



**Application for Appointment to Boards, Committees, and Commissions
City and Borough of Sitka**

Board/Commission/Committee: Climate Action Task Force

Name: Linda Behnken Preferred Phone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Alternate Phone: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED] Fax Number: NA

Length of Residence in Sitka: 36 Registered to vote in Sitka? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Employer: Self / Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association

Organizations you belong to or participate in: Alaska Longline Fishermen's Assoc., Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust, Marine Fish Conservation Network, Fishing Communities Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, Halibut Coalition, Alaska Fishing Communities

Explain your main reason for applying:

Climate change is the single biggest challenge our world faces, Sitka can be a leader by creating a model for triple bottom line. What background, experience or credentials will you bring to the board, commission, or committee membership? Success. I have fished commercially for 30 years and witnessed first hand the impacts of climate change & ocean acidification. I also work at the state, federal and international level to seek climate change solutions.

Please disclose any potential conflicts of interest that may arise from your appointment. These may include but are not limited to:

- A substantial financial interest of \$1000 annually that could be influenced by your appointment. NO
- An immediate family member employed within the scope of this appointment. NO

Please attach a letter of interest, outline, or resume which includes your education, work, and volunteer experience that will enhance your membership.

→ (To be considered, your application must be complete AND be accompanied by one of the above supporting documents.)

Date: 1/4/21 Signature: Linda Behnken

Your complete application and resume should be returned to the Municipal Clerk's Office by noon on the Wednesday prior to an advertised Assembly meeting.

Please note: all information submitted will be made public and published online. Appointments are normally made during open session of an Assembly meeting, however, Assembly members may vote to discuss applicant(s) in closed executive session. In this case, do you wish to be present when your application is discussed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Return to:

Melissa Henshaw, Deputy Clerk/Records Specialist, 100 Lincoln Street
Fax: 907-747-7403 Email: melissa.henshaw@cityofsitka.org

Letter of Interest to serve on the Sitka Climate Action Task Force
Linda Behnken
January 3, 2021

Sitka is uniquely positioned to lead the country toward a sustainable future. Our energy needs can be met with clean hydropower and our economy is powered by renewable resources—fishing, tourism and health services. Sitka residents have a long history of working together to identify win:win solutions—which will be the core work of the sustainability task force. I am deeply committed to addressing climate change and finding solutions that respect planetary limits while securing a sustainable future for Sitka.

I served on Governor Walker's Climate Action Leadership Team and worked with that Team to construct a Climate Action Plan for Alaska. Working with that Team helped me to understand both the depth of the threat climate change poses to Alaska as well as grasp the immediate and long-term benefits of addressing climate change to human health, the economy and the environment. Taking action to address climate change needs to happen at every level, but that action can and should be guided by steps that benefit communities and sustainable industries while also safeguarding the planet.

Thank you for considering my application

Sincerely,

Linda Behnken

LINDA E. BEHNKEN

Education: 1990 MES Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies,
New Haven, CT 06511
*Environmental Studies/Resources Management
1984 BA Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH 03755
*English/Environmental Studies

Work

Experience: 1982-2020 Commercial Fisherman. Sitka, AK 99835
1992-2008 *Owner, F/V Morgan (32' troller/ longliner)
2008-2020 *Co-owner F/V Woodstock (40' troller/longliner)
*Deckhand: longline, troll: Gulf of Alaska, Bering Sea
1991-2020 Executive Director: Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association

Positions

& Awards: 2020 Heinz Foundation award for the Environment
2017-2018 Member, Alaska's Climate Action Leadership Team
2016-2018 US Commissioner, International Pacific Halibut Commission
2016 White House Champion of Change for Sustainable Fisheries
2009-2020 Founding board member: Alaska Sustainable Fisheries
Trust/Alaskans Own Community Supported Fisheries program
2001-2019 Board member, Island Institute (Board president, 2010-2014)
1998-2020 Chair, Halibut Coalition
2009 National Fisherman Highliner Award
1992-2001 Member: North Pacific Fishery Management Council
1997-1998 Advisor: National Research Council Panel to Review Individual
Fishing Quotas
1994-1998 Advisor: North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission
1996-1997 Member: Sitka Comprehensive Plan Implementation Team
1993-1996 Member: Sitka Fisheries Task Force
1991-1992 Member: Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Committee
1990 Recipient: Gloria Barron Wilderness Society Scholarship
1989 Recipient: Research grant: Fisheries Management Foundation

Relevant

Publications: 1998 "Conservation of cold-and warm-water seafans: Threatened ancient
gorgonian groves." With Risk, M.J. and McAllister, D Sea Wind 12(1).
pp2-21.
1993 "Southeast Alaska trawl closure: A case study in risk-averse
management" Sea Wind 7(1) pp 8-14.
1993 "The Circle of Life" Seafood Promotional video (18:00) Scriptwriter
1992 "Strike on the shrinking grounds" SeaFrontiers 38(6) pp. 42-51

- 1992 “The Race for Fish” Documentary video on Individual Fishing Quotas and the Sitka Block Proposal (28:30) Director
- 2007 Thode, A, J Straley, K. Folkert, V. O’Connell, L. Behnken. 2007. Evaluation of Sperm Whale Deterrents. NPRB Project F0527 Final Report. North Pacific Research Board.
http://doc.nprb.org/web/05_prjs/527_FinalReport.pdf
- 2012 Thode, A., J. Straley, D. Mathias, L. Wild, D. Falvey, V OConnell, and L Behnken. 2012. Reducing sperm whale depredation via decoy deployments and active deterrent testing. NPRB Project F0918 Final Report Pacific Research Board.
http://doc.nprb.org/web/04_prjs/f0412_final_report.pdf.