February 16, 2020

**To:** Thurston County Dispute Resolution Center Board Members

**From:** Robert Butts and Mickey Lahmann

 DRC Board Recruitment Committee

**Subject:** Recommendation that the Board Appoint Curt Gavigan and Julie Watson to the DRC Board

Curt Gavigan and Julie Watson have applied to be members of the Dispute Resolution Center Board of Directors.

After reviewing their resumes, letters of interest, conducting interviews of both candidates, and contacting their references, we committee recommend that the board appoint both Curt and Julie as DRC board members.

**Julie Watson**

Based on the information we have received, Julie is bright, energetic, professional, able to navigate difficult situations, and plays well with other adults.

For the past decade she has been the lead in several complex environmental issues and is currently the lead for the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s killer whale policies, which recently promulgated a controversial set of restrictions on the viewing of killer whales by tour boats. She also has been the department’s Puget Sound Recovery lead and Strategic Initiative Policy lead. Also, importantly, she was an instructor in a UN “Water Peace and Security” initiative, where she taught international graduate students studying transboundary water and peace issues.

**Curt Gavigan**

Curt is the Staff Director for the Washington State Senate’s Committee Services and formerly served as a staff Counsel for the Senate and a Solicitor for the US Department of Interior. We found him to be thoughtful, a great communicator and listener, and committed to public service. His references indicated that they thought he would be a great board member and had no reservations about him serving in the role.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Bob at (bob.butts311@gmail.com) or Mickey at mvlahmann@gmail.com .

Cc: Jody Suhrbier

Attachments: Letters of Interest and Resumes