



CLERK OF THE BOARD
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 FIFTH ST. EUREKA, CA 95501-1153
PHONE: 707-476-2384 FAX: 707-445-7299

**APPLICATION TO SERVE ON THE
GREAT REDWOOD TRAIL AGENCY BOARD**

APPLICANT NAME: Carol Vander Meer

MAILING ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

TELEPHONE: Home: [REDACTED]

Work: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

E-MAIL ADDRESS: carol.vandermeer@gmail.com

OCCUPATION: Retired, part-time consultant

PERSONAL REFERENCES:

1. Hank Seemann

PHONE: (707) [REDACTED]

2. Suzie Fortner

PHONE: (707) [REDACTED]

PRIOR ADVISORY BOARD OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS EXPERIENCE? Yes

**PLEASE WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT DESCRIBING WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED
IN SERVING ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION.**

I am interested in serving on the Great Redwood Trail Agency Board to be a part of helping to make this visionary project possible. I have had the privilege of working on part of the Great Redwood Trail in Humboldt County and I have seen the joy community members experience when riding, walking and rolling on trails that connect communities and connect them to inspiring landscapes on the north coast. I know how difficult it is to develop and maintain trails, and to help address community concerns and fears. I believe my experience working as part of the team on the Great Redwood Trail Master Plan, Humboldt Bay Trail Fund Committee, Board Member on the Humboldt Trails Council and Friends of the Dunes, would serve me well if I were chosen to be on the board.

PLEASE ATTACH A CURRENT RESUME.

DATE: 4/23/26

SIGNATURE: Carol Vander Meer

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

Applications will be accepted via email at cob@co.humboldt.ca.us or by mail to Humboldt County Planning Commission, Clerk of the Board, 825 Fifth St., Suite 111, Eureka, CA 95501

For county use only.

DATE RECEIVED 2/1/2024

DATE APPROVED [REDACTED]

NOT APPROVED [REDACTED]

Carol Vander Meer

[REDACTED] Arcata, CA 95521

[REDACTED] carol.vandermeer@gmail.com

EDUCATION and PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- Master of Arts, Biology, University of Nebraska, Omaha, Nebraska
- Bachelor of Science, Biology, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa
- Leadership in Organizational and Community Change, Arcata, California
- Cascadia Center for Leadership Training Program, Arcata, California

EXPERIENCE:

- **Nonprofit Consultant, 2015-Present (part-time)** Owner of a nonprofit consulting business specializing in project management, outreach and communications, board development, grant writing and strategic planning. Past clients include Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee, County of Humboldt, Northern Region Council of Land Trusts, Humboldt Area Foundation.
- **Projects Coordinator - Natural Resources Division (NRS) of Redwood Community Action Agency** Oct. 2022-August 2025 – Project management focused on community engagement, trail development, interpretive signs and active transportation. Successfully developed proposal materials in response to RFP's for multimodal transportation projects.
- **Contract Instructor, Humboldt Area Foundation:**2016-2020. Taught Grant Writing Basics class for community members including determining need, identifying grant sources, budgeting and evaluation.
- **Interim Director/Special Projects Manager, Trinidad Coastal Land Trust** 2016-2022
Initiated an education and outreach program, facilitated strategic planning, developed and implemented a fundraising plan that included events, direct mail, grant writing and a business partner program, and managed planning and construction for public access improvements. Secured grant funding from the Conservation Lands Foundation, State Coastal Conservancy and Humboldt Area Foundation, National Environmental Education Fund and developed cooperative agreements with the Bureau of Land Management.
- **Executive Director, Friends of the Dunes 2005-2015**
Oversaw the administration of programs, facility management, fund development and strategic planning for Friends of the Dunes, a nonprofit dedicated to conserving the natural diversity of coastal environments through community-supported education and stewardship programs. Developed interpretive signing in collaboration with Tribal Historic Preservation Officers for Ma-le'l Dunes. Successfully secured grants for education, restoration, land acquisition facility development projects from local, state and federal sources.

RELEVANT PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES:

Peninsula Beautification Project 2022-2024

Led the implementation and grant management for this Clean California Local Grants Program to beautify and reduce litter on the Samoa Peninsula. Activities include coordination of the Peninsula Community Collaborative, community clean up days, enhancement of local pedestrian and bicycle safety, beautification of public spaces included installation of 23 murals by local artists, and litter abatement.

Planning Study: Humboldt Bay Trail South to College of the Redwoods 2023-2025

Helped lead community and Tribal outreach activities focused on extending the Humboldt Bay Trail between Eureka and College of the Redwoods. Community workshops, one-on-one meetings, and on-line surveys were used to help ensure that trail facilities and road improvements serve the needs and interests of Tribes, landowners, south Humboldt Bay residents, College of the Redwoods students, and K-12 students in the area and were compatible with adjacent land uses.

Great Redwood Trail Master Plan Outreach 2022-2024 Led the RCAA team in doing community and Tribal outreach in Humboldt County as a subcontractor for Alta Planning Group. This included presentations at community meetings, hosting walks with community-based organizations, tabling at special events, community workshops and kitchen table meetings and on-on-one conversations.

Humboldt Bay Trail South Interpretation, Event Planning 2022-2025

Coordinated the groundbreaking ceremony and grand opening celebration for the Humboldt Bay Trail South project to connect Arcata and Eureka including publicity, outreach, and day-of logistics. This project also included developing content and working with graphic designers to develop three interpretive signs along the trail, and two kiosks for the Humboldt Bay Trail and wayfinding signs.

Manila Moves 2022-2023

The Manila Moves Campaign was an RCA project that engaged the community with the Manila Trail through activities encouraging active transportation and bicycle-pedestrian safety. Coordinated the community grand opening of the trail.

Humboldt Coastal Nature Center- 2007-2011

Directed the development and secured funding from State, Federal, and private sources for the creation of the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center, 115-acre reserve that included a 1.5 million dollar building project to develop the Nature Center which opened in 2011 as a gateway to the dunes.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- **Humboldt Bay Trail Fund, 2016-Present**

Helped establish the fund and conduct community outreach for the development of the Humboldt Bay Trail Fund, now over \$500,00, to help support maintenance of local trails. Currently serving as a member of the Humboldt Bay Trail committee.

- **Board Member, Friends of the Dunes-2021-present**

- **Board Member, Humboldt Trails Council- March 2026-Present**

- **Rotary Club of Arcata Sunrise- 2012-Present**

Program and community service committee member.

- **Peninsula Community Collaborative (PCC)- Co-facilitator- 2022-Present.** The PCC is fiscally sponsored by the Ink People, and focused on improving the health, safety and well-being of peninsula communities.

REFERENCES:

Hank Seemann, Public Works Deputy-Director (Environmental Services) County of Humboldt
HSeemann@co.humboldt.ca.us, (707) 443-7744 (office)

Amy Jester, Director of Policy, Advocacy & Civic Leadership, Humboldt Area Foundation,
AmyJ@hafoundation.org, (707) 443-9911 (office)

Suzie Fortner, Executive Director, Friends of the Dunes, Suzie@friendsofthedunes.org, (707) 443-1305 (office)