

Corrin Hamburg



June 19, 2020

Skagit PUD

Attn. Clerk of the Board

1415 Freeway Drive

Mount Vernon WA, 98273

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my interest in the position of District 3 Public Utility District Commissioner for PUD No. 1 of Skagit County. I believe my desire to serve my community paired with my 7 years of experience in water quality and resource management related fields have prepared me to fulfill the needs of this position and help make decisions that uphold the values of quality, environmental stewardship and financial prudence.

My motivation to apply for this position stems from my desire to serve my community. In 2019, I ran for Sedro-Woolley City council. Although I did not win this race, it did not diminish my desire to discover opportunities to serve my community. When I discovered the PUD Commissioner position of District 3 was posted I was excited to apply. This position would allow me to serve my community in a position where my expertise in water resources would be an asset.

Water resource management has been my passion since I started as a student at WSU. While attending WSU, I worked as an undergraduate researcher under Dr. Alyson Beal King. I researched the Yakima River Basin Integrated Management Plan and the dynamics of water rights, stakeholder priorities and needs. One aspect of my research addressed the Bumping Lake reservoir expansion. There were three main groups with conflicting concerns involved in this project alone; property owners concerned by potential requirements to forfeit their family cabins, environmental groups concerned by the potential loss of forest habitat for ESA listed species and junior water users in need of the water supply increase for water security. These concerns, all-valid, were complex and are applicable in any watershed in need of buffering the impacts of drought conditions and over-appropriation of water rights.

Beyond my understanding of the complexity of water related issues, I am able to communicate in an effective manner that encourages collaboration. As the Laboratory Manger for the Skagit Valley College Environmental Conservation program, I helped to develop student research projects collaboratively with local agencies in order to provide useful data. Currently as the Laboratory Supervisor for the City of Anacortes Wastewater Treatment Plant, I interpret laboratory and plant data to inform and engage in productive conversations with regulators from EPA and the Department of Ecology. Through my engagement in such conversations with regulators, I have discovered being well informed and willing to listen can encourage adaptive management process that allows us to understand our plant capabilities while ensuring compliance.

My family has resided in Skagit County for over 100 years and I was raised with a sense of community service. I truly believe that my ability to engage in critical thinking, creative problem solving, and engage with the public, paired with

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my experiences in water resource management would enable me to effectively serve my community as the District 3 Public Utility District Commissioner for PUD NO. 1 of Skagit County.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this application package. I look forward to discussing this opportunity with you in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CH', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Corrin Hamburg

Application for Commissioner Appointment

Application Deadline: Thursday July 2, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.

Applicant Name: Corrin N Hamburg
Residence Address: [REDACTED] Zip Code: [REDACTED]
Phone Number: [REDACTED] E-Mail: [REDACTED]


To be appointed as a Commissioner of Public Utility District No. 1 of Skagit County, an individual must be a registered voter who resides within the boundaries of District 3 and not be a Skagit PUD employee (or spouse/significant other of) at the time of appointment. These are the same minimum requirements that apply per State law to elected PUD Commissioners [RCW 54.12.010 (3) and (5)].

- a. Do you reside within the boundaries of Commissioner District #3? Yes No
(On the attached map or an online map such as Google Maps, please clearly mark the location of your residence)
- b. Are you a registered voter of Commissioner District #3? Yes No
(Please attach proof of voter registration)
- c. Have you committed any criminal acts that resulted in a criminal record in the past ten years? If yes, explain on a separate sheet of paper. Yes No

Appointment to the PUD Commission will require your attendance at regular and special meetings that occur on weekday afternoon/evenings and at certain special events throughout the year which may occur on evenings and weekends. PUD Commission regular meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. Commissioners also serve on WA State PUD Association committees, regional planning and watershed committees, and other committees where they represent the Commission. As a result, there may be the need to travel and stay overnight at meeting locations.

- d. Are you able to commit this amount of time and arrange your schedule to fully participate as a member of the PUD Commission? Yes No

If you have lived at your current address less than one year, please list your previous address and state how long you lived at that address:

Applicant's Signature:  Date Signed: 0/28/20

Supplemental Questions

1. Why are you interested in serving as a Skagit PUD Commissioner?
 - I am interested in serving as a Skagit PUD Commissioner because I am a dedicated civil servant committed to serving my community. I also believe that my expertise and experience in the field of water resource management and wastewater utilities will allow me to serve as an educated and productive member of this team and will allow me work effectively with the other PUD Commissioners and leadership team to make sound decisions that meet the public's needs.

2. What are the three highest priorities you believe the PUD needs to address and how would you propose to address these issues?
 - **Population Growth/System Expansion:** At this time, the PUD has the ability to store 31MG of water, which is estimated to be adequate for the next 20 years based on population growth projections. As a result of recent court decisions, PUD is under increasing pressure to provide water to areas outside their current service boundaries. I believe it is important to emphasize efficiency and conservation now to ensure water supply is available for potential system expansion and growth. Education and outreach to utility users is something I feel passionate about and could be a valuable tool to address this priority. Currently the PUD produces the pipeline newsletter and engages in outreach and education at fairs, local school events and by providing school field trips. These are all great ways to educate, but in the current climate, I see the opportunity to maintain education and outreach using electronic resources. A few options could include but are not limited to; provide a virtual tour of the Judy Lake Reservoir facility, create videos for current projects for the public to watch in order to be better informed, and team up with schools to provide content for online science curriculums.

 - **Replacing Aging Infrastructure;** All utilities are responsible for replacement of aging and leaking infrastructure, from tile waste lines to concrete water lines. Prioritizing innovative strategies for leak detection can help to provide better strategies for prioritizing line replacements. I believe technology and data collection is critical to successful capital facility planning.

 - **Community Water Needs:** Water is a limited and valuable resource. It is needed to support healthy fish populations and instream habitat, by farmers to water crops and support the future of a critical agricultural economy, and by people. I believe it is important to recognize all water users when making decisions. I would strive to work collaboratively with all parties to develop data driven water supply solutions that maintain the overall culture of our beautiful county.

3. Please list your past community involvement (such as organizations, boards, commissions, and volunteerism), your role, and the dates of service. Describe the relevance of your community involvement to the position of a PUD Commissioner.
 - **Skagit County Dike District 17 Volunteer: 2010-Current**
 - Aid in flood fighting efforts. Attend meetings pertaining to levee management.
 - This position has provided me an insight to the complexities of flood protection management and experience in a different avenue of watershed management that is critical to maintaining Skagit County as a safe place to live. I believe this is relevant because this experience has required me to

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understand complex political and environmental issues and observe how they interact in the management of a public entity.

- City of Sedro-Wooley City Council Candidate 2019
 - I ran for Sedro-Wooley City Council for my ward last year. I was motivated to run for my ward to help make educated decisions that can enhance and protect the quality of life we get to enjoy in Sedro-Wooley. Our rural community is diverse, historically rich, and naturally beautiful. We have diverse employment opportunities from logging to manufacturing and a diverse population.
 - During my race, I met with two city council members, the mayor and one of our Senators to obtain a better understanding of where the vision for Sedro-Wooley is headed. We discussed desired developments, environmental concerns, utility capacity concerns, and quality of life concerns. I was excited to be informed and involved. While campaigning I was fortunate to meet a large number of people from my ward and got to know them and their concerns. Although I did not win my race I obtained approximately 40% of voter support. This experience expanded upon my ability to think critically, understand stakeholder concerns and ask critical questions, which will greatly help me to be an effective PUD commissioner.

4. What are your impressions of Skagit PUD's contributions to the Skagit County communities?

- My overall impressions are positive. The PUD not only provides citizens with quality drinking water, but they also provide rain barrels for purchase for those who are interested in water catchment for watering of lawns and gardens. The PUD also provides and maintains bulk water fill stations, which help to alleviate the effects of drought conditions on water availability. Also during COVID 19 their Skagit PUD has suspended water shut-offs and are open to payment plans for those struggling during this pandemic, which demonstrates the high level of customer care provided by Skagit PUD.

5. Provide your assessment of the strengths of the Commission of PUD No. 1 of Skagit County and describe the strengths you would add if appointed:

- I believe the commission works together to make fair decisions that benefit their users. I also think they have worked hard to ensure the quality of service is prioritized and maintained.
- If I were appointed, I would add an analytical/scientific perspective. I am a highly organized, thorough and dedicated person who will take the time to consider multiple perspectives as part of the decision making process. I also value working collaboratively with highly qualified and committed people in service of the community and believe my commitment to teamwork would be an asset. I am a highly positive person who desires the implementation of adaptive management strategies that allow data to be collected so that highly educated effective decisions can be made.

6. This appointment is effective until the end of 2022. What do you wish to accomplish during this appointed term as a PUD Commissioner?

- I hope to identify the needs and concerns of my constituents. I hope to support the development of collaborative solutions for our irrigators and help ensure the

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community and environmental integrity are both maintained and enhanced through the decisions made by the commission.