

March 15, 2017

Dear Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority members:

I would like to submit my application for appointment to the Office of Chehalis Basin Board.

In 2016, the Washington State Legislature created the Office of Chehalis Basin to ...

“aggressively pursue implementation of an integrated strategy and administer funding for long-term flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration in the Chehalis river basin.”

This has been my passion, and what I have committed myself to since the flood of 1996. Although I am not, and never been a paid elected member of government, I have worked for, with, and sometimes against them in my pursuit of a basin wide solution to flooding in the Chehalis Basin.

After the catastrophic floods of 1996 and 2007, I aggressively campaigned against local, state and federal agencies and officials to put a stop to their “levy plan” that would have caused major increases in damage to those living outside the ‘walls’. I independently attended and gave testimony at many public meetings and at hearings at the State Capital in Olympia. In December 2007 I received a personal invitation from then Senator Dan Swecker to testify at a hearing on the 2007 flood. Shortly after that hearing, the legislature formed the Chehalis Basin Flood Authority. I have been with the “Authority” since – first as a private citizen before earning a seat at the table as Chehalis’ representative. Much to my regret, I gave up my seat on the Authority to take a position with U.S. Representative Herrera Beulter, only after being convinced that this would help further the cause of a basin wide solution in the Chehalis Basin. During this time, I continued to attend Authority meetings on behalf of the Congresswoman. After my position with the Congresswoman ended, I once again regularly attended meetings as a private citizen until I was again blessed with a seat at the table as Chehalis’ representative.

Immediately following the 2007 flood, the grassroots group “One Voice” formed. Their mission was the same as mine – a basin wide solution to flooding in the Chehalis Basin – so I joined with them. Through the public outreach of One Voice in conjunction with the Authority, and the Lewis County P.U.D. looking at the feasibility of dams on the Chehalis River came the beginnings of what is now the Chehalis Basin Strategy.

At this same time, the Chehalis Basin Partnership (CBP) was contemplating its role in regards to flooding on the Chehalis River. Since I was a Lewis County Farm Bureau member, and the Farm Bureau had a seat at the table, I also joined this committee. In the end, the CBP decided to stay with their original mission of habitat restoration in the basin, and leave the issue of

flooding to the Authority. I remained an active member of the CBP until having to give it up to take the position with the Congresswoman. I believe I am still the alternate member for the Farm Bureau, and continue to attend meetings that have any association in regards to flooding in the basin.

Through my years of involvement in anything that has to do with flooding, I have interacted with multiple state and federal agencies both on a personal and committee basis. These agencies include U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Geological Service, Washington Departments of Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, and Ecology. I have met personally with all of our Federal and State representatives or their staff.

On a personal level, I have lived and farmed on either the Chehalis or Newaukum Rivers all my life. I have personally experienced every flood since 1964 including the five largest on record. I suffered extensive damage from the 1996 and 2007 floods, and am personally connected to those who lost much more than I. I live the fear that comes **every** time the "pineapple express" is headed this way. It is because of this that I have the passion, and the determination to *"aggressively pursue implementation of an integrated strategy and administer funding for long-term flood damage reduction and aquatic species restoration in the Chehalis river basin."*

I have stepped forward and given freely of my time and treasure when it was needed to move this process along, and I have stepped back from personal gain when it was needed to allow positive progress to continue. I will do whatever is needed of me to achieve the goal set forward by the legislature.

Thank you for your consideration of my appointment. If I am given the honor of being chosen, I will make this position my number one priority. I considerate an advantage not to be an elected official because my sole focus will be implementation of this one and only task.

Sincerely,
Julie Balmelli-Powe

Julie A. Balmelli-Powe
P.O. Box 341, Chehalis, WA 98532
(360)269-4854 / bjl@sipnsearch.com

OBJECTIVE: Office of Chehalis Basin board member

HIGHLIGHTS OF QUALIFICATIONS:

- *thrive on challenges and new opportunities for accomplishment
- *strong leadership skills; able to direct and make decisions
- *outstanding interpersonal skills and a team player

EDUCATION:

- *graduated with honors – W.F. West High School - 1982
- *graduated with honors – Centralia College – 1984
- *graduated with honors – BS degree In Animal Science – Washington State University – 1986

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:

- *Farmer and resident of the Chehalis Basin for 52 years
- *Office Manager for 30 years for Balmelli Logging & Livestock, B.L. Logging
 - Handle issues with Federal, State and local agencies
 - Prepare and file all Federal and State taxes and reports
 - Manage employees and day to day tasks
- *A prior Field Representative for a U.S. House of Representative member –
Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler
 - Managed a satellite office
 - Attended multiple Federal and State agency meetings
 - Represented the Congresswomen at multiple events
- *Representative for the City of Chehalis on the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority -
a state sponsored, multi-jurisdictional committee directed to address
the problem of flooding in the Chehalis River basin
- * Member of the One Voice Flood Control Committee
- * Past member of the Chehalis Basin Partnership
- * Chairman of the S.W. Washington Fair Commission
– a County Commissioner appointed board that advises on the operations of the
Fairgrounds
- *Member of the Lewis County Farm Bureau and previous board member and representative
to the Chehalis Basin Partnership

- *Member of the Chehalis Community Renaissance Committee (CCRT) – a committee dedicated to the revitalization of the city
- *Boy Scouts of America Assistant Scoutmaster and Committee member – fully trained (leadership, CPR, first aid, hazardous weather) and parent of two current Life Scouts

From: bl@sipnsearch.com
To: [Scott Boettcher](#)
Subject: Application
Date: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 5:00:39 PM

Hi Scott,

As I looked over my application (after I sent it :/), I realized I did not include my contact info. Can you please include it with my application

Julie Balmelli-Powe
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Thanks, Julie