



**RONALD H. AVERILL**  
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14 March, 2016

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am Ronald H. Averill, from Centralia, and I am an applicant for one of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority Advisory Board positions for the Office of Chehalis Basin, Washington Department of Ecology. My qualifications are provided below.

Expertise necessary to provide strong oversight for implementation of the Chehalis Basin Strategy:

- As a County Commissioner for Lewis County, in 2008, I testified before the Legislature, and worked with Legislators and Governor Gregoire's staff to write the legislation which established the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority (FA), and provided \$50 Million in Capital Budget funding for the 2008-2009 biennium.
- Subsequently, I worked with the three base counties in the Chehalis Basin (Grays Harbor, Lewis, and Thurston); the Cities of Aberdeen, Montesano, Oakville, Centralia, and Chehalis; the Towns of Bucoda and Pe Ell; and the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation (Chehalis Tribe) to fashion an Interlocal Agreement under which the jurisdictions agreed to work with each other to develop means to mitigate against persistent flooding in the Chehalis Basin.
- I chaired the FA for the first three years of its existence. Initially, the FA worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) on an existing project under the Federal Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) to improve the TransAlta Dam on the Skookumchuck River and improve and build 13 miles of levees around Centralia and Chehalis. In those days, the FA was primarily oriented to flood mitigation and habitat restoration was Under the Chehalis Partnership, established in the mid-90's under Washington's Salmon Recovery Act.
- The Corps WRDA project proceeded on a snail's pace, and eventually an alternate project to build a dam south of Pe Ell on the mainstem of the Chehalis River with a capacity of 80,000 acre feet gained momentum. However, not without opposition primarily due to concerns about potential damage to aquatic species. Thus, the FA funded consultant studies on both the feasibility of constructing a dam and studies on aquatic species in the Chehalis Basin.
- It was further recognized that if capital facilities were constructed for flood mitigation, then it would be necessary to have a three-county flood or flood-zone district to provide for operations and maintenance. Since Flood Districts are single county municipal corporations under the RCW, we worked with the Legislature pursuing legislation to establish a three-county Chehalis Flood District.
- In 2011, strong opposition to the dam and internal differences within the FA about pursuing flood mitigation or habitat restoration as a primary course resulted in the Chehalis Tribe withdrawing from the FA and leaving the FA severely fractured. At that point, Governor Gregoire's Office stepped in, helped the parties reconcile, and created a new Governor Level Work Group (GWG) committed to recommend a Chehalis Basin Strategy.

- The GWG, which included the Chehalis Tribe, developed a strategy to study the feasibility of a Water Retention Facility for flood mitigation, and a major effort to improve aquatic species restoration. The GWG became the prime mover on the major project feasibility studies and the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement. The FA, on the other hand was the prime mover on local small flood mitigation projects, home elevations, venting, farm pads, and local flood management planning.
- As a County Commissioner, I attended all the meetings of the Flood Authority, Open Houses on FA projects and studies, and all the GWG forums on the strategy. My term as a County Commissioner ended in 2012, and since then I have represented the City of Centralia on the FA. There is no one who has been on the FA longer than myself, or is more familiar with its history.

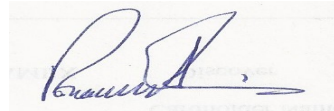
Extensive Knowledge of Local Government Process and Functions:

- I hold both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in government, and I was a Professor of Political Science at the college and university level for over 20 years. I have worked in government at the federal, state and local level.
- I served on County Level Committees for land use planning prior to my election as a County Commissioner. As a County Commissioner, I served on the FA and the Washington Association of Counties Legislative Committee and the Washington Farm Bureau Legislative Committee. I also served on numerous boards, councils, commissions, and committees dealing with local government process and functions.
- Since I retired, I continue to represent the City of Centralia on the FA, and I have served on and chaired the FA Small Projects Committee. I also serve on, and presently chair a U.S. Army Recruiting Advisory Board; and, serve on and chair the Washington Emergency Management Council. I serve on many other local boards dealing with local government process and functions.

Understanding of issues relevant to reducing flood damages and restoring aquatic species:

- In the nine years I have served on the FA as chair, member, and small projects chair, I have been immersed in every aspect of flood mitigation and restoring aquatic species. I have been exposed to the pros and cons of both sides of both issues.
- I have attended the Governor's Indian Affairs Forum on Tribal Sovereignty and I fully understand the cultural commitment the Indian Tribes have for restoring aquatic species.

I believe my experience and work within the FA makes me highly qualified to serve as a FA Board member on the Chehalis Basin Board. I respectfully request your consideration.



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## OBJECTIVE

Appointment as a Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority member to the Department of Ecology, Chehalis River Office Advisory Board

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## SKILLS

High level management, research, negotiation, budgeting

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## EXPERIENCE

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### REPRESENTATIVE, CITY OF CENTRALIA/CHEHALIS RIVER BASIN FLOOD AUTHORITY

Dates From January 2013 To Present

Serve on the Small Projects Committee, currently Chair, where we receive, vet and recommend projects which provide local community flood mitigation in the Chehalis River Basin

### COUNTY COMMISSIONER/LEWIS COUNTY

Dates From November 2006 To December 2012

Elected official performing Executive and Legislative Functions in Lewis County. Maintained balanced budget during great recession. Chaired and served on numerous boards, councils, and committees, including founding, and serving as Chair of the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

### DEAN OF SOCIAL SCIENCES/SOUTH PUGET SOUND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dates From January 2000 To November 2006

Academic Discipline Chair responsible for hiring, training faculty, curriculum design, department budget, accreditation, class scheduling, student advising, and managing an anthropology project with the Squaxin Indian Tribe. From 1992 to 2000, Professor of Political Science, International Relations, History, and Cultural Geography

### MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, U.S. ARMY

Dates from July 1959 To August 1989

Advanced through the ranks from 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant to Colonel. Served in Germany, Belgium and the Far East as a Human Intelligence Officer and Strategic Analyst. Two tours in Vietnam. Designated Army Foreign Area Officer for Southeast Asia. Commanded or Senior Staff Officer in last five assignments. Highest awards included Joint Services Commendation Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Bronze Star, and Defense Superior Service Medal



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## EDUCATION

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### **BACHELOR OF FOREIGN SERVICE/1959**

University of Southern California

Studied International Relations, International Law, Comparative Government, International Economics & Marketing, and German. Track & Field Athlete, Student Government, Air Force ROTC and numerous service groups.

### **MASTER OF ARTS IN REGIONAL POLITICS AND COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENTS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA/1974**

The American University, Washington, DC

Graduate work in International Service and Comparative Government of Southeast Asia concentrating on Vietnam as one of the steps toward designation as a Foreign Area Officer, Southeast Asia – Vietnam, in the U.S. Army. Certificate in Asian Studies. Also completed one year of training in Vietnamese (Southern Dialect) language

### **GRADUATE IN NATIONAL DEFENSE STUDIES/1981**

U.S. Army War College

Training in high level military leadership, strategy, diplomacy, senior management and national defense

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## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE OR LEADERSHIP

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Serve as a Lay Eucharistic Minister in my Church, a member of the American Legion, and VFW, and the Twin Cities Rotary Club in Chehalis. Also, Chair the US Army Recruiting Board for the Seattle Battalion, and Chair the Washington State Emergency Management Council. Chair Lewis County's Voluntary Stewardship Program Working Group representing Lewis County Farm Bureau

