Zoom:

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 844 6619 9096 and passcode: 497060 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to listen to the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84466199096?pwd=xKR5iAvUPx6OCCLatZnKzJsnWl0kfS.1> and use meeting ID: 844 6619 9096 and passcode: 497060

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 17th day of July, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loni Gores". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Loni Gores, MMC
Clerk to the Charter Review Commission

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 11:26 AM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Cc: Gores, Loni
Subject: Press Release - For and Against Committee Coroner
Attachments: For and against committees for Coroner.pdf

See attached press release issued out by the BOCC today. Deadline to request to serve on the committee is **Monday, July 28 ,2025 at 8 a.m.**

"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*



MARK OZIAS, District 1
RANDY JOHNSON, District 2
MIKE FRENCH, District 3, Chair

Board of Clallam County Commissioners

223 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Port Angeles, WA 98362-3015
360.417.2256 Fax: 360.417.2493
E-mail: loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov

Todd Mielke, County Administrator

PRESS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

Voters' Guide committee sought for November 5, 2025 General Election

The Board of Commissioners is seeking individuals to serve on "For" and "Against" Committees to draft voters' guide arguments for the November 5, 2025 General Election.

Committee members must reside within the district they will be preparing "for" or "against" statements.

Clallam's online guide and printed voter pamphlet includes a wealth of information designed to help voters better understand the voting process and measures when casting their ballots.

Each measure appearing in the guide and pamphlet includes the official ballot title, explanatory statement, and the arguments "for" and "against" the measure.

Individuals are needed to serve on the following committees:

- **"For" and "Against" Committees regarding Coroner duties**

Interested parties should contact the Clerk of the Board of Commissioners by **8 a.m., Monday, July 28, 2025.** Email loni.gores@clallamcountywa.gov or call 360-417-2256 if interested.
Please include your full name, voter registration address, and phone number.

"For" and "Against" Statements will be due to the Clallam County Auditor no later than August 12, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

Information on "For" and "Against" Committees can be found in the Elections Guide for Jurisdictions & Candidates at <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/164/Ballot-Measures>

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Cc: Gores, Loni
Subject: Town Hall Meetings Committee Meeting Notice - July 30
Attachments: 07-30-25 Town Hall Meetings Committee Agenda Full Copy.pdf

CRC,

Attached is the Town Hall Meetings Committee meeting notice for July 30:

- 1) Town Hall Meetings Committee meeting notice on July 30 at 9 a.m. at BOCC Board Room 160

The notices have been posted on the County website at the following links:

CRC page: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/210/Charter-Review-Commission-CRC>

County homepage: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/>

I've also emailed to the press/media, posted on the BOCC office door and the courthouse public notice board.

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 Town Hall Meetings Committee
July 30, 2025 at 9 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 goals and objectives
- Assignment of action items for next meeting if necessary
- Establish next meeting date
- Public comment

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

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.



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Town Hall Meetings Committee has scheduled a committee meeting to be held on July 30, 2025 at 9 a.m. in the Board of Commissioners Board Room 160, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss and consider actions regarding the proposed Charter amendment for Town Hall Meetings.

Zoom:

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 <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 21st day of July, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loni Gores". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Loni Gores, MMC
Clerk to the Charter Review Commission

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 1:12 PM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Cc: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water notice - Resolution Water Resource Specialist - July 28, 2025
Attachments: CRC Notice of amend water 7-16-25.pdf

FYI only.

This has been posted to the website and sent to the press media.

“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

July 16, 2025

The Clallam County Charter Review Commission will be conducting a meeting on Monday, July 28, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room, 223 East 4th Street, Room 160, Port Angeles, Washington.

At that meeting, the Charter Review Commission will be voting on a Resolution proposing that the Clallam County Charter be amended by adding a third paragraph to Article IV, Section 4.25, Director of the Department of Community Development, said third paragraph to read as follows:

The Director shall retain, through a personal services contract bidding procedure, a Water Resources Specialist, with the necessary expertise to collect, analyze and provide water resources data to all entities managing water resources in the County. The position would have no water management, regulatory, or enforcement authority. Bids shall be ranked by an ad hoc Committee with seven members comprised of: three county employees, one from Department of Community Development; one from the Department of Public Works, one from the Environmental Health Section of County Health and Human Services Department; two citizens selected by the Director; and two citizens selected by the Board of County Commissioners. The bid price may be considered in the ranking, but shall not be determinative of the ranking of a bid. This position shall be contracted for four-year terms, with the first term starting no later than July 1, 2026. Subsequent bids shall be solicited to ensure the position is filled on a continuous basis unless a vacancy develops prior to a contract expiring, in which case bids shall be solicited to ensure the position is filled within four months of the vacancy occurring. The Specialist's position need not be filled unless the annual cost of the winning bid is less than the annual salary of a County Commissioner. If the Specialist's position is not filled at any time for this reason, it shall be re-bid within one year of that occurrence.

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.

****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: Gores, Loni
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 3:51 PM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Cc: Gores, Loni
Subject: Ethics Committee Notice - July 24
Attachments: 07-24-25 CRC Ethics Committee Agenda Full Copy.pdf

CRC,

Attached is the Ethics Committee meeting notice for July 24:

- 1) Ethics Committee meeting notice on July 24 at 1 p.m. at BOCC Board Room 160

The notices have been posted on the County website at the following links:

CRC page: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/210/Charter-Review-Commission-CRC>

County homepage: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/>

I've also emailed to the press/media, posted on the BOCC office door and the courthouse public notice board.

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*



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Ethics Committee has scheduled an Ethics Committee meeting to be held on July 24, 2025 at 1 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 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 <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 21st day of July, 2025


Loni Gores, MMC
Clerk to the Charter Review Commission

Clallam County Charter Review Commission Ethics Committee

July 24, 2025 at 1 p.m.

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

Agenda

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Report from Commissioner Tozzer on Clark County research
- Report from committee members on results of their efforts to establish contract with other Charter Counties and their Ethics Amendments
- Committee future strategy
- Task assignments if any
- Public comment
- Next meeting

Zoom:

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 <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.

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 9:42 AM
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: Land Acquisition Committee Notice - July 28
Attachments: 07-28-25 CRC Land Acquisition Committee Agenda Full Copy.pdf

CRC,

Attached is the Land Acquisition Committee meeting notice for July 28:

- 1) Land Acquisition Committee meeting notice on July 28 at 1:30 p.m. at BOCC Small Conference Room 150

The notices have been posted on the County website at the following links:

CRC page: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/210/Charter-Review-Commission-CRC>

County homepage: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/>

I've also emailed to the press/media, posted on the BOCC office door and the courthouse public notice board.

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*



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Land Acquisition Committee has scheduled a Land Acquisition Committee meeting to be held on July 28, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners Small Conference Room 150, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Land Acquisition issue raised by CRC Commissioners and Citizens and consider the possibility of a Charter amendment or recommendation.

Zoom:

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 873 4384 8004 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87343848004> and use meeting ID: 873 4384 8004 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 22nd day of July, 2025

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

Loni Gores, MMC
Clerk to the Charter Review Commission

Clallam County Charter Review Commission Land Acquisition Committee
July 28, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.
Board of Commissioner Small Conference Room 150, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA

Agenda

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Election of Chair and Record Keeper
- Overview of Last Land Acquisition Resolution
- Public Comment
- Framing Our Task
- Discussing Information and Issues to Research
- Volunteering for Research
- Public Comment
- Scheduling Next Meeting

Zoom:

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom audio only, call 253-215-8782 and use meeting ID: 873 4384 8004 and passcode: 12345 and use *9 to raise your hand.

If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom video conference, visit <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87343848004> and use meeting ID: 873 4384 8004 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.

Gores, Loni

From: Barbara Vanderwerf <bnb@olypen.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 23, 2025 10:45 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Clallam County Water Resources Specialist

[You don't often get email from bnb@olypen.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To Clallam County Commissioners:

I am in support of the position of Water Resources Specialist to be created as advised by the Charter Review Committee.

Let's get ahead of the curve during this time of dwindling water resources and proposed population growth and development.

Thank you,
Barbara VanderWerf
82 Seaward Dr
Sequim WA 98382
(360) 683-2206

Gores, Loni

From: john worthington <worthingtonjw2u@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 9:39 AM
To: loni.gores@clallamcounty.wa.gov; Gores, Loni
Subject: Fw: Proposed Charter Amendment to CRC Ethics Committee

From: john worthington <worthingtonjw2u@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 5:35 PM
To: loni.gores@clallamcounty.wa.gov <loni.gores@clallamcounty.wa.gov>; Jeff Tozzer <jeff.tozzer@gmail.com>; Bill.Benedict@clallamcountywa.gov <bill.benedict@clallamcountywa.gov>; Ron.Cameron@clallamcountywa.gov <Ron.Cameron@clallamcountywa.gov>; Chris.Noble@clallamcountywa.gov <Chris.Noble@clallamcountywa.gov>; Rod.Fleck@clallamcountywa.gov <Rod.Fleck@clallamcountywa.gov>; Cathy.Walde@clallamcountywa.gov <Cathy.Walde@clallamcountywa.gov>; Boughton, Dee <dee.boughton@clallamcountywa.gov>
Subject: Proposed Charter Amendment to CRC Ethics Committee

Hello,

A good place to start.

Whereas, pursuant to ARTICLE XI of the Clallam County Charter , CHARTER REVIEW, AMENDMENT AND REPEAL and ARTICLE XI 11.10.30, the Clallam County Charter Review Commission has reviewed the Clallam County Charter , and

Whereas the Charter Review Commission finds the Clallam County Charter is not adequate or suitable to the needs of the county, because the civil and criminal penalties for ethics violations have been removed , and

Whereas the Charter Review Commission finds the original ethics ordinance 28 from 12/13/1977, which contained civil and criminal penalties for ethics violations, to be adequate and suitable to the needs of the county, and

Whereas the Charter Review Commission finds it appropriate to restore ordinance 28 from 12/13/1977 to its original language, the Charter Review Commission proposes an amendment to the County Charter be submitted to the public for a public vote.

1977

C . C . C . 3 . 01.060 Enforcement and Penalties . (1) Upon finding reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of this chapter has occurred, the Prosecuting Attorney may bring an action in the County's Superior Court, and in such action may recover the following damages on behalf of the County from each such person in addition to any other damages provided by law: (a) Civil penalty not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00),

or an amount not exceeding three (3) times the economic value of anything received or sought in violation of this chapter, whichever is greater; Any damages sustained by the County which me caused by Civil penalty of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per day for each day that a properly completed statement or report required by C.C.C. 3.OI.0110 has not been filed within the time required, up to a maximum of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00). Any sanction imposed under this chapter is in addition to and not in lieu of any other penalty or sanction that may be imposed according to law or equity, including removal or recall from office, employee disciplinary action, or

injunctive relief to insure that any violation of this chapter cease and desist and/or that any statement or other information required by this chapter be filed. (b) the conduct constituting the violation; and, (c) (2) C.C.C. 3. 01.070. Severability. If any section, sub-section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this chapter is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions of this chapter; it being hereby expressly declared that this chapter and each section, sub-section, paragraph, sentence, clause, and phrase thereof would have been adopted irrespective of the fact that any one (1) or more other sections, subsections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid or unconstitutional. C.C.C. 3.01.080. Effective Date. This chapter shall take effect sixty (60) days after adoption.

In the alternative, the Charter Review restores the ethics penalties section from ordinance 105 2/13/1979.

(13) Violators of the Code of Ethics shall be subject to civil penalties under C.C.C. 3.01.060, but may be subject to criminal liability to the extent that their conduct violates RCW 9A.68.010 - .050 and 9A.80.010, and to such extent criminal penalties shall be imposed in accordance with state law.

Whereas the Charter Review Commission finds the City of Port Angeles city codes provide suitable and adequate protection for the County Citizens, the Charter Review Commission proposes a Charter amendment adding the following to the Clallam County Charter:

Legal Representation:

Definitions.

"Employee" means any person who is or has been employed by the County.

"Official" means any person who is serving or has served as an elected County official, and any person who is serving or has served as an appointed member of any County Board, Commission, or Committee.

Legal representation.

As a condition of service or employment with the Clallam County, the City shall provide to an official or employee, subject to the conditions and requirements of this chapter, and notwithstanding the fact that such official or employee may have concluded service or employment with the County, such legal representations as may be reasonably necessary to defend a claim or law suit filed against such official or employee resulting from any conduct, act, or omission of such official or employee performed or omitted on behalf of the County in their capacity as a County official or employee, which act or omission is within the scope of their service or employment with the County.

Except as may be provided in any applicable policy of municipal insurance, such legal representation shall be provided by the County Prosecutor or by an attorney designated by the County Prosecutor.

- **Exclusions.**

The obligations assumed under this chapter by the County and the County Prosecutor shall not apply to:

Any dishonest, fraudulent, criminal, or malicious act of an official or employee;

Any act of an official or employee which is not performed on behalf of the County

Any act which is outside the scope of an official's or employee's service or employment with the County; or

Any lawsuit brought by or on behalf of the County.

The provisions of this chapter shall have no force or effect with respect to any accident, occurrence, or circumstance for which the County or the official or employee is insured against loss or damages under the terms of any valid insurance policy

- **Determination of exclusion.**

The determination of whether an official or employee is entitled to a defense by the County under the terms of this chapter shall be made by the County Prosecutor. There shall be no appeal from such determination, except to the Superior Court by means of an action for declaratory judgment.

- **Representation and payment of claims—Conditions.**

The provisions of this chapter shall be applicable, provided that the following conditions are met:

In the event of any incident or cause of conduct potentially giving rise to a claim for damage, or the commencement of a suit, the official or employee involved shall, as soon as practicable, give the County Prosecutor written notice thereof, identifying the official or employee involved, all information known to the official or employee with respect to the date, time, place, and circumstances surrounding the incident or conduct giving rise to the claim or law suit, as well as the names and addresses of all persons allegedly injured or otherwise damaged thereby, and the names and addresses of all witnesses.

Upon receipt thereof, the official or employee shall forthwith deliver any claim, demand, notice, or summons or other process relating to any such incident or conduct to the County Prosecutor, and shall cooperate with the County Prosecutor or an attorney designated by the County Prosecutor, and, upon request, assist in making settlements of any suits and enforcing any claim for any right of subrogation against any persons or organizations that may be liable to the County because of any damage or claim of loss arising from the incident or course of conduct.

Such officials or employees shall attend interviews, depositions, hearings and trials and shall assist in securing and giving evidence and obtaining attendance of witnesses; and

Such officials or employees shall not accept nor voluntarily make any payment, assume any obligation, or incur any expense; other than for first aid to others at the time of any incident or course of conduct giving rise to any such claim, loss, or damage.

Such officials or employees may provide their own legal representation as long as there is a written agreement with the County that the officials' or employees' counsel will cooperate with the defer to

the lead role of the County Prosecutor. The expense associated with such additional counsel shall be the responsibility of the individual official or employee.

- **Effect of compliance with conditions.**

If legal representation of an official or employee is undertaken by the County Prosecutor, all of the conditions of representation are met, and a judgment is entered against the official or employee, or a settlement made, the County shall pay such judgment or settlement; provided, that the County Prosecutor may, at its discretion, appeal as necessary such judgment.

- **Failure to comply with conditions.**

In the event that any official or employee fails or refuses to comply with any of the conditions of section then all of the provisions of this chapter shall be inapplicable, and have no force or effect with respect to any such claim or litigation.

- **Reimbursement of incurred expenses.**

If the County Prosecutor determines that an official or employee does not come within the provisions of this chapter, and a court of competent jurisdiction later determines that such claim does come within the provisions of this chapter, then the County Prosecutor shall pay any judgment rendered against the official or employee and reasonable attorney's fees incurred in defending against the claim. The County Prosecutor shall pay any attorney's fees incurred in obtaining the determination that such claim is covered by the provisions of this chapter.

If the County Prosecutor determines that a claim against a County official or employee does come within the provisions of this chapter, and a court of competent jurisdiction later finds that such claim does not come within the provisions of this chapter, then the County shall be reimbursed for costs or expenses incurred in obtaining the determination that such claim is not covered by the provisions of this chapter.

- **Conflict with provisions of insurance policies.**

Nothing contained in this chapter shall be construed to modify or amend any provision of any policy of insurance where any County official or employee thereof is the named insured. In the event of any conflict between this chapter and the provisions of any such policy of insurance, the policy provisions shall be controlling; provided, however, that nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to limit or restrict any employee's or official's right to full coverage pursuant to this chapter, it being the intent of this chapter and section to provide complete coverage outside and beyond insurance policies which may be in effect, while not compromising the terms and conditions of such policies by any conflicting provision contained in this chapter.

- **Pending claims.**

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to any pending claim or lawsuit against an official or employee, or any such claim or law suit hereafter filed, irrespective of the date of the events or circumstances which are the basis of such claim or law suit.

Gores, Loni

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 12:58 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Online Form Submission #7760 for Contact the Clerk of the Board

Contact the Clerk of the Board

First Name	Mary
Last Name	Foster
Email	maryfoster@rainierconnect.com
Phone	3607907268
Subject	Water Resources Specialist
Comments	I strongly support the proposed Clallam County Charter amendment for a Water Resources Specialist position. Thank you.

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: Gores, Loni
Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2025 4:23 PM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Cc: Gores, Loni
Subject: Ethics Committee Meeting Notice - August 12
Attachments: 08-12-25 CRC Ethics Committee Agenda Full Copy.pdf

CRC,

Attached is the Ethics Committee meeting notice for August 12:

- 1) Ethics Committee meeting notice on August 12 at 1 p.m. at BOCC Small Conference Room 150.

The notices have been posted on the County website at the following links:

CRC page: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/210/Charter-Review-Commission-CRC>

County homepage: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/>

I've also emailed to the press/media, posted on the BOCC office door and the courthouse public notice board.

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*



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE

CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Ethics Committee has scheduled an Ethics Committee meeting to be held on August 12, 2025 at 1 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners Small Conference Room 150, 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 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 <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 24th day of July, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loni Gores". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Loni Gores, MMC
Clerk to the Charter Review Commission

Clallam County Charter Review Commission Ethics Committee

August 12, 2025 at 1 p.m.

Board of Commissioner Small Conference Room 150, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA

Agenda

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Review responses from PAO and Clark County
- Discuss conflicts of interest
- Review Language to setup an Ethics Board
- Task assignments if any
- Public comment
- Next meeting

Zoom:

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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.

Gores, Loni

From: dale@djconsult.net
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2025 12:14 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: CRC Public Comment for the July 28, 2025 Meeting

Hi Loni. Here is my public comment for the July 28, 2025 CRC Meeting:

I continue to be concerned about near- and long-term water availability on the Olympic Peninsula and my Dungeness watershed and I recommend voting YES during the 4th Step vote.

Why I'm in support of a Water Steward:

- **HEADED TOWARD CRISIS:** Make no mistake, we are rapidly moving toward water crises on the peninsula: increasing drought, loss of snowpack, reduced surface and groundwater supplies, increased development, and more.
- **PAST COOPERATION/FUTURE DISPUTES:** There has been historical cooperation on managing water, but this is going to be severely tested; the “on-paper water rights” that have been allocated will likely exceed the available water in the near future. This is a situation we need to get out in front of and for which the Water Steward position is designed to address.
- **DATA GAPS/INDEPENDENT SOLUTIONS:** There are many parties involved in water management but no one leading the charge to fill in the substantial data gaps and bring an unbiased approach to putting forward solutions to the water shortages coming to the peninsula, something the Water Steward position is designed to address. This position is supported by the leading group in our watershed, the Dungeness River Management Team.
- **BUILD/BUILD/BUILD:** Significant high-priced housing developments including the 650 homes being planned for the resort community at the John Wayne Marina have been green-lighted or will be approved partially because of water projections based on rearview mirror analyses due to lack of climate-change related data, something the Water Steward position is designed to address.
- **LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE:** While there is water in the rivers now, we may be facing serious water shortages as early as this October. The CRC and Board of County Commissioners have a duty to get out in front of this and give the citizens an opportunity to vote on the Water Steward position in November. If predictions are accurate and the position is on the ballot, citizens will be able to take action at the voting booth. If this position is not moved forward by the CRC this coming Monday, that option will be taken off the table.

Thank you.

Dale Jarvis, District 1

Gores, Loni

From: Katja Bridwell <katbrid@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, July 25, 2025 5:58 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Proposed Water Steward

[You don't often get email from katbrid@msn.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I am unable to attend the meeting Monday night but would like to officially comment that I strongly support Clallam County hiring a Water Steward. As an environmental scientist, I am very concerned about water use and future availability of water. I observe many abuses of water use (as our antiquated water laws allow), planning for large new housing developments, and very little regard for impacts on wildlife and our natural environment. Our local situation is in serious need of better water allocation and management- for now and for our future.

Katherine Bridwell
Sequim, WA
Sent from my iPhone

Gores, Loni

From: Henry Howe <hap47howe1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 26, 2025 8:00 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: WATER RIGHTS, GAYLE BAKER

You don't often get email from hap47howe1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

cLALLAM COUNTY WATER RIGHTS SHOULD REMAIN IN THE COUNTY not THE NATIVE AMERICANS!!!!!! THEY BELONG TO ALL.

Gores, Loni

From: Mike <sovereign4freedom@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 26, 2025 8:08 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: We strongly object to this "water specialist" outrage~!

Hello~!

Please forward our strongest objections to this new, likely unconstitutional, "water resource specialist" position AND any & all tax increases to the good folks of our community~!!! We see what the CRC has done and we know exactly who the underhanded Individuals are who have shoved this outrage upon our already struggling community, so we will be working to remove them from government and to also criminally prosecute them for any crimes that they have committed~!

Have a nice day~!

Sincerely,
Mike & Lisa

<P>

Gores, Loni

From: Elizabeth Schilling <schillingelizabeth@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 26, 2025 8:18 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water Steward Proposal

Hi Loni -

I really feel compelled to voice my opinion on this matter. I lived in the San Francisco Bay Area during droughts, and if there had been better preparation ahead of time, the region would have done much better in addressing the issue. I feel we in Clallam County have the opportunity to get in front of this in order to better prepare by having an official Water Steward position - really an office and all it entails. Information and thoughtful preparation can only help. I would really like to see this proposal to have a Water Steward be put to the vote as soon as pragmatically possible with all needed materials describing why.

If you need anything else from me, please let me know.

Thank you so much,

Elizabeth Schilling
822 Clark Rd.
Sequim, WA 98382
206-434-2634

Gores, Loni

From: Shannon Gaydeski <yellowfinns@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 26, 2025 12:21 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: CRC: Water Resources Specialist comment

[You don't often get email from yellowfinns@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To the Charter Review Commission:

Please reject the amendment to make a permanent position of Water Resources Specialist within the county charter. Clallam County taxpayers do not want to foot the bill for a mandated advisory position.

Thank you,
Shannon Gaydeski
506 Conley Rd
Beaver, WA 98305

Gores, Loni

From: Joan Cotta <jcotta@ymail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 26, 2025 1:07 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Comment on Water Steward position - Comment for the CRC

I am a resident of Sequim and deeply concerned about long-term water availability here and throughout Clallam County. I have spoken with the City of Sequim regarding the sustainability of our aquifers in light of ongoing development. The City has assured me that we have sufficient water for years to come. However, I remain concerned.

Our water supply depends on rain and snowmelt, and with less snow and rising temperatures due to climate change, this critical resource may become increasingly limited. How will this shrinking supply be managed equitably for all county residents?

I support the idea of appointing a **county water steward or water manager**—someone who can work collaboratively with cities, tribes, and stakeholder groups to develop and implement a coordinated, long-term water management plan. Our future depends on responsible stewardship.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Joan Cotta
Sequim, WA

Gores, Loni

From: Dianne Salyer <salyerdianne@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 26, 2025 4:20 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water Steward

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

Hello, Loni,

I've been hearing about the possibility of a water steward for this County, and I want to add my voice - GREATLY in favor of it. Water is such a valuable commodity that we are losing, and we need so much more information about the water available before we have builders adding to a situation that could end up dire. How many aquifers are there? Are the legal divisions for the water usage adequate? Farmers generally get first choice. Are they watering efficiently or are they watering with sprinklers that put water in the air, get evaporated by the sun and blown by the wind? We do have a farmer in Dungeness (small farmer) with his own well, plus he uses the well for the other residents for personal use. Sometimes his sprinklers go all day, sometimes all night, and they are not efficient. I think we need lots of information on the amount of water available and how important it is to water wisely, thus a steward, who would do much more than that, I'm sure.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dianne Salyer

Gores, Loni

From: Sarah <triplesconsultants2025@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 27, 2025 1:25 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Charter Amendment Proposal for July 28 Vote – Ethics Code Enforcement and Public Accountability for Commissioners
Attachments: 7.28.2025 Charter Review Ethics Ballot Proposal Resolution.docx; 7.28.2025 Charter Review Ethics Ballot Proposal Resolution.pdf

Dear Ms. Gores,

Please forward the following correspondence to the full Charter Review Commission in advance of the July 28, 2025, meeting. I respectfully request that this proposed Charter amendment be considered under “Business Items” and voted on at that meeting so it may, if adopted, be submitted to the Auditor by the August 5, 2025, deadline for the general election ballot.

Under Charter Section 14.30, the Commission has clear authority to propose amendments for the ballot by majority vote. This proposal includes full ballot language and explanatory rationale and responds directly to public concerns and ethics committee discussions regarding gaps in transparency and enforcement mechanisms related to County Commissioners’ roles in nonprofit organizations receiving County support. SEE ATTACHED: PDF and Word Doc Formats

Addressing Potential Concerns

I recognize some Commissioners may have concerns about voting on an amendment brought forward by a public individual or about duplicating existing ethics laws. However:

- Charter Section 14.30 explicitly empowers the full Commission to vote to submit amendments regardless of origin provided there is clear language and rationale.
- This proposal is not duplicative of RCWs. While state law (e.g., RCW 42.23) prohibits personal financial gain, it does not provide a local mechanism for evaluating or recording substantiated conflicts involving influence, governance roles, or abstention failures.
- This amendment does not prohibit Commissioners from engaging in nonprofit service. It requires transparency and recusal where County funding or support is involved.
- This approach protects both the public and the officials, reducing the risk of legal exposure and clarifying when County-funded defense may be unavailable under D&O insurance if actions fall outside good faith official duties.
- This language includes no removal authority; all voter rights are preserved. The Ethics Panel cannot discipline or remove elected officials only document substantiated ethics violations for the public record.

Rather than generating unnecessary cost, this proposal reduces ambiguity, limits legal risk, and aligns Clallam County with ethics best practices supported by MRSC and NACO guidance.

Proposed Charter Amendment: Ethics Enforcement and Conflict Disclosure (County Commissioners)

Ballot Title (Suggested):

Shall the Clallam County Charter be amended to establish an independent Ethics Panel to review ethics complaints against County Commissioners, require public disclosure of substantiated violations, and require recusal in matters involving nonprofits they are affiliated with that receive county support?

New Section 12.70 – Ethics Enforcement and Conflict Disclosure (County Commissioners):**1. Independent Ethics Panel.**

There shall be an independent Ethics Panel, established by ordinance, composed of Clallam County residents not currently holding elected or appointed county office. The panel shall be authorized to receive and review complaints involving elected County Commissioners only and determine whether actions violate the county's adopted ethics code required under Charter Section 12.60.

2. Complaint Process.

Any individual may file a written ethics complaint. The Ethics Panel shall review the complaint, notify the respondent, and issue findings. Substantiated violations shall be documented and filed in the public record by the Clerk of the Board of Commissioners.

3. Conflict Recusal.

Any Commissioner holding a fiduciary or governance role in a nonprofit receiving Clallam County funds, contracts, or in-kind support must recuse themselves from related votes, deliberations, or budget recommendations. Failure to recuse constitutes an ethics violation subject to documentation under this section.

4. Legal Representation Clarification.

This section shall not expand or alter Clallam County's obligations under law or insurance policies to defend Commissioners. Where the Ethics Panel determines that a Commissioner acted outside the scope of their official duties or not in good faith, legal representation may be declined under the county's D&O or other coverage policies, as allowed by law.

5. Voter Oversight Maintained.

Nothing in this section shall authorize removal of any elected official. Removal, recall, or disqualification from office remains the exclusive purview of the voters or processes established by state law.

Supporting References:

- **Clallam County Charter Section 12.60 (Ethics Code requirement):**
<https://clallam.county.codes/Charter/12.60>
- **RCW 42.23 – Code of Ethics for Municipal Officers:**
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=42.23>
- **RCW 36.16 – County Officers Generally:** <https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=36.16>
- **RCW 42.52 – Ethics in Public Service (State officers, for reference):**
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=42.52>
- **MRSC Guidance on Nonprofit Conflicts:** <https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/governance/conflicts-of-interest/conflicts-of-interest-for-nonprofit-board-members>

Procedural Note:

This proposal is fully drafted and ready for adoption, and there is sufficient time for the Commission to:

- **Vote to adopt** this amendment language at the July 28 meeting, and
- **Submit it to the County Auditor by August 5, 2025**, in accordance with Charter Section 14.30, to appear on the general election ballot.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter and your continued work to improve transparency and accountability in county governance.

Kind regards,
Dr. Sarah Huling, EdD, MBA
Forks, WA
triplesconsultants2025@gmail.com

Sarah Huling 7-27-25

RESOLUTION COVER SHEET

Please include this form with each resolution.

Name of District: Charter Review Commission

District Address: 223 East 4th Street, Ste. 4, Port Angeles, WA 98362

Date of Election: November 4, 2025

Contact Person/Title: Susan Fisch- 2025 Charter Review Commission Chair

Contact Phone: 303-241-0992 **Email:** Susan.Fisch@clallamcountywa.gov

Attorney for District: Duncan Fobes, PBFL - Patterson Buchanan Fobes & Leitch, Inc., P.S.

Attorney Phone: Cell 206-418-9783; Work 206-462-6704 **Email:** dkf@pattersonbuchanan.com

Type of Election (levy, bond, lid lift, etc.): Ballot measure for proposed amendment to the Clallam County Charter

Please state the pass/fail requirement for this measure (simple majority, supermajority, 60% plus validation, etc.) as determined by your legal counsel:

Simple majority.

Questions?

Clallam County Elections Division

Phone: 360-417-2217

Email: elections@clallamcountywa.gov

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission
Resolution Number CRC 2

Resolution Proposing Charter Amendment Regarding Ethics Enforcement and Conflict Disclosure for
County Commissioners

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

1. Article XII of the Clallam County Charter, Section 12.60, requires the adoption of a Code of Ethics but lacks procedures for enforcement, documentation of violations, or public transparency concerning elected officials' conduct.
2. Concerns have been raised by the public and members of the Charter Review Commission regarding County Commissioners serving in governance roles for nonprofit organizations (NGOs) that receive county funds or in-kind contributions, and the potential conflicts of interest this creates.
3. Existing state laws (RCW 42.23 and RCW 36.16) and administrative policies provide general ethical guidelines but do not establish a local mechanism for independent review or documentation of substantiated ethics violations specific to Clallam County Commissioners.
4. A clear, independent, and locally administered Ethics Panel would increase public trust in local government while preserving elected officials' rights and ensuring that only the voters may remove them from office.
5. This amendment would not prohibit Commissioners from civic or nonprofit involvement but would require recusal from decisions that may present conflicts of interest and ensure any substantiated ethics violations are publicly documented for voter consideration.
6. Clarifying that legal defense under county-provided insurance policies only applies when Commissioners act in good faith and within their official capacity may reduce unnecessary legal costs and reinforce responsible governance.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that Article XII of the Clallam County Charter be amended by adding a new Section 12.70 as follows:

New Section 12.70 – Ethics Enforcement and Conflict Disclosure (County Commissioners)

Independent Ethics Panel. There shall be an independent Ethics Panel, established by ordinance, composed of Clallam County residents not currently serving in elected or appointed county office. The panel shall review alleged violations of the adopted ethics code as required in Charter Section 12.60, with authority limited to reviewing the conduct of elected Clallam County Commissioners.

Complaint Process. Any individual may submit a written ethics complaint against a County Commissioner. The Ethics Panel shall evaluate the complaint, provide notice, conduct a review, and issue findings. Substantiated ethics violations shall be documented and made part of the public record maintained by the Clerk of the Board.

Mandatory Recusal for Conflicts. Any County Commissioner who holds a financial, governance, or fiduciary role with a nonprofit organization that receives direct or indirect support from Clallam County

through funding, contracts, or in-kind contributions shall recuse themselves from any deliberation, recommendation, or vote involving that organization. Failure to recuse shall constitute a documented ethics violation.

Clarification on Insurance and Indemnity. Nothing in this section expands or alters Clallam County's obligation to defend or indemnify Commissioners under any insurance policy or law. Commissioners found by the Ethics Panel to have acted outside their official duties or not in good faith may not be entitled to county-provided legal representation, as determined by the terms of the county's insurance coverage and applicable state law.

Preservation of Voter Authority. This section does not authorize the Ethics Panel to remove any elected official from office. Disqualification from office or removal remains subject to existing state law or voter action through the electoral process.

Further, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Charter Sections 11.20.10 and 11.20.20 and Clallam County Code 37.10.020, calls for:

1. The Clerk of the 2025 Charter Review Commission is to cause this Resolution, and five copies of the same, to be filed with and registered by the Clallam County Auditor, along with the Resolution Coversheet required by the Auditor.
2. For the Charter amendment proposed by this Resolution 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 28th day of July, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

Alex Franc, District 1 Commissioner

Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

Cathay Walde, District 3 Commissioner

Sarah Huling 7-27-25

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Contact Person/Title: Susan Fisch- 2025 Charter Review Commission Chair

Contact Phone: 303-241-0992 **Email:** Susan.Fisch@clallamcountywa.gov

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Simple majority.

Questions?

Clallam County Elections Division

Phone: 360-417-2217

Email: elections@clallamcountywa.gov

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission
Resolution Number CRC 2

Resolution Proposing Charter Amendment Regarding Ethics Enforcement and Conflict Disclosure for
County Commissioners

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

1. Article XII of the Clallam County Charter, Section 12.60, requires the adoption of a Code of Ethics but lacks procedures for enforcement, documentation of violations, or public transparency concerning elected officials' conduct.
2. Concerns have been raised by the public and members of the Charter Review Commission regarding County Commissioners serving in governance roles for nonprofit organizations (NGOs) that receive county funds or in-kind contributions, and the potential conflicts of interest this creates.
3. Existing state laws (RCW 42.23 and RCW 36.16) and administrative policies provide general ethical guidelines but do not establish a local mechanism for independent review or documentation of substantiated ethics violations specific to Clallam County Commissioners.
4. A clear, independent, and locally administered Ethics Panel would increase public trust in local government while preserving elected officials' rights and ensuring that only the voters may remove them from office.
5. This amendment would not prohibit Commissioners from civic or nonprofit involvement but would require recusal from decisions that may present conflicts of interest and ensure any substantiated ethics violations are publicly documented for voter consideration.
6. Clarifying that legal defense under county-provided insurance policies only applies when Commissioners act in good faith and within their official capacity may reduce unnecessary legal costs and reinforce responsible governance.

Therefore, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission hereby proposes that Article XII of the Clallam County Charter be amended by adding a new Section 12.70 as follows:

New Section 12.70 – Ethics Enforcement and Conflict Disclosure (County Commissioners)

Independent Ethics Panel. There shall be an independent Ethics Panel, established by ordinance, composed of Clallam County residents not currently serving in elected or appointed county office. The panel shall review alleged violations of the adopted ethics code as required in Charter Section 12.60, with authority limited to reviewing the conduct of elected Clallam County Commissioners.

Complaint Process. Any individual may submit a written ethics complaint against a County Commissioner. The Ethics Panel shall evaluate the complaint, provide notice, conduct a review, and issue findings. Substantiated ethics violations shall be documented and made part of the public record maintained by the Clerk of the Board.

Mandatory Recusal for Conflicts. Any County Commissioner who holds a financial, governance, or fiduciary role with a nonprofit organization that receives direct or indirect support from Clallam County

Sarah Huling 7-27-25

through funding, contracts, or in-kind contributions shall recuse themselves from any deliberation, recommendation, or vote involving that organization. Failure to recuse shall constitute a documented ethics violation.

Clarification on Insurance and Indemnity. Nothing in this section expands or alters Clallam County's obligation to defend or indemnify Commissioners under any insurance policy or law. Commissioners found by the Ethics Panel to have acted outside their official duties or not in good faith may not be entitled to county-provided legal representation, as determined by the terms of the county's insurance coverage and applicable state law.

Preservation of Voter Authority. This section does not authorize the Ethics Panel to remove any elected official from office. Disqualification from office or removal remains subject to existing state law or voter action through the electoral process.

Further, the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission, pursuant to Charter Sections 11.20.10 and 11.20.20 and Clallam County Code 37.10.020, calls for:

1. The Clerk of the 2025 Charter Review Commission is to cause this Resolution, and five copies of the same, to be filed with and registered by the Clallam County Auditor, along with the Resolution Coversheet required by the Auditor.
2. For the Charter amendment proposed by this Resolution 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 28th day of July, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

Alex Franc, District 1 Commissioner

Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

Cathay Walde, District 3 Commissioner

Gores, Loni

From: Lisa Schwartz <lisamarie1957@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 27, 2025 6:13 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water Steward

You don't often get email from lisamarie1957@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Loni,

I'm in strong favor of creating a water Stewart position. As the population rapidly grows on the peninsula, we need someone who will have an overview of, and has the experience, insights and knowledge of the needs of our community with regard to the future of our water supply.

Thank you,

Lisa Schwartz, 130 Fircest Dr. Sequim (607)351-7859

Gores, Loni

From: Pamela Caldwell <pandmcalldwell@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2025 8:44 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water Steward

I don't want a water steward. We have voted in a survey and the majority **DO NOT** want one. I don't want anything that raises my taxes. And as a county we can't afford another cost to our Property Taxes or county budget!!

Sincerely,

Pamela Caldwell
1225 Leo Lane
Port Angeles, WA 98363

Gores, Loni

From: Eileencummings <eileencummings1851@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2025 9:59 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Charter Review Commission Water Steward.docx
Attachments: Charter Review Commission Water Steward.docx

[You don't often get email from eileencummings1851@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Please share with all the commission members, thanks, Eileen Cummings

Sent from Eileen Cummings

July 28, 2025

Hello Commissioners,

Thank you for all your work preserving and serving Clallam County. This year has been a disruptive, non-supportive community representation year. I hope you can stay on course, complete the efforts before you and know that there are people like me that support you and the Charter Review Commission.

I want to encourage you to continue to support the establishment of a Water Steward position within Clallam County. Since I have grown up in western Washington, acknowledging water levels diminishing is hard to believe. But we do have a problem, the snow pack is less every year, our Sequim prairie is dryer every year, more people who need water are moving to the peninsula. We need someone to focus solely on Clallam County water supply.

Please continue on the path to establish this new position, it may cost money, but the cost of not being prepared to secure our water supply will cost us more than money.

Sincerely,

Eileen Cummings
890 N Oxford Way
Sequim, WA
360-440-2891
eileencummings1851@gmail.com

Gores, Loni

From: Lois Perry <lomayk@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2025 10:12 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: HRC comment Lois Perry

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

Please add my name as opposed to the planning of a Water Steward position with Clallam County. The community has spoken strongly against the idea, which apparently originated from within the members.

Thank You, Lois Perry 215 Stellar Ridge Ln. Sequim, Wa. 98382

Gores, Loni

From: Dan Abbott <gwipaw@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2025 10:54 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: HRC Comment from Dan Abbott

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

Please add my name as opposed to the planning of a Water Steward position with Clallam County. The community has spoken strongly against the idea, which apparently originated from within the members of the committee.

Thank You,

Dan Abbott

939 Finn Hall Rd, Port Angeles, WA 98362

Gores, Loni

From: Lori Callahan <loriecallahan@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2025 11:39 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Water Resource Specialists

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

District 3 Commissioners,

I am writing to express my concern that, collectively, you are not voting in alignment with the desires of the citizens in District 3, who you were elected to represent.

We simply cannot afford the mandated position of "Water Resources Specialist". Our county is significantly underfunded in public safety and our county commissioners are threatening further cuts if revenue is not raised. The Clallam County Sheriff's Office employed only 0.83 officers per 1,000 residents in 2024. This compares with the Washington state-wide average of 1.35 officers per 1,000 residents. Washington State ranks LAST in the nation for officers per capita.

This public safety issue needs to be rectified before we burden the county's budget with new mandated positions.

Do you really think that we should hire a Water Resources Specialist before we hire another deputy? Please ask the citizens you represent what they think. We trust you to vote accordingly.

Kind regards,

Lori Callahan

Sent from us

Gores, Loni

From: Sue Forde <sue98382@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2025 11:51 AM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Home Rule Charter comment

[You don't often get email from sue98382@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Please pass this to the Home Rule Charter commissioners as my public comment

Dear Commissioners,

I am strongly opposed to the creation of a water steward position for Clallam County.

I am in favor of election of county commissioners by district in the general election.

The HRC is for the purpose of more localized government where the local people are better served. These two issues in particular affect our citizens.

Please listen to the majority of the people who have given you input and consider your decisions to represent the people of Clallam County.

Thank you.

Sue Forde
P. O. Box 3457
Sequim, WA 98382

Sent from my iPhone

Gores, Loni

From: Noble, Chris
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2025 12:38 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Cc: Cameron, Ron; Benedict, Bill; Fleck, Rod; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Subject: Ethics committee notes
Attachments: Ethics Committee Notes 0604.docx; Ethics Committee Notes 0724.docx

Loni,

Please find attached my notes from the Ethics Committee meetings on June 4 and July 24.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Noble

**Clallam County Charter Review Commission
Ethics Committee
Meeting Notes June 4, 2025**

Present in person: Commissioners Cameron, Benedict, Noble, and Tozzer

Present electronically: Commissioner Fleck

Absent: Commissioner Walde

Meeting convened at 1:00

After introductions, Commissioner Tozzer discussed the contents of his June 4 email about the National Association of Counties guide to a County Code of Ethics.

Commissioner Benedict expressed his favorable view of the Pierce County Ethics Commission. He also indicated that during his time as sheriff, he was informed that the Code of Ethics was voluntary and not enforceable as it applied to elected officials.

Commissioner Tozzer said that he believed Clark County's resolution establishing an Ethics Review Board is worth looking at.

The committee was in general agreement that some form of ethics board is needed and should be established by a charter amendment, but that its enforcement powers should be limited to a finding of violation of the ethics code.

Dee Boughton opined that due process would be critical to the operation of an ethics board.

Several documents were mentioned as worthy of the committee's consideration:

RCW 29A.56.110

Clallam County Policy 952

Clallam County Code section 3.01

Meeting adjourned.

**Clallam County Charter Review Commission
Ethics Committee
Meeting Notes July 24, 2025**

Present in person: Commissioners Cameron, Noble, Tozzer, and Walde

Absent: Commissioners Benedict and Fleck

Dee Boughton was also present for a portion of the meeting

Meeting convened at 1:05

Commissioner Tozzer reported on Clark County's creation of an Ethics Review Commission in 2021-22, and his conversation with Clark County Charter Review Commissioner Chuck Green.

The Ethics Review Commission (ERC) has reviewed several complaints

It is modeled after Pierce County

Complaints are submitted to the County Manager

Complaints must be based on first-hand knowledge of the alleged violation

Any finding of a violation must be confirmed to not contradict any collective bargaining agreements

The ERC meets quarterly

Dee Boughton reported on his conversation with the Chief Civil Deputy in the Clark County Prosecutor's Office:

The ERC uses a document titled "business rules" to describe the process for its operations. This document is the equivalent of bylaws, guidelines, or procedures and had to be written by county staff after the passage of the charter amendment establishing the ERC.

Clark County's ethics rules are in a county policy that is referenced in the charter

The ERC is comprised of three members who must be "qualified in the area of ethical conduct in government"

The ERC is administered through the office of the county manager

The Civil Deputy's thoughts about problems Clark County has faced include:

Insufficient staff to get the ERC up and running

The right of appeal, for both the accused and the accuser, is not addressed

Provisions for due process are not addressed

The ERC's process includes a review of the complaint to determine if it warrants a hearing. Several cases have been rejected without a hearing and only one case has gone to a full hearing. That case took over a year to resolve.

Dee also expounded on the situation here in Clallam County where Title 5 of the County Code requires the county to indemnify staff (both appointed and elected). He indicated that research would be required to determine if the county would need to provide legal counsel to the accused even if the process could result in no penalties beyond admonition. He suggested that we should consider provisions for due process and for appeals.

Public comment was received from John Worthington.

The committee then took up the question remanded to it by the CRC of whether County Commissioners should be forbidden from holding a board membership or other position as officer in a non-profit organization that receives any form of funding from the county. There was general agreement in the committee that it may be appropriate to require in the Code of Ethics that County Commissioners recuse themselves from any decisions affecting non-profits on which the Commissioner serves. Commissioners Tozzer and Walde expressed support for a prohibition on serving on such non-profit organizations while Commissioners Cameron and Noble expressed serious concerns about such a prohibition. A final decision was not reached, but the sense was that the committee would move forward only with a requirement to recuse from decisions.

Homework for committee members is to look at how “indirect conflicts of interest” are treated in the county Code of Ethics and in the RCW, and to consider drafting language for a proposed amendment.

Meeting adjourned.

Gores, Loni

From: Marg <marg@sequim.com>
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2025 2:29 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: For the Charter Review Commission

Dear Charter Review Commissioners:

The County has an Environmental Health Department which partners with many other water quality and water monitoring agencies and groups. Too many to list. Have you contacted them, and talked with them?

<https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/569/Shellfish-Surface-Water-Quality>

I am opposed to mandating that the County have a Water Resources Specialist.
Besides it not being necessary, how would this position be funded?
Have you done an economic assessment?

The County Assessor's Office needs reduced hours in order to work on their backlog.
The departments within Clallam County have already cut costs. There is no more to cut.
The County Commissioners will be voting on July 30th about putting a property tax levy lid lift on the ballot.
In the draft resolution for the levy lid lift, among many other concerns, the county mentions that it "sought to avoid going to the voters in 2024 and 2025 for a general tax increase, and instead reduced expenditures in 20024 and then again with a subsequent 7% reduction across-the-board in departmental spending for 2025."

Also in the draft resolution, the county talks about all the essential services that they need to provide, including criminal justice, public safety, public health, land use, parks, etc.

Please look at the resolution: https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/23516/DRAFT-Levy-Lid-Increase-7-30-25?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

I urge you not to pursue putting a mandated County Water Resources Specialist on the ballot for the Charter Review Amendments.

Thank you.

Marguerite A Glover
103 Pond Lane
Sequim WA 98382
360-461-3365

Gores, Loni

From: Gores, Loni
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2025 5:04 PM
To: Benedict, Bill; Boughton, Dee; Cameron, Ron; Fane, Alex; Fisch, Susan; Fleck, Rod; Hodgson, Mark; Holy, Christy; Morris, Patti; Noble, Chris; Pickett, Paul; Richards, Ron; Sarmiento, Nina; Stoffer, Jim; Tozzer, Jeff; Walde, Cathy
Cc: Gores, Loni
Subject: Land Acquisition Committee Notice - August 13
Attachments: 08-13-25 CRC Land Acquisition Committee Agenda Full Copy.pdf

CRC,

Attached is the Land Acquisition Committee meeting notice for August 13:

- 1) Land Acquisition Committee meeting notice on August 13 at 1 p.m. at BOCC Small Conference Room 150

The notices have been posted on the County website at the following links:

CRC page: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/210/Charter-Review-Commission-CRC>

County homepage: <https://www.clallamcountywa.gov/>

I've also emailed to the press/media, posted on the BOCC office door and the courthouse public notice board.

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 Land Acquisition Committee
August 13, 2025 at 1 p.m.
Board of Commissioner Small Conference Room 150, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA

Agenda

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Public Comment
- Homework Responses
- Discussing Information and Issues to Research
- Framing Tasks
- Volunteering for Research
- Public Comment
- Scheduling Next Meeting

Zoom:

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 <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.



COMMITTEE MEETING NOTICE CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

The Charter Review Commission Land Acquisition Committee has scheduled a Land Acquisition Committee meeting to be held on August 13, 2025 at 1 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners Small Conference Room 150, 223 East 4th Street, Port Angeles, WA.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Land Acquisition issue raised by CRC Commissioners and Citizens and consider the possibility of a Charter amendment or recommendation.

Zoom:

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 <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 28th day of July, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Loni Gores". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Loni Gores, MMC
Clerk to the Charter Review Commission

Gores, Loni

From: Sarah <triplesconsultants2025@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2025 5:31 PM
To: Gores, Loni
Subject: Public Comment – July 28, 2025 – Charter Review Commission Submitted by Dr. Sarah Huling, District 3 – Forks, WA

Public Comment – July 28, 2025 – Charter Review Commission
Submitted by Dr. Sarah Huling, District 3 – Forks, WA

Good evening, Commissioners. Thank you for your time tonight. I am Dr. Sarah Huling from District 3

I'm speaking today in opposition to the proposed charter amendment to create a Water Resources Specialist position.

My husband's family has homesteaded in Forks and Joyce area for generations. I've lived here for over 20 years. We're raising our children here, and each year we strive to build one home—either for an affordable rental or for another local family. We're not developers. We're just a working couple trying to keep housing possible for regular people in our town.

But let me be honest: the cost of building has more than doubled since 2019. My husband says there's no such thing as "affordable housing" anymore—it's just whether or not local people can afford to stay. And even small increases in permitting complexity or project risk can stop a project in its tracks.

This proposal might sound neutral, but embedding a water data position in the Charter creates permanent government structure—without flexibility. And that matters when you're on the ground trying to build.

The Charter already assigns watershed planning to the Department of Community Development in Section 4.25. If that department isn't meeting expectations, that's a performance issue—not a structural failure. There are better ways to address it: through budgeting, oversight, and public accountability—not locking a workaround into the Charter for five years or more.

And the county isn't lacking access to water data. We already have multiple sources: the Department of Ecology, USGS, the Dungeness River Management Team, the PUD, and tribal partners. Best practices recommend improving coordination across these partners—not duplicating effort through a new charter-level position.

Please don't advance this amendment. It may create more confusion than clarity—and it risks making it harder for families like ours to continue building housing in rural areas that need it most.

Thank you again for your service and for listening.