



Mayor of Providence

Jorge O. Elorza

August 30, 2016

Honorable Members
Providence City Council
City Hall

Dear Honorable Members:

Pursuant to Sections 302(b) and 1013 of the Providence Home Rule Charter of 1980, as amended and Public Law, Chapter 45-50, Sections 1 through 31 passed in 1987, I am this day appointing Jules Opton-Himmel of 73 Harrison Street, Providence, RI 02909, as an environmental category member of the City Plan Commission for a term to end January 31, 2021, and respectfully submit the same for your approval. Mr. Opton-Himmel replaces Ms. Tow-Yick who has resigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Elorza", is written over the printed name and title.

Jorge O. Elorza
Mayor

IN CITY COUNCIL
OCT 20 2016

READ
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT
THE SAME BE RECEIVED AND APPROVED
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "L. L. [unclear]", is written over the printed text.
CLERK

Jules Opton-Himmel

73 Harrison Street • Providence, RI 02909

EDUCATION

Yale University - School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, New Haven, CT **2005-2007**

Master of Environmental Management - Focal area in "Ecology, Ecosystems, and Biodiversity"

Thesis: "Spatially explicit analysis of the drivers of residential electricity consumption and opportunities for demand side management in Southern Connecticut"

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT **1998-2002**

Bachelor of Arts - Major in Earth and Environmental Science and senior project in Green Architecture

WORK EXPERIENCE

Walrus and Carpenter Oysters LLC, Owner, Ninigret Pond, Charlestown, RI **2010 - Present**

Founded and run a company that raises 2-3 million oysters per year at two farms totaling 8-acres with a staff of seven. Markets and distributes Walrus and Carpenter Oysters® directly to 45 local restaurants on a weekly basis year-round, and to seafood distributors up and down the East Coast. Created an agro-tourism branch of the business, which offers a series of annual Farm Dinners. Established the first oyster CSA in New York City, now in it's fifth year and with over 200 members. First commercial kelp farmer in Rhode Island.

USDA Conservation Innovation Grant Program **2011 - 2014**

Wrote and received a grant for \$60,000 to experiment with harvesting, processing and marketing seaweed.

Land Use/Green Development Consulting Business, Project Lead, Bar Harbor, ME **2007- Present**

Designed, planned and directed the creation of a Conservation Development on 1,000-acres of land adjacent to Acadia National Park. Successfully lobbied planning board to update the Planned Unit Development ordinance. Negotiated and closed on over \$3,000,000 of real estate deals with an organic farm and Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Secured town planning board approval as well as state and federal permits for \$1,500,000 of construction projects. Hired and managed surveyors, wetland scientists, hydrologists, engineers, construction companies and realtors to complete these projects.

The Nature Conservancy, Coastal and Estuary Specialist, Providence, RI **2007-2011**

Wrote successful grant applications for over \$200,000 from state and federal sources for coastal conservation projects. Designed and implemented an oyster shell recycling program for restoration in partnership with Rhode Island restaurants. Designed estuarine field studies, collected data, synthesized reports and worked with stakeholders to translate the results into policy and management decisions. Responsible for planning and management of major submerged-land initiatives of the Conservancy's multi-state Long Island Sound Program. Supervised staff and managed budgets.

United Illuminating, Research Consultant, New Haven, CT **2007**

Created GIS maps of electricity consumption at the household level in CT and NY. Modeled drivers of consumption and identified spatially explicit opportunities for conservation and efficiency gains.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Research Fellow, Mount Desert, ME **2006**

Designed a series of six limited development scenarios for private developer, who later hired me to implement the plan. Analyzed existing spatial data, mapped natural resources in the field, and created a land-use master plan. Supervised a summer intern.

Yale University Office of Sustainability, Metrics Research Assistant, New Haven, CT **2005-2006**

Lead the Yale Sustainability Indicators Project. Supervised a research assistant. Collected and analyzed university-wide data on resource consumption and waste production. Modeled transportation subsidy scenarios.

Woods Hole Research Center, *Land Use Change Intern*, Woods Hole, MA **2005**
Researched land use change in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed using remote sensing and GIS. Used the SLEUTH computer model to project the future extent and location of the built environment in the year 2030.

New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF), *Forestry Program Contractor*, Littleton MA **2004**
Collected field data on 10,000+ acres of conservation easement properties and wrote baseline reports with GIS maps. Collaborated with NatureServe senior ecologist to assess the impact of NEFF's forest management practices on rare, endangered and threatened plant species. Supervised forestry intern.

University of Washington, *Biology Field Technician*, National Forests of WA and OR **2003**
Collected vegetation data for the Demonstration of Ecosystem Management Options (DEMO) study. Worked as a member of a six-person crew in remote locations and rugged slash covered terrain. Established transects, identified species and measured seedling and over-story tree growth and mortality.

PROFESSIONAL DISTINCTION/LEADERSHIP ROLES

- **Member** of Congressman Langevin's Food Advisory Council **2015**
- Organized and donated 100% of proceeds from Farm Dinner to South Side Community Land Trust **2014**
- **Member** of the Local and Seafood Act grant review committee **2014 – 2015**
- **Vice- President** of the Ocean State Aquaculture Association **2012 – 2014**
- **President** of the New England Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration **2012 – 2014**
- **Treasurer** of the New England Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration **2008 – 2012**
- **USDA NRCS - National Conservation Innovation Grant** recipient **2011**
- Scientific Advisory Committee for RI Bays, Rivers and Watershed Coordination Team **2010 – 2011**
- **Schulte Independent Research Award** – funding for master's project research **2007**
- **Berkley Conservation Scholar** – to develop and apply innovative strategies for land conservation **2006**

OTHER SKILLS

Computer: AutoCAD, ArcGIS, Microsoft Office, Quickbooks, Minitab, SAS, SPSS, R, SigmaPlot.

Language: Proficient in Spanish

Other Skills/Interests: SCUBA, first aid, CPR, operating boats, carpentry, welding, boat building, gardening, hunting, fishing, soccer, swimming and lobster fishing.