
Profile

Jason

First Name

L.

Middle Initial

Selwitz

Last Name

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Email Address

3147 60th Loop SE

Home Address

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Olympia

City

WA

State

98501

Postal Code

Mobile: (808) 640-1264

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

Question applies to multiple boards

Advisory committees are a structured way for individual community members to share their opinions and perspectives, study issues, and develop recommendations in a focused small group. Their primary purpose is to provide judicious advice, from a community member's perspective, to the Olympia City Council.

Committee activities may include study of critical issues, hearing public testimony, independent research, and reviewing staff reports and recommendations - all of which is intended so that the committee is prepared to discuss, formulate, and forward well-developed, thoughtful recommendations to the City Council in a timely manner.

The City of Olympia values participation from all perspectives and life experiences and looks for equity and inclusion in advisory board appointments.

To reduce barriers to community member participation, beginning April 1, 2021, the City will offer stipends of \$25 per meeting attended to Advisory Committee members. Those members who certify as low income are eligible to receive stipends of \$50 per meeting attended. Advisory Committee members may waive the stipend upon request.

Applications are accepted for the calendar year only. The Olympia City Council's General Government Committee recommends appointments to the full Council. Recommendations are made following review of applications and interviews of qualified candidates.

The City of Olympia is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in employment and the delivery of services and resources.

Questions? Contact Susan Grisham, Executive Assistant, 360.753.8244, sgrisham@ci.olympia.wa.us

If you saved or submitted an application and did not receive a confirmation, please check your spam folder.

When filed with the City, your application and attachment documents are public records and may be subject to public release.

Dean of Applied Technology

Occupation

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee: Submitted
Utility Advisory Committee: Submitted

Question applies to multiple boards

If you applied for multiple boards or commissions, please rank them in order of interest below.

1. Utility 2. Parks

Select Your Neighborhood (you must live within Olympia City limits to serve on a board or commission) *

☒ Chambers Lake Basin

If you choose "other" please write in your neighborhood here:

Interests & Experiences

Question applies to multiple boards

Please keep answers concise and informative. You are introducing yourself to the Olympia City Council and sharing with them why you are interested in being considered for appointment. Olympia residency is not required; however, it is a primary consideration. You may attach a resume.

Question applies to multiple boards

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on this advisory committee.

I would like to support my community. Management of water and wastewater is of professional interest. I want to build increased awareness and networks in my community on these systems. I live adjacent to the new in-development Yelm Highway Community Park.

Question applies to multiple boards

2. Describe your experience, qualifications, and/or skills which would benefit this advisory committee.

I am a former member of the American Water Works Association. I have actively participated in annual conferences and regional events, including poster sessions and invited talks/presentations. I have toured and worked with several drinking water treatment and wastewater treatment facilities in my career in PA, CA, OR, and WA...and abroad. I have a MS where I worked as a field lab technician on water quality and groundwater recharge...and separately conducted research that used algae to treat human wastewater and produce bioenergy quality fatty acids. I worked on anaerobic digestion and wastewater projects component to my PhD program. I have trained wastewater operators for employment and industry certification. I am a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer and worked for a national park and its bordering communities.

Question applies to multiple boards

3. Describe your involvement in the Olympia community.

I moved here 18 months ago. I live along the Chambers Creek/drainage. I am familiar with the Chambers Drainage District. I have attended information sessions during the master planning of the Yelm Highway Community Park and completed surveys to inform the direction of the park's design. When I worked on wastewater operator training in Walla Walla, I became familiar with the LOTT Clean Water Alliance and collected input and feedback on the development of training modules from their personnel.

Question applies to multiple boards

4. List your educational and professional background and area of study.

BS, Park and Recreation Management (experience working for state park in MD and national park in Philippines; guide and crew leader on state and federal public lands for several years) MS, Regenerative Studies (focus on water and wastewater treatment systems and biomass energy) Professional Certificates, River Restoration and Wetland Delineation PhD, Engineering Science (focus on development, instruction, and evaluation of water/wastewater/energy plant operator training programs)

Question applies to multiple boards

5. Appointment to this committee will require your attendance at evening meetings. How many hours per month are you willing to commit as a volunteer?

4-6

Question applies to multiple boards

6. If you are not appointed to this committee at this time:

Question applies to multiple boards

6a. Do you wish to be considered for appointment to another advisory committee?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to multiple boards

6b. Do you wish to be considered for future appointment to this committee?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to multiple boards

6c. Would you be willing to volunteer for other City activities?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to multiple boards

If you answered yes to 6a, please identify what other Advisory Committees you would be interested in being considered for in order of interest.

1. Utility 2. Parks

Question applies to multiple boards

7. Some appointments require that applicants reside within Olympia city limits. Even though your mailing address may be Olympia, you may reside in the County or another jurisdiction. Are you a resident of the City of Olympia?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to multiple boards

8. Appointees to advisory committees are assigned and required to use a City email address for all advisory committee business.

Do you agree to comply with this expectation?

☒ I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

9. How did you learn about this advisory committee recruitment?

city of olympia email update

[Selwitz_Resume_Feb2021.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

JASON L. SELWITZ

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WORK EXPERIENCE

South Puget Sound Community College

Dean of Applied Technology

2019-Present

- Provide strategic leadership to guide and evaluate faculty and support staff in the following workforce education programs: machining & CNC technologies; architecture-engineering-construction; computer science, software development, and information systems; office administration/technology; cybersecurity & network administration (+ IT computer support); medical coding/billing; auto technology; and welding.
- Manage division and program-level operations, budgets, and purchasing while collaborating with IT, Facilities, Student Services, and Security. Report directly to VP of Instruction.
- Generate and revise policies and procedures, develop internal and external partnerships, assess curricula, and mentor staff and faculty members.
- Serve as liaison for Office of Instruction on enrollment management, outreach, advising, and diversity/equity initiatives as well as emerging climate/energy education program development.

Walla Walla Community College

Instructor, Climate Science

2019-Present

Faculty Lead, Energy Systems Technology and Welding

2017-2019

Principal Investigator, National Science Foundation S-STEM Program

2018-2019

Instructor, Energy, Water, and Plant Operations

2013-2019

Co-PI, Executive Team member, & Project Manager for USDA initiative

2012-2017

- Provided research and facilitated trusted relationships between City of Walla Walla Public Works and WSU to develop and secure \$2.9MM Department of Energy funded advanced anaerobic digestion to energy project for wastewater treatment facilities (2014-2019).
- Authored proposal and served as initial PI for 5-year (\$650k) NSF S-STEM program to research rates of recruitment, retention, and placement (in jobs/advanced education) for women and minorities in water, energy, agriculture, and engineering degree programs (2018-2023).
- Managed \$2.9 million USDA project over six years as co-PI for Education Team focused on Workforce Development for the Advanced Hardwood Biofuels NW consortium (led by University of Washington) and served on the executive committee for the entire project.
- Managed team of full-time and adjunct energy systems, welding, and machining faculty (8-10) and support staff (two campuses) and coordinated advising for 75+ energy students.
- Designed and instructed courses in fluid dynamics, thermodynamics, process controls, plant operations, renewable resources, pump applications, bioenergy, solar PV, and climate science.
- Coordinated energy systems technology advisory board with corporate partners and participated in advisory boards for: water technologies, welding, and enology/viticulture.
- Developed and launched for-credit industrial electrical maintenance training program for incumbent workers with two global food production corporations.
- Restructured competing degrees into one workforce training degree program with a core set of shared first year course requirements leading to multiple guided pathways for students to specialize in year two.

Green Empowerment

Service-Learning Director and then Program Manager**2007-2012**

- Developed and managed renewable energy and watershed projects in collaboration with technical partners and rural farming communities in Latin America and Southeast Asia.
- Managed budgets, developed operational plans, and ran service-learning profit center through fee-for-service, private/corporate donations, and federal and foundation grants (~\$400k/ year).
- Initiated regional networks for village-scale renewable energy projects.
- Designed and installed appropriate technology projects with teams of undergraduate engineering and environmental science students, MBA candidates, and community or corporate partners, including bio-sand water filters, energy efficient stoves, biogas digesters, composting latrines, solar PV systems, watershed assessments, greywater filters, wind assessments, hazardous waste management, weather stations, and planting of forest/fruit trees.
- Adjunct Professor in Environmental Science and Management at Portland State University for Capstones focused on Renewable Energy in the Developing World (2009 & 2010).
- Received Civic Engagement Award for Green Empowerment from Portland State University.

Contract Work

Various Positions**2000-2007**

- **Field Lab Technician:** Collected weekly samples from Santa Ana River and adjacent groundwater recharge basins for Orange County Water District's Groundwater Recharge Program. Tested samples for a variety of parameters (TSS, Turbidity, DO, BOD₅, Temperature, pH, NH₃, NO₃, and PO₄).
- **Green Living Coordinator:** Managed passive solar architecture and renewable energy powered dormitories. Assisted with thermal comfort research and energy modeling using passive solar heated and cooled test cells. Conducted regenerative systems tours for campus residents and the public. Helped instruct graduate courses in water and energy.
- **Landscape Manager:** Cleared non-native trees, debris, and vegetation on Big Island, HI. Planted fruit and native forest tree species. Constructed composting latrine, fishpond, tent platforms, raised garden beds, picnic tables, and outdoor kitchen; maintained vehicles and outdoor power equipment; and guided surfing, kayaking, and snorkeling outings.
- **Counselor:** Helped manage residential group home in CA for adjudicated adolescents with drug, alcohol, and behavioral issues. Led climbing, backpacking, rafting, skiing, and trail service programs. Managed food purchases, budget, and house repairs. Co-led language/culture immersion trip in Baja, Mexico & backpacking expedition in the Grand Canyon of the Tuolumne River in Yosemite National Park.
- **Guide:** Led 21-day expeditions for adolescents with drug, alcohol, and behavioral issues in designated wilderness areas within CA, NV, and OR. Set routes and managed navigation, safety, and rations in all 4 seasons. Worked with Native American families.
- **Crew Leader:** Ran crews on backcountry trail and service contracts for federal, state, and private lands in northern New Mexico and southwestern Colorado with focus to empower young women, Native American youth, and persons with disabilities. Managed safety, meals, water treatment, sanitation, camping, equipment, tools, and projects in remote settings.

EDUCATION

Washington State University (WSU)

PhD in Engineering Science**2013-2017**

- Dissertation topics included STEM workforce education curriculum development, the development and evaluation of course pedagogy, and design of multi-scale, integrative exercises in bio-chemical and thermo-chemical science and engineering systems.
- Awarded research fellowship through WSU Bioproducts Science and Engineering Lab.
- Completed Biological Systems Engineering coursework with focus on the processes and operations of wastewater, drinking water, pulp and paper, food/beverage processing, integrated biorefining, renewable energy, and power generation facilities.

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (CPP)

MS in Regenerative Studies**2005-2007**

- Used two select species of freshwater algae to improve the quality of preliminary treated human wastewater. Analyzed extent the algae treated the wastewater. Investigated the resulting range of algal oils for their potential to be converted into bioenergy.
- Worked with Inland Empire Utility Agency and South Coast Air Quality Management District.
- Received Graduate Service and Academics Award by the College of Environmental Design.
- Awarded Environmental Leadership Fellowship by the Switzer Foundation.
- Teach spring semester graduate course on Regenerative Technology and Policy (2019-Present).

US Peace Corps

Volunteer & Co-Founder of Palawan Conservation Corps**1998-2000**

- Worked with 10 buffer zone communities and two indigenous groups within the Subterranean River National Park/World Heritage Site (Philippines): a mountain, river to sea karst landscape.
- Managed funding and support from NGOs, foundations, and local, provincial, national, and international governmental agencies.
- Pioneered rural delivery of technical education, established board of directors, and supervised field staff and program operations.
- Launched mangrove paddleboat tours to generate community-based income for fisherfolk.
- Reached agreement with city council to use 10-acre rural agriculture center in perpetuity.
- Secured federal permit to harvest typhoon-downed hardwood for building construction project.

Pennsylvania State University (PSU)

BS in Recreation and Park Management**1993-1997**

- Completed intensive teaching practicum with Earthquest Outdoor School in British Columbia a public, expedition-based grade 11 high school program that integrated studies in First Nations culture, English, fine arts, earth science, and marine ecology.
- Guided interpretive oar raft trips into Grand Teton National Park with OARS and backpacking expeditions in Pisgah and Nantahala wilderness areas for the National Wildlife Federation.
- Completed intensive semester at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center and served for two summers as natural history interpreter at Seneca Creek State Park.
- Managed/taught high-angle ropes course, backpacking, natural history, & climbing programs.

PUBLICATIONS

Developed policy and funding recommendations on Water, Energy, Forestry, Agriculture, and Materials through an eight-month working group process with WA Dept. of Commerce (2020) culminating in Green Economy Final Report to WA Legislature:

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/about-us/research-services/green-economy/>

Selwitz, J.L. (2019). A Guided Pathway: Walla Walla Community College's Energy Systems Technology Degree Program. *PNW Center of Excellence for Clean Energy's Energy Education Resource Guide*, 26-29. Retrieved from <https://www.cleanenergyexcellence.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Energy-Education-Resource-Guide.pdf>

Selwitz, J.L., Ahmadzadeh, H., Lyon, S. & Hosseini, M. (2019). Multipurpose Use of Microalgae to Treat Municipal Wastewater and Produce Biofuels. In M. Hosseini (Ed.), *Advanced Bioprocessing for Alternative Fuels, Biobased Chemicals, and Bioproducts* (pp. 313-327). Elsevier USA: Woodhead Publishing.

Selwitz, J. L., Ahring, B., Garcia-Perez, M., & Morrison, J. (2018). Engineering an Associate Degree-Level STEM Workforce Education Curriculum. *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, 42(6), 405-421.

Selwitz, J.L. (2010, March 5). *Securing Access to Clean Water in the Developing World*. Retrieved from <https://greenempowerment.wordpress.com/2010/03/05/securing-access-to-clean-water-in-the-developing-world/>

PROFESSIONAL & VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

Climate Reality Leadership Corps	2020-Present
WA's Educating for the Green Economy Advisory Board	2018-2019
City of Walla Walla's Public Works Sustainability Committee	2017-2019
American Water Works Association (AWWA), PNW Section	2016-2019
Association for Experiential Education	1995-1997

CERTIFICATIONS

Human Subjects for Social, Behavioral, and Educational Research	2016
Workforce Education Instructor, State of Washington	2015-Present
Amer. Society for Engineering Educ., National Effective Teaching Institute	2015
PDX Environmental Program: River Restoration and Wetland Delineation	2009 & 2010
Wilderness First Responder, National Outdoor Leadership School	2001-Present

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Environmental Education (National): "Training the Green Economy Workforce"	2018
Northwest Hydro Power Association (WA): "Training the New Workforce"	2018
AWWA conference (poster): "Preparing Water Technicians/Wastewater Operators"	2017
AHB consortium annual meetings (OR/CA/WA): "Workforce Education Updates"	2012-16
Produced AHB video (CA): "Perspectives from industry partners and students"	2014
Biomanufacturing conference (HI): "Technical education to serve multiple industries"	2013
Public Health Seminar (BC): "Renewable energy for community rural development"	2011