

Resolution No. 4 - 2012

November 29, 2011

A RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RUCKELSHAUS *VOLUNTARY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM* CONSISTENT WITH ESHB 1886

BACKGROUND

- A. WHEREAS, under ESHB 1886, known as the Ruckelshaus Process Bill, a county may elect to participate in the Ruckelshaus *Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)*, provided that it do so voluntarily prior to January 22, 2012; and
- B. WHEREAS, prior to enrollment in the VSP 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 to provide public notice prior to enrollment in the program; and
- C. WHEREAS, the County Council heard a presentation that included the formal recommendation from the San Juan County Agricultural Resources Committee on November 1, 2011, where representatives from this committee requested that the County participate in the program; and
- D. WHEREAS, San Juan County planning staff, pursuant to ESHB 1886 § 4(2)(b), have formally consulted with the three required stakeholder groups through a workshop held on December 9, 2011; and
- E. WHEREAS, San Juan County planning staff has sought public input regarding the consideration of all options in compliance with ESHB 1886 and the requirement to protect critical areas with respect to agricultural activities within San Juan County under The Growth Management Act, Chapter 36.70A RCW, and has provided notice of the County's decision regarding the VSP in the local newspapers *The Journal of the San Juan Islands* and *The Islands' Sounder* as well as online media *San Juan Islander* and *The Island Guardian*; and
- F. WHEREAS, following said consultation and in consideration of comments received, the San Juan County Community Development Department and San Juan County Agricultural Resources Committee recommends that San Juan County should participate in the VSP; and
- G. An environmental checklist was prepared evaluating potential effects of the proposed option to participate and a notice of Determination of Nonsignificance was issued on November 21, 2011 and published on November 30, 2011. The notice was provided to federal, state and local agencies in accordance with San Juan County Code 18.80.050 and WAC 197-11-340; and
- H. The County Council conducted a duly advertised public hearing on January 10, 2012; and
- I. WHEREAS, it appears to be in the best interest of the public to participate in the VSP; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the San Juan County Council officially elects to enroll in the Ruckelshaus *Voluntary Stewardship Program* and adopts the following findings:

1. Agriculture in San Juan County is a vital part of our heritage and an integral part of the county's landscape, culture and economy. Our quality of life depends on the successful integration of sustainable agriculture and ecological health.
2. The San Juan County watershed recognized as "WRIA-2," which encompasses the entire county, provides salmonid habitat and other critical and economically important functions that may be impacted by farming and other activities;
3. There is local leadership, including within the San Juan County Agricultural Resources Committee, local government, and other agencies and stakeholders to make the VSP successful;
4. Data relevant to the VSP will soon be available and there are existing water quality and species recovery plans and implementation strategies that can be integrated into the VSP;
5. Technical assistance is available locally, as necessary, to develop and implement the VSP; and
6. With adequate funding, there is a likelihood of success with a local effort to establish and implement the VSP; and
7. Although the risk of conversion of San Juan County farmland to other uses may not be as intense and immediate as it is on the mainland of Washington, the finite agricultural resources of this island county magnifies the need to protect agricultural lands and activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County designates all of San Juan County (known as WRIA-2) as a potential priority watershed, that this watershed is to participate in the VSP, and that by adoption of this resolution San Juan County is eligible for state grant-funding to accomplish the intent of the VSP, and that San Juan County will proceed as required under the Growth Management Act and ESHB 1886 to implement the requirements of the VSP once adequate funding is provided by the state.

ADOPTED this 10th day of January 2012.

COUNTY COUNCIL
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ATTEST: Clerk of the Council

Ingrid Gabriel
Ingrid Gabriel, Clerk
Date: 1.10.2012

Lovel Pratt
Lovel Pratt, Chair
District 1, San Juan South

OPPOSED

Richard Peterson, Member
District 2, San Juan North

Howard Rosenfeld
Howard Rosenfeld, Member
District 3, Friday Harbor

REVIEWED BY COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR

Pete Rose
Pete Rose Date: 6 January 2012

OPPOSED

Richard Fralick, Member
District 4, Orcas West/Waldron

Patty Miller
Patty Miller, Vice-Chair
District 5, Orcas East

RANDALL K. GAYLORD
APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY

By: Randall K. Gaylord
Date: 1/5/2012

Jamie Stephens
Jamie Stephens, Member
District 6, Lopez/Shaw