

New Board of Directors Candidate Biography Form

Board Candidate: *Nick Cook, PhD, PE*

Affiliation: *Water Resources Engineer, Otak, Inc.*

Location: *Portland, OR USA*

Focus/Specialties: *Stream, wetland, and tidal assessment and restoration, hydraulics (for fish passage, structural design support, permitting, and restoration), large wood design, construction oversight, generally all things ephemeral, perennial, palustrine, and in the stream.*

Specialties: *I volunteer a lot of my time with local organizations and also spent some time in academia doing research with many of the acronym agencies and the industries they regulate. For the last 8 years, I've found myself in the private sector doing the applied work. I think moving between these worlds might be useful for helping an organization like RRNW as we pull at all of those threads, weave them together, and continue to support and build the amazing intertwined community we already have!*

Biographical Sketch: *I grew up in the 80s on a creek in Charlottesville, Virginia where I moved rocks around to make obstacle courses for floating sticks and swam in the deep pools. We would go and look at the creek after floods to see how the rocks rearranged. As I grew into my career, I got an undergrad degree in physics in Mississippi, went to grad school in the DC area (George Mason) to try and become an engineer to help the environment, survived the Great Recession, got a PHD at Virginia Tech (Go Hokies!) in Biological Systems (Ecological) Engineering, worked as a post-doc at Oregon State in the department of forestry, and now am in private industry at Otak, Inc. Short version: 40 years and a few degrees later, I essentially do a glorified version of the same thing I did when I was growing up!*

Statement of Interest: *Having crossed the big 4-0, I've really thought about the course of my life and my career, and I realize that it really all started on the stream I grew up on. My time living in the northwest as a teenager made me an environmentalist and planted the seed to end up settling here. My father's role as a professor kept me going back to school until I could find a career I love. But the thread through all of this journey has been a deep desire to serve, to find a way to be of use, and to leave the natural world better than I found it. I've been trying to do that type of work over the last 15 years, and my hope is to do the same for the RRNW organization: To serve, to be of use, and to leave it better than I found it.*