

NEWS RELEASE
May 11th, 2007

MASON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES,
WASTE MANAGEMENT AND WATER RESOURCES
P.O. BOX 578
SHELTON, WA 98584

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: Oakland Bay *Clean Water Initiative*

**Commissioners Discuss Oakland Bay *Clean Water*
Initiative at their May 15 Meeting**

The Mason County *Clean Water Initiative* will focus on protecting waterways – and the shorelines, wetlands, and forests that surrounds them. The health and cleanliness of these waters fuels our economy, feeds our families, and lifts our spirits. These waters are at risk. Pollution from stormwater runoff, on-site septic systems, lawn and garden chemicals and other sources threatens to spoil our local waterways.

“It makes sense to focus our resources on monitoring and protecting these waters while they are in pretty good shape, because clean up is difficult and costly”, says Commissioner Lynda Ring Erickson.

At their May 15 meeting, Mason County Commissioners will take the first step towards protecting our local waters. They will be consider designating Oakland Bay as an initial focus area for the Mason County *Clean Water Initiative*.

When: Tuesday, May 15, 9:00 a.m

Where: County Courthouse, Building 1, 411 North 5th Street

Come share your thoughts at this public meeting. You can also email your comments to Commissioners. Please send comments by 5 p.m. on May 14 through the Mason County website: <http://www.co.mason.wa.us/questions.php>

“It would be irresponsible not to take action based on what we know about the declining health of Mason County’s waters. The commercial shellfish industry alone contributes \$20 million annually to our local economy”, says Commissioner Lynda Ring Erickson, “This industry relies on clean water.”

A committee of residents, business owners, local, state, federal and tribal government is developing the *Clean Water Initiative*. This initiative will focus on

fixing and preventing the pollution problems that threaten Mason County's waterways.

We need everyone's good ideas as we develop the *Clean Water Initiative*. This summer, *Clean Water Initiative* partners will be coming to your meetings, your community events, even your homes, to ask you how we can protect Mason County waters from pollution. If you have an event you'd like us to attend, please call Kerry Worf, Administrative Assistant of Utilities, Waste Management and Water Resources at 427-9670, extension 207 to schedule.

Emmett Dobey
Director of Utilities, Waste Management and Water Resources