

RESOLUTION NO. 07-12
ELECTING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VOLUNTARY
STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM FOR PROTECTION OF CRITICAL AREAS
(RCW 36.70A.705)

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature, through ESHB 1886, known as the Ruckelshaus Process Bill, created a Voluntary Stewardship Program ("VSP") for protection of critical areas associated with agricultural activities; and

WHEREAS, ESHB 1886, as codified in RCW 36.70A.710, states that "As an alternative to protecting critical areas in areas used for agricultural activities through development regulations adopted under RCW 36.70A.060, the legislative authority of the county may elect to protect such critical areas through the program."; and

WHEREAS, in order to participate in the VSP, the county legislative authority must elect to participate by January 22, 2012; and

WHEREAS, prior to electing to participate in the VSP a county is required to confer with tribes, environmental and agricultural interests; and provide notice following the public participation and notice provisions of RCW 36.70A.035 to property owners and other affected and interested individuals, tribes, government agencies, businesses, school districts, and organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mason County established a VSP website and email address to provide effective communication for providing and receiving information; provided a News Release to KMAS, KRXV, Shelton-Mason County Journal, The Olympian, Shelton Chamber Of Commerce, North Mason Chamber Of Commerce, City Of Shelton, Economic Development Council, and The Kitsap Sun and a formal public notice to the Shelton-Mason County Journal; and mailed notice of the public hearing to interested individuals, tribes, government agencies, businesses, school districts, and organization; and

WHEREAS, after due notice, the Mason County Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing on January 17, 2012 to hear testimony and take public comments regarding Mason County decision to opt-in to the VSP pursuant to RCW 36.70A.710 ; and

WHEREAS, on January 17, 2012 the Mason County Board of County Commissioners considered this Resolution and officially elects to participate in Voluntary Stewardship Program (RCW 36.70A.705) and adopts the following findings:

1. The Board of County Commissioners hereby elects to enroll the entirety of unincorporated Mason County, and all of its watersheds, in the Voluntary Stewardship Program established by Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1886 (RCW 36.70A.705); and
2. The Board of County Commissioners hereby acknowledges that the county includes portions of five watersheds including Kennedy Goldsborough, Kitsap, Skokomish-Dosewallips and South Shore of Hood Canal, Queets-Quinault, and Lower Chehalis.

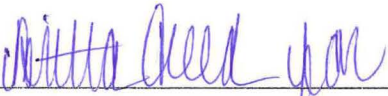
3. The Board of County Commissioners hereby nominates all of its watersheds for consideration by the State Conservation Commission as priority watersheds; and
4. There is local leadership to make the Voluntary Stewardship Program successful; and
5. Data relevant to the VSP is available and there are some watershed plans and implementation strategies that can be integrated; and
6. Technical assistance is available locally as necessary to develop and implement the Program; and
7. With adequate funding, there is a likelihood of success with a local effort to establish and implement the Voluntary Stewardship Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by adoption of this resolution Mason County is eligible for state grant-funding to accomplish the intent of the *Voluntary Stewardship Program*, and that Mason County will proceed as required under the Growth Management Act and RCW 36.70A.705 to implement the requirements of the Voluntary Stewardship Program once adequate funding is provided by the state.

ADOPTED this 17th day of January, 2012.


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ATTEST:


Shannon Goudy, Clerk of the Board


Lynda Ring Erickson, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

 #37621
Tim Whitehead, Chief DPA


Tim Sheldon, Commissioner


Steve Bloomfield, Commissioner