

Liz Lance, Ed.D., MBA, PMP, SPHR

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Dear Hiring Committee,

I am writing to express my interest to serve as the Executive Director for Northern Wasco County People's Utility District's participation as a member of QualityLife Intergovernmental Agency (Q-Life). As a resident of The Dalles, and previously Dufur, I understand how important broadband connectivity is for our community as we look to enhance the quality of life and economic development through access to broadband-level internet.

For me, the mission of Q-Life is personal and transforming. I was able to join our Wasco County community because of broadband internet connectivity. In late 2020, I was working remotely from SW Washington and met my now-husband who was living in Dufur. The only reason I was able to relocate to Dufur was because there was broadband internet at the end of our 3+ mile long gravel road, meaning I was able to continue to work and learn remotely as I escaped SW Washington and became a proud resident of Wasco County.

In the past four years as I have participated in our Wasco County community, I have been continuously impressed by the commitment to service many of us share. I currently serve as the Secretary and Grant Writer for the Dufur Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Department, though which I interface with City leaders and participate in City Council meetings. In the last 8-months of my service to Dufur Fire and Ambulance, I have been able to fix many operational challenges, interfaced with vendors and the community along with securing three grants totaling \$50k in funding for the department. I want to serve my community in the best way possible, leveraging my unique blend of skills and talents. With over 15 years of experience managing people and teams coupled with 10+ years of driving strategic initiatives and overseeing complex projects in the technology industry, I am confident in my ability to lead NWCPUD's engagement with Q-Life towards its vision of providing affordable, high-speed internet to every address in Wasco County.

My background in operations leadership, strategic communication and public speaking skills coupled with my Project Management and HR certifications have equipped me with the skills necessary to align organizational goals, enhance operational effectiveness, and drive strategic cross-functional change. At Performica and Smarsh (tech companies), I successfully led teams towards achieving significant milestones, from implementing technology systems to managing financial affairs and developing key partnerships with vendors, partners and key customers. In each of these initiatives, I led processes to listen to key stakeholders and address the needs of multiple different groups, gaining alignment among various interests and developing plans that served the needs of the whole while keeping everyone informed on current and future plans.

I am passionate about leveraging technology to enhance education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. My experience in leading teams, building relationships, and fundraising, along with my commitment to community development, aligns well with Q-Life's mission. Q-Life's values of being action-oriented, nimble, and proactive resonate deeply with my professional values.

I am dedicated to delivering innovative and sustainable solutions and am eager to bring my energy and expertise to NWCPUD's Q-Life partnership. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to Q-Life and NWCPUD's efforts in enhancing the quality of life for the residents of Wasco County by delivering high-speed internet at a price point our community members can afford.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss how my background, skills, and certifications can contribute to the continued success and growth of Q-Life in Wasco County.

Sincerely,

Liz Lance