

For Immediate Release – September 29, 2006

Contact: Michelle McConnell, Project Coordinator – SMP Update
Jefferson County Department of Community Development
360/379-4484 or mmcconnell@co.jefferson.wa.us

Shoreline Committee Delves Deeper into Planning Issues

Port Townsend, WA—Keeping the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) top-of-mind, the members of the Shoreline Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) met September 26th to learn more about how and why a Draft Shoreline Inventory & Characterization Report has been prepared. The report is a required step in the SMP Update process, assessing such topics as water flow, erosion, sediment transport and water quality, along with their effects on the ecological functions of our freshwater and marine shoreline resources.

“The main purpose of the report is to support the SMP and to provide a scientific baseline for preparing policies and regulations that include restoration of our shoreline habitat and no net loss of ecological function,” said Margaret Clancy, a representative for ESA Adolphson, in her review of the report prepared by Adolphson. “We’re looking to find the restoration opportunities and needs, not just to maintain the current status of our shorelines, but to also improve them over time.”

Jefferson County received a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology to update its Shoreline Master Program in compliance with the 1971 State Shoreline Management Act and SMP Guidelines, which were adopted in 2003. The Shoreline Inventory & Characterization Report provides a baseline inventory of shoreline conditions and will support preparation of a restoration plan.

The committee work done by both the SPAC and the Shoreline Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) is invaluable to the SMP Update process. The committees have met separately on several occasions over the past four months and will assemble, along with the general public, for a three-day event October 12-14 called the Shoreline Charrette Primer. This is an opportunity for anyone interested to learn more about local shorelines, regulation requirements and give input on planning goals for Jefferson County. The Primer will begin with a keynote address at 6:00 PM, Thursday, October 12, on the subject of “Climate Change and Puget Sound Shorelines,” delivered by Dr. Edward Miles of the University of Washington.

A full Shoreline Charrette is being planned for February 2007 when staff, consultants, committees, elected officials, stakeholders and the public will be invited to participate in a dynamic community workshop to revise the SMP. The County is eager to have people get informed and get involved from the start.

Anyone interested to learn more can contact Michelle McConnell at 379.4484 or via e-mail at mmcconnell@co.jefferson.wa.us to join an e-mail distribution list for meeting announcements and periodic project updates. All advisory committee meetings are open to the public. More detailed information is available on the County’s Web site at www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/ShorelinePlanning.htm.

###