

**For Immediate Release** – October 5, 2006

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

### **Three-Day Shoreline Workshop Planned for October 12-14**

**Port Townsend, WA**—If you own waterfront property or enjoy Jefferson County's local lakes, streams, rivers and marine shorelines, come to the Shoreline Charrette Primer October 12<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> at the Inn at Port Hadlock, sponsored by Jefferson County's Department of Community Development (DCD). This is an opportunity for the community to participate in developing a vision for shoreline management goals.

"This three-day event is intended to educate and engage people interested in our shorelines and to give preliminary information in preparation for the full-scale Charrette that will be held next February," said Michelle McConnell, project coordinator for DCD's Shoreline Master Program (SMP) update. "We've had two advisory committees working over the past several months on both the technical and citizen-related aspects of protecting and regulating our shorelines. These two groups will meet during this Primer event to continue their work, but Thursday evening is the biggest opportunity for the public."

On Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, the Charrette Primer kicks off at 6 p.m. with a food-for-thought keynote address by Dr. Edward Miles, a leading researcher and professor from the University of Washington who will discuss *Climate Change and Puget Sound Shoreline Communities*. Dr. Miles, a member of the National Academy of Sciences and former director of the UW School of Marine Affairs, believes it's too risky to wait on addressing the issue of climate change.

"The environment ticks by a different clock; it takes about 100 years for the current levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide to dissolve in the world's oceans, acidifying it and killing much of the coral reefs of the world today, which means that if we do wait, it may be too late," said Dr. Miles. His presentation will also serve as a useful prelude to the climate change focus of Watershed Day VIII to be held at Fort Worden on October 21<sup>st</sup>.

At 7 p.m., Margaret Clancy from ESA Adolfson, the lead consultant working with the County on the SMP update, will give an overview on *Shoreline Planning 101*. And at 8 p.m. there will be a public visioning workshop on *Management Goals & the Future of Our Shorelines*. There is no charge for the evening and the public is encouraged to attend.

Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, the Shoreline Technical Advisory Committee and Shoreline Policy Advisory Committee will have a joint meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The focus will be to review a new draft shoreline inventory document that is a required step in the SMP update process. The ESA Adolfson consultant team will review key findings about the current condition of local shorelines, introduce the process for using shoreline environment designations, and preview the upcoming restoration planning step of the project. The public is welcome to attend at no charge.

On Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. the *Marine Shoreline Landowners Workshop* will be held. This is being co-sponsored by the Puget Sound Action Team, Jefferson County Marine Resources Committee, WSU Extension, Shore Stewards, the North Olympic Salmon Coalition and Jefferson County. The workshop offers an opportunity for participants to learn more about the importance of our local shorelines and estuaries, marine life on beaches, changes to our shorelines, and how to keep our shorelines safe and healthy. Guided beach walks and historical photos will be part of the day. Pre-registration is required with a \$12 fee, which reserves your

place in the workshop and provides your lunch. To register, contact WSU at 379.5610, ext. 200 or via e-mail at [admin@jefferson.wsu.edu](mailto:admin@jefferson.wsu.edu).

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 the 2003 SMP Guidelines. The Shoreline Inventory & Characterization Report provides a baseline inventory of shoreline conditions and will support preparation of a restoration plan.

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. After Planning Commission review and Board of County Commissioner approval, the proposed SMP will be submitted to the Department of Ecology by June 30, 2007.

For more information, contact Michelle McConnell at 379.4484 or via e-mail: [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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