

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

**IN RE:  
OPTING-INTO THE RUCKELSHAUS VOLUNTARY)  
STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM CONSISTENT WITH )  
ESHB 1886 AND RCW 36.70A )**

**RESOLUTION NO. 11- 365**

WHEREAS, under ESHB 1886, known as the Ruckelshaus Process Bill, a county may elect to "opt-into" the Ruckelshaus *Voluntary Stewardship Program (Program)*, provided that it do so voluntarily prior to January 22, 2012; and

WHEREAS, prior to opting-into the Ruckelshaus *Program* a county is required to confer with tribes, environmental and agricultural interests in an open and transparent manner consistent with the requirements of ESHB 1886 and provide public notice before opting-into the program; and

WHEREAS, Lewis County planning staff and consultants, in cooperation with the Farm Bureau, have formally consulted with invited stakeholders, including the Lewis County Farm Bureau, Lewis Family Forest Foundation, The Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, the Cowlitz Tribe, the Chehalis River Council, and Fish First have conducted three public workshops throughout the County to consider all options in compliance with ESHB 1886 and the requirement to protect critical areas with respect to agricultural activities within unincorporated Lewis County under The Growth Management Act, Chapter 36.70A RCW; and

WHEREAS, following said consultation and public meetings, and in consideration of comments taken at three public meetings, the stakeholder group, including the Farm Bureau and planning division recommends that Lewis County should "opt-into" the Ruckelshaus *Voluntary Stewardship Program*; and

WHEREAS, after taking public comments prior to action by the Board of County Commissioners this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2011, it appears to be in the best interest of the public to opt-into the Ruckelshaus *Voluntary Stewardship Program*; NOW THEREFORE

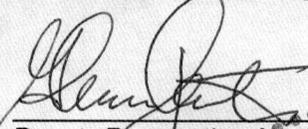
BE IT RESOLVED that the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners officially elects to opt-into the Ruckelshaus *Voluntary Stewardship Program* and adopts the following findings:

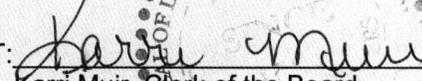
- a. Farming is vital to the economy of Lewis County and is significant within the Cowlitz River and Chehalis River watersheds;
- b. The Chehalis River watershed and Cowlitz River watershed provide salmonid habitat and other critical and economically important functions that may be impacted by farming and other activities;
- c. Biological diversity within the two watersheds is important to water and habitat quality and viability and may be vulnerable to potential adverse impacts, including agricultural activities;
- d. There is local leadership within the Lewis County Farm Bureau, local government, and other agencies and stakeholders to make the *Voluntary Stewardship Program* successful;
- e. Data relevant to the *Voluntary Stewardship Program* is available and there are watershed plans and implementation strategies that can be integrated into the *Program*;
- f. Technical assistance is available locally as necessary to develop and implement the *Voluntary Stewardship Program*; and
- g. 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 that Lewis County designates both the Cowlitz River and Chehalis River basins as potential priority watersheds, and that by adoption of this resolution Lewis County is eligible for state grant-funding to accomplish the intent of the *Voluntary Stewardship Program*, and that Lewis County will proceed as required under the Growth Management Act and ESHB 1886 to implement the requirements of the *Voluntary Stewardship Program* once adequate funding is provided by the state.

DONE IN OPEN SESSION this 31st day of October, 2011.

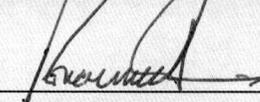
APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Jonathan Meyer, Prosecuting Attorney

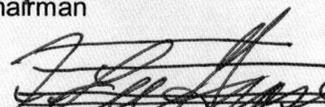
  
By: Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

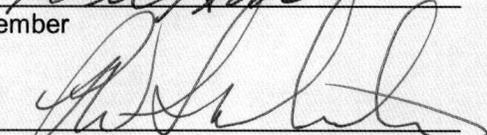
ATTEST:   
Karri Muir, Clerk of the Board

-seal

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
LEWIS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Chairman

  
Member

  
Member

Abstained  
