

RESOLUTION NO. 48-25

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARTICIPATION IN THE VOLUNTARY
STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (RCW 36.70A.705)**

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature, through Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 1886, created a Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) for the protection of critical areas in areas of agricultural activities; codified at RCW 36.70A.700, and,

WHEREAS, the legislation makes enrollment in the VSP an alternative for protecting critical areas on lands used for agricultural activities; and

WHEREAS, SSB 5353 reopened VSP to counties that did not enroll under the original enabling legislation.

WHEREAS, Wahkiakum County planning staff, in cooperation with the Washington State Conservation Commission, and the Wahkiakum County Conservation District have conducted community outreach including a public workshop, article(s) in local news, and direct mailing agriculture interests to consider all options pertaining to SSB 5353 and the requirement to protect critical areas with respect to agricultural activities within unincorporated Wahkiakum County under the Growth Management Act; and,

WHEREAS, on October 30, 2023, Wahkiakum Conservation District hosted a public meeting to review the VSP with agriculture, interested tribes, and environmental interests. The consensus was favorable for opting into the VSP; and,

WHEREAS, Wahkiakum Conservation District further advertised the VSP by providing public notice in the Wahkiakum Eagle, and direct mailing agriculture property owners and other affected (220 letters); and,

WHEREAS, it appears to be in the best interest of the public to opt-in to the VSP; and now therefore,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Wahkiakum County Commissioners hereby:

- 1) Elects to enroll the entirety of unincorporated Wahkiakum County, and all of its watersheds, in the Voluntary Stewardship Program as established by Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1886 and amended by SSB 5353.
- 2) Nominates subbasins of the Grays River, Skamokawa Creek, Elochoman River and Puget Island watersheds (Water Resource Inventory Area 25), as delineated in the attached map, as priority watersheds; this designation shall be conveyed to the State Conservation Commission.

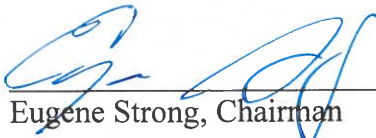
- 3) Elects to have Wahkiakum County proceed as required by ESHB 1886 and amended by SSB 5353 to implement the requirements of the VSP once the Washington State Legislature provides adequate funding for such activity.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of March, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF WAHIAKUM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

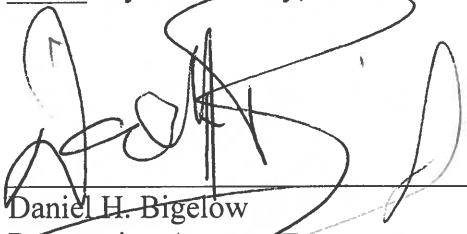
ATTEST:


Elizabeth Johnson
Clerk of the Board


Eugene Strong, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM this
27th day of February, 2025.

Excused
Lee Tischer, Commissioner


Daniel H. Bigelow
Prosecuting Attorney


Daniel L. Cothren, Commissioner

Wahkiakum County Voluntary Stewardship Program Priority Watersheds

