

2025
Clallam County Charter Review Commission

Resolution Number 2

Recommendation to the Clallam County Board of County Commissioners for the Retention of a Water Resources Specialist by the Department of Community Development

THE CLALLAM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION finds as follows:

1. Changing climatic conditions in Clallam County are resulting in shrinking glaciers, lower winter snowpacks, hotter summer temperatures, less summer precipitation, and lower late summer stream flows.
2. The considerations expressed in Finding 1 above, combined with increased population growth and management decisions historically, have resulted in lower water tables in many parts of the county and a reduced ability to provide water from existing groundwater wells.
3. At the same time, the desire to avoid the adverse effects of climate change, that are predicted to be more adverse elsewhere, will increase Clallam County's population more rapidly.
4. The considerations expressed in Findings 1 through 3 above have made it increasingly difficult to supply water for domestic, agricultural, industrial, and environmental purposes in most parts of the county, especially in the late summer months.
5. Although there is a lot of water data for Clallam County, critical parts of it are more than 10 years old, and in some cases over 20 years old; the long-term sustainability of the County's water resources is unknown; and the actual water availability is poorly understood. Actual available water may not be sufficient to fulfill existing water rights that exist on paper. There is a great need for continued work which leverages on prior studies and incorporates new information to provide Clallam County with the information necessary to plan for our future water supplies.
6. A strategic investment in one position collecting and consolidating data will avoid potential future costs caused by case-by-case decision-making by multiple contractors using limited data, or by responding to shortages in water supply.
7. Multiple local, state, federal and tribal agencies, and many public and private water purveyors, have roles to play in managing and/or supplying water for the many purposes water is needed. None of these players do county-wide, comprehensive water planning, but all could benefit from improving the information necessary to make wise and informed water supply decisions. The County is the government authority in the best position to assist all water management entities across the county with up-to-date water resources data.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Clallam County Charter Review Commission, in consideration of the above findings of fact, transmit the following recommendations to the Clallam County Board of County Commissioners:

1. Hire A Water Resources Specialist Under The Following Provisions

The Director of the Department of Community Development should 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:

Bids should 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 should not be determinative of the ranking of a bid.

This position should be contracted for four-year terms, with the first term starting no later than July 1, 2026. Subsequent bids may 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.

2. Require The Following Job Description For The Water Resources Specialist Position

Education and Experience

The successful candidate must possess the necessary expertise to collect, analyze, and provide water resources data to all entities managing water resources in the County, including:

1. A Bachelor Degree or higher that provides the aforementioned expertise, such as Geology, Hydrogeology, Hydrology, Environmental Science, or Environmental Engineering, all with a focus on water.
2. A minimum of three years of professional experience in hydrogeology or water resource science.
3. Any combination of related experience and education that is sufficient to demonstrate thorough competency will be accepted.

Essential Functions

1. Compiling county-wide historical water data in one place from federal and state agencies, water purveyors, Tribes, and other water stakeholders, and understanding seasonal trends of water availability.
2. Quantifying the status of county-wide water systems, inclusive of groundwater, river and stream flow, aquifer status, and water storage systems, and identifying research needs in these areas.
3. Conducting independent hydrogeological testing and analysis, groundwater modeling, contaminant transport evaluation and/or modeling, and/or updating previous research models.
4. Forecasting future water availability based on updated data with consideration of planned county-wide growth, climate change impacts, irrigation and ecological needs.
5. Communicating scientific findings on water resources to the Director of the Department of Community Development and other County departments, and also to federal and state agencies, water purveyors, Tribal Nations, and other water stakeholders. This includes publishing findings on the County's website.
6. Providing their expertise to County staff, Tribes, and stakeholders county-wide.
7. Maintaining a water information database that can inform county-wide decision making over the long term.

Desired Skills, Knowledge and Abilities

1. Ability to work both independently of and cooperatively with DCD and other County staff, Tribes, and water stakeholders.
2. Fundamental knowledge of hydrologic and hydrogeologic processes including techniques and skills to conduct and evaluate technical assessments and evaluations.
3. Ability to research, collect, prepare, and analyze technical data pertaining to hydrogeology.
4. Ability to communicate clearly and effectively both verbally and in writing.
5. Ability to establish and maintain good working relationships with staff, officials, and public they interact with.
6. Ability to prepare and deliver comprehensive technical reports.
7. Ability to enlist volunteers to aid in research.

This Resolution is passed and approved on this 11th day of August, 2025, by the 2025 Clallam County Charter Review Commission.

Susan Fisch
Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Cameron voted no
Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Mark A. Hodgson
Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Christy Holy
Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Excused absence
Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

See attached
Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Tozzer voted no
Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

See attached
Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Bill Benedict
Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Alex Fane
Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

Fleck voted no
Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Chris Noble
Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

See attached
Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer
Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Walde voted no
Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Ronald N Richards

Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Signature: 
Ronald N Richards (Aug 14, 2025 18:07:03 PDT)

Email: ron.richards@clallamcountywa.gov

Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento

Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Signature: 
Nina Sarmiento (Aug 18, 2025 11:16:57 PDT)

Email: nina.sarmiento@clallamcountywa.gov

Susan Fisch, District 1 Commissioner, Chair

Bill Benedict, District 1 Commissioner

Ron Cameron, District 2 Commissioner

Alex Fane, District 1 Commissioner

Mark Hodgson, District 3 Commissioner

Rod Fleck, District 3 Commissioner

Christy Holy, District 3 Commissioner

Chris Noble, District 2 Commissioner

Paul Pickett, District 2 Commissioner

Ron Richards, District 2 Commissioner

Nina Sarmiento, District 3 Commissioner

Jim Stoffer, District 1 Commissioner

Jeff Tozzer, District 1 Commissioner

Cathy Walde, District 3 Commissioner

Patti Morris

Patti Morris, District 2 Commissioner

Signature: 
Patti Morris (Aug 19, 2025 11:15:23 PDT)

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