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### **SMP Update for Jefferson County moves full speed ahead in 2008**

**Port Townsend, WA**—Excellent progress was made on the Jefferson County Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update project in the latter half of 2007. Most notably a working draft was released in September with the Shoreline Policy Advisory Committee (SPAC) and the consultants, ESA Adolfson, having met 10 times from mid-September through early December with Jefferson County staff to review and provide input on various aspects of the draft.

“Citizen volunteers and agency representatives attended over 50 hours of meetings considering existing regulations, State guideline requirements, current shoreline conditions, use and development patterns, as well as projected developments based on land use zoning, as they discussed each chapter of the draft SMP,” said Michelle McConnell, Associate Planner for the SMP Update. “This early community involvement reflects a wide array of perspectives that will help to produce revised shoreline goals, policies and regulations that uphold the Shoreline Management Act and the State SMP Guidelines as well as implement the local vision in our Comprehensive Plan.”

Additional comments on the working draft were received by SPAC members in late December which will then be incorporated into the next revision in early 2008. In addition to the work done by SPAC, four open houses were held throughout the County in October for the public to be brought up-to-date on the activities of the SMP process. Also, the Shoreline Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) met twice to review and provide input on the draft Shoreline Restoration Plan. This document serves as a technical supplement to the draft SMP Update.

Moving into 2008, the public can expect more outreach events, such as open houses and public meetings, for presentations on the final SMP draft document. In Fall 2008, an SMP proposal will be submitted to the Jefferson County Planning Commission for a formal public review process, including public hearings and public comment periods.

The Jefferson County Department of Community Development (DCD) is the lead agency for the Jefferson County SMP Update, and works closely with the Washington Department of Ecology. The Washington Department of Natural Resources manages shoreline resources, including tideland leases for State-owned aquatic lands, and is a State agency member of the SPAC. Other members of SPAC include local government entities, such as the Tribes, City, Port, and Conservation District, as well as representatives from real estate, aquaculture, home builders, the marine industry, recreation and environmental interests, all of whom were invited to participate by DCD staff. The SPAC was formed to include diverse stakeholder representation and has allowed many sides of SMP issues to be discussed. It’s advisory only, not a decision-making body and all committee meetings have been and will continue to be open to the public.

Between both the SPAC and STAC, 31 individuals (including six dual committee members) contributed a total of 675 hours of time attending meetings, and also spent personal review and research time, to assist staff and consultants in preparing a draft SMP proposal for formal public review.

Jefferson County received a grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology to update its Shoreline Master Program in compliance with the State’s 1971 Shoreline Management Act and the 2003 SMP Guidelines. All jurisdictions in the State must update their SMPs by 2014. Jefferson County is due to submit a locally-approved SMP to the Department of Ecology by June 2009.

More information is available by contacting Michelle McConnell at 379.4484 or via e-mail at [mmcconnell@co.jefferson.wa.us](mailto:mmcconnell@co.jefferson.wa.us). Or go to the County’s Web site at [www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/ShorelinePlanning.htm](http://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/commdevelopment/ShorelinePlanning.htm).

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