

Application for Board Position – Office of Chehalis Basin

J. Vander Stoep
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Chehalis

Since the 2007 flood I have worked with members of the Flood Authority and many others toward solutions to our flooding damage and fishery restoration to benefit every community in the Chehalis basin. For six years I've served as Pe Ell's alternate to the Flood Authority. Since 2012 I've been a member of the Governor's Chehalis Basin Work Group.

The legislation creating the office of Chehalis Basin lists three qualifications to be considered in selecting board members. These are 1. **Expertise necessary to provide strong oversight for implementation of Chehalis Basin Strategy.** As a member of the Work Group I have been performing this function since 2012. 2. **Extensive knowledge of local government processes and functions.** During this time I've met and worked with representatives from every community on the Flood Authority and have briefed nearly every city council and county commission with membership. I have also worked hard to develop good relationships with the Chehalis Tribe and Quinault Nation. Since 2012 I've testified numerous times before House and Senate committees in Olympia. 3. **Understanding of issues relevant to reducing flood damages and restoring aquatic species.** I lived through the catastrophic floods of 1990, 1996 and 2007. I helped muck out homes of families who have lost nearly everything in these floods. I know what the floods mean and what the threat of flooding means to the way of life for families, businesses, communities and local governments in the Chehalis basin. From tribal members and sports fishers I have also learned the necessity of restoring a vibrant fishery in the Chehalis basin.

I've worked with legislators from the basin, the Governor's office and DOE in promoting legislation to fund the efforts of the Flood Authority and the Work Group and I have contributed to the passing of policy bills including the one creating the office of Chehalis Basin. I've also provided numerous briefings to members of our federal Congressional delegation and their staff's on the process in the Chehalis basin.

We have made enormous progress with dozens of local fish and flood projects moving forward. We are also moving forward toward a basin-wide flood and fish plan. I want to see this process through. By serving on the Chehalis Basin Board I believe I can contribute toward continued progress. I will work hard to continue to stay in touch with the Flood Authority and its members