

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

**IN THE MATTER OF OPTING-INTO)
THE RUCKELSHAUS VOLUNTARY) RESOLUTION 12-01
STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM)
CONSISTENT WITH ESHB 1886)**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County having convened in Regular Session, in their office at the Lincoln County Courthouse this 17th day of January, 2012, with all members present; and

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, Lincoln County planning staff and consultants, in cooperation with the Farm Bureau, have formally consulted with all appropriate stakeholders and conducted public workshops to consider all options in compliance with ESHB1886 and the requirement to protect critical areas with respect to agricultural activities within unincorporated Lincoln County, Chapter 36.70A RCW, and has provided notice of the County’s intent to opt-into the *Voluntary Stewardship Program* in *The Wilbur Register*; and

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

WHEREAS, 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 Lincoln 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 Lincoln County and is significant within the watersheds;
- b. The Crab Creek watershed (WIRA 43) and Lower Lake Roosevelt watershed (WIRA 53) provide 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;
- d. There is local leadership, including WIRA 43 and WIRA 53 watershed management teams, local government, and other agencies and stakeholders to make the *Voluntary Stewardship Program* successful;
- e. Data relevant to the *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 *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 the County designates both the Crab Creek and Lower Lake Roosevelt River basins as potential priority watersheds, and that by adoption of this resolution Lincoln County is eligible for state grant-funding to accomplish the intent of the *Voluntary Stewardship Program*, and that Lincoln 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.

DATED at Davenport, Lincoln County, Washington, this 17th day of January, 2012.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF LINCOLN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ATTEST

Clerk of the Board – Shelly Johnston

By Marci Patterson
Deputy Clerk of the Board
Marci Patterson

Rob Coffman
Chairman – Rob Coffman

Scott M. Hutsell
Vice Chairman – Scott M. Hutsell

Dennis D. Bly
Member – Dennis D. Bly