

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF COWLITZ
STATE OF WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 12 016

A RESOLUTION ELECTING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VOLUNTARY
STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (RCW 36.70A.700. et seq.)

- WHEREAS:** the Washington State Legislature, through ESHB 1886, created a Voluntary Stewardship Program ("VSP") for protection of critical areas in areas of agricultural activities, codified at RCW 36.70A.700, et seq.; and
- WHEREAS:** ESHB 1886, as codified in part at 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 a county may elect to protect such critical areas through the program."; and
- WHEREAS:** in order to participate in the VSP, the legislative authority of a county must elect to participate by January 22, 2012; and
- WHEREAS:** prior to electing to participate in the VSP, a county is required to (a) confer with tribes, and environmental and agricultural interests; and (b) 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:** Cowlitz County created a new VSP webpage, provided public notice in *The Daily News*, emailed the text of the public hearing notice to the County's press release, media, and mailed the public hearing notice to property owners and other affected and interested individuals, tribes, government agencies, businesses, school districts, and organizations; and
- WHEREAS:** after due notice, the Cowlitz County Planning Commission held a public meeting on December 21, 2011, to hear testimony and take public comment regarding Cowlitz County electing to participate in the VSP; and
- WHEREAS:** after due notice, the Cowlitz County Board of County Commissioners held a public hearing on January 17, 2012, to hear testimony and take public comment regarding Cowlitz County electing to participate in the VSP; and
- WHEREAS:** on January 17, 2012, the Cowlitz County Board of County Commissioners deliberated on this ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Cowlitz County Board of County Commissioners hereby:

1. Elects to have Cowlitz County participate in the *Voluntary Stewardship Program*.
2. Identifies the Grays-Elochoman watershed, the Upper Chehalis watershed, the Cowlitz Watershed and the Lewis watershed for participation in the *Voluntary Stewardship Program*.
3. Nominates the Grays-Elochoman watershed, the Upper Chehalis watershed, the Cowlitz Watershed and the Lewis watershed for consideration by the State Conservation Commission as state priority watersheds.
4. Elects to have Cowlitz County proceed as required by ESHB 1886, as currently codified in RCW 36.70A.700, et seq., to implement the requirements of the *Voluntary Stewardship Program* once the Washington State Legislature provides adequate funding for such activity.

ADOPTED this 17th day of Jan, 2012.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COWLITZ COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Absent
George Raiter, Chairman

Michael A. Kopsch
Mike Karnofski, Commissioner

[Signature]
James Misner, Commissioner

ATTEST:
CLERK OF THE BOARD

Vickie M. Musgrove
Vickie Musgrove

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
SUSAN I. BAUR, Prosecuting Attorney

[Signature]
Douglas Jensen, Chief Civil Deputy

