

NEWS RELEASE
September 5, 2006

MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
411 NORTH 5TH ST
SHELTON, WA 98584
(360) 427-9670 EXT. 419

TO: KMAS, KRXV, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN,
SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL,
THE SUN

RE: Mason County Open Space Advisory Committee

On September 5, 2006 the Mason County Board of County Commissioners will consider signing a Resolution establishing an Open Space Advisory Committee. This committee will be formed to assist Mason County with an Open Space and Public Benefit Rating System Ordinance and program. The program is a provision of the Open Space Taxation Act, which defines both the criteria for evaluating land for open space enrollment and the reduction rate such classification, will have on the landowner's property taxes.

The program will determine the eligibility of lands for open space classification, the process for establishing the public benefit rating system, and an assessed valuation schedule. The valuation schedule will be determined by the County Assessor and will be a percentage of market value based upon the public benefit rating system. The Open Space Advisory Committee will consist of no more than 7 members in addition to representatives of the Mason County Assessor's Office, Prosecutor's Office, Department of Community Development, and Department of Parks and Trails. The Committee will meet not more than once or twice per month, and shall serve until June 29, 2007. All Mason County residents with an interest in providing guidance and assistance in the creation of this program are strongly encouraged to apply for a position on this Committee.

For an application, please contact the Mason County Commissioners office at 427-9670, ext. 419 or visit our website at www.co.mason.wa.us. Completed applications must be submitted to the Commissioners' office by October 13, 2006.

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Lynda Ring Erickson
Chair

Jayni Kamin
Commissioner

Tim Sheldon
Commissioner