

Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

BOARD MEMBERS

**Single Family-North
Fork Stillaguamish**
Dale Shelton

**Single Family-South
Fork Stillaguamish**
Vacant

**Single Family-Main
Stem Stillaguamish**
Ray Brown

Single Family-Lakes
Miriam Lancaster

Single Family-UGA
Vacant

Single Family-At-Large
Herm van Lier

Single Family-At-Large
Dave Ridgeway

Single Family-At-Large
Christine Betchley

Farm Rate Payer
John Connolly

**Retail, Industrial, Other
Rate Payer**
Kelly Wynn

**Stillaguamish Flood
Control District**
Max Albert

**Snohomish
Conservation
District**
Steve Van Valkenburg
(Chair)

**Snohomish Health
District**
Rich Ollivier

**Wash. Department of
Ecology**
Vacant by agency choice

**Wash. Department of
Fish and Wildlife**
Vacant by agency choice

**Stillaguamish
Tribe**
Gina Gray

Tulalip Tribes
Vacant by agency choice

**Surface Water
Management Staff**
Sean Edwards

Meeting Summary – FINAL Thursday, April 24, 2014 5:30 – 7:30 PM Peace Lutheran Church, Silvana

Attendance

Board Members Present: Max Albert, Christine Betchley, Ray Brown, Gina Gray, Miriam Lancaster, Rich Ollivier, Dave Ridgeway, Dale Shelton, Herm van Lier, Steve Van Valkenburg

Board Members Excused: John Connolly

Board Members Absent: Kelly Wynn

SWM Staff: Sean Edwards, Debbie Terwilleger

Guests: Bill Best, Brett de Vries, Mak Kaufman, Andrew Noone, Kevin Plemel

Welcome, introductions, agenda review, and meeting summary

Clean Water District Advisory Board (CWDAB) Chair Steve Van Valkenburg opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. with introductions of all meeting participants. Steve welcomed new Board Member Miriam Lancaster who was appointed by the Snohomish County Council on 4/23/14 to the Single Family Ratepayer – Lakes position.

Sean Edwards provided hard copy packets including the following materials:

- CWDAB 4/24/14 Preliminary Meeting Agenda
- CWDAB 3/27/14 Meeting Summary – DRAFT
- Excerpt from Snohomish County Code Title 25A.20.030 (Rate structure for clean water districts)
- Snohomish County Surface Water Management Rate Structure Overhaul (handout from 4/1/14 Snohomish County Council Public Works Committee briefing)
- CWD Subcommittee: OSS Loan and Grant Program (email from Lisa Dulude to Sean Edwards providing background information and questions for the 4/17/14 Discretionary Fund Subcommittee meeting)
- Snohomish County Clean Water Loan and Grant Program (handout from Lisa Dulude provided at 4/17/14 DF Subcommittee meeting)
- Lower Stillaguamish PIC Program Overview (PowerPoint presented at 4/23/14 Stillaguamish Watershed Council meeting)
- Why Grow Shellfish? (one-page handout from Pacific Shellfish Institute)
- April 11, 2014 letter from Washington Department of Health, Office of Shellfish and Water Protection to SWM Director regarding results of annual review of commercial shellfish growing areas in Port Susan and South Skagit Bay
- CWDAB By-laws as amended at 3/27/14 meeting
- CWD Discretionary Fund Application Review 4/17/14 (summary of application review scores by DF Subcommittee)
- CWD Advisory Board's 2014 draft recommendations letter to SWM Director

The 3/27/14 draft meeting summary was approved as written.

Subcommittee Reports

Finance: Max reported that the Finance Subcommittee met with SWM staff on 4/16/14. They reviewed CWD fund balances for revenues collected under the authorities of RCW 90.72 (shellfish protection/water quality) and RCW 36.89 (stormwater). All of the fund balances are shrinking, especially for 90.72. They also discussed SWM's Service District Reassessment Study (SDRS) with SWM Director Debbie Terwilleger, which includes the possibility of a county-wide CWD. The Finance Subcommittee also presented their revised proposal to restore 90.72 revenues and the balance between 90.72 and 36.89 revenues.

Discretionary Fund: Max reported that the DF Subcommittee met on 4/17/14 to discuss the proposed On-site Septic System (OSS) Loan and Grant Program with Lisa Dulude from the Snohomish County Executive's Office. They agreed to meet again to develop a process for dovetailing the new OSS loan and grant program with the existing DF Grant Program. The DF Subcommittee will provide an update on this at the next CWD Advisory Board

meeting on 5/22/14. The DF Subcommittee also reviewed four DF grant applications that SWM received by the 4/1/14 quarterly deadline. Staff note: the next submittal deadline for quarterly review of new DF grant applications is July 1, 2014.

Shellfish Protection: Sean provided hard copies of his Lower Stillaguamish Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Program overview presentation, which he gave at the 4/23/14 Stillaguamish Watershed Council meeting in Arlington. The last slide of the presentation included the following summary of next steps for the PIC Program:

- Finalize regulatory coordination flowchart – late April 2014
- Finalize outreach strategy – late April 2014
- Develop sub-award contracts – late April 2014
- Launch web page – early May 2014
- Conduct quarterly PIC Advisory Committee meeting – May 2014
- Publish first annual newsletter – May 2014
- Develop cost share guidelines – May 2014
- Conduct first annual public meeting – June 2014
- Conduct dry season contaminant source survey (CSS) – September 2014

Sean also briefly discussed the Washington Department of Health's recent review of the commercial shellfish growing area classifications in Port Susan and South Skagit Bay. Similar to previous years, some of the water quality sampling stations in the Port Susan shellfish area are identified by WDOH as "threatened", meaning that the fecal coliform bacteria levels are close to exceeding the threshold of 43 FC/100 mL.

Stillaguamish Watershed Council: Gina reported on the 4/23/14 SWC meeting. The meeting included presentations by Sean on the Lower Stillaguamish PIC Program and by Patrick Moran on a US Geological Survey study of emerging contaminants in the Stillaguamish watershed. Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) grant proposals were received for three projects in the Stillaguamish watershed. The SWC will visit the proposed SRFB project sites next week. Sean noted that SWM staff member Bob Aldrich also attended the SWC meeting and provided an update on the effort to expand the newly created river channel at the Oso Slide and the challenges involved in managing current and future flooding in the immediate area as well as downstream.

Motion to Approve Changes to CWD Advisory Board Bylaws as Discussed on 3/27/14

Steve noted that the Board discussed proposed changes to the bylaws on 3/27/14 and that the revised bylaws were ready for a motion to approve. ***Herm moved to approve the bylaws as amended and Max seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.***

Snohomish Health District 2013 Accomplishments and 2014 Work Plan

Kevin Plemel discussed SHD's 2013 accomplishments and priorities for 2014. SHD's Wastewater Program, which regulates on-site septic systems in Snohomish County, currently has about four FTEs, which is down significantly from the 14 FTEs that it used to have. As a result, their work plan is focused on keeping up with mandated activities, such as OSS permitting. This organizational capacity issue became even more challenging last year when the Snohomish County Planning and Development Services (PDS) Department improved its pace of building permit review and approval, which puts more pressure on SHD for quick permitting of new OSS and repairs.

In 2013 SHD started looking at options for increasing funding and that effort is continuing in 2014. SHD is currently analyzing all processes for automation/efficiency improvements. Using a grant from WDOH, SHD intends to hire a consultant to evaluate funding options and present them to the SHD Board of Health. The SHD Wastewater Program currently receives no financial support from the Snohomish County General Fund. SHD Wastewater Program funding comes from OSS permitting fees, WDOH funding for local health jurisdictions, and the Stillaguamish River CWD Shellfish Protection Program.

Kevin noted that enforcement work is time consuming and expensive. SHD employs a private attorney to handle enforcement cases, but that legal capacity is limited. A lot of good ideas have opposition and require substantial amounts of time to implement. SHD is also busy responding to the Oso Slide. Kevin invited questions and a constructive discussion ensued with highlights as follows:

- SHD is a special district formed in the late 1950s to give local cities a role in decision making; SHD is not a

- branch of Snohomish County government.
- SHD is governed by a Board of Health comprised of all five Snohomish County Council Members and ten other representatives from large and small cities.
- Passage of Washington State Initiative 695 in 1999, which repealed an existing vehicle excise tax, resulted in a significant cut to state funding for local health jurisdictions.
- The CWD Advisory Board appreciates Rich Ollivier's contributions and views SHD as an important partner.
- It is difficult for SHD to give up Rich's time for the CWD, but it is important.
- SHD does not receive any funding from Snohomish County PDS permit fees.
- Some other local health jurisdictions, such as Kitsap County Health Department, receive funding from surface water management fees.
- SHD Wastewater Program permitting and inspection capabilities are keeping up with new wastewater treatment technologies.
- Although SHD has not implemented the Point of Sale Verification program as originally envisioned, SHD's new OSS service provider certification system, which requires reporting on OSS repairs, is leading to updates of OSS records in SHD's on-line database. However, SHD does not have the capacity to manage that data effectively and maintain the system.
- Snohomish County's proposed OSS Loan and Grant Program is a good thing. Low interest loans will be of interest to OSS service providers.
- To hire one FTE, SHD needs about \$100K per year.

Steve thanked Kevin for taking the time to come talk with the Board and noted the importance of SHD's role in the CWD for regulating on-site septic systems.

Review Discretionary Fund Grant Applications and Make Recommendations to SWM Director

Max briefly described the following DF grant applications and presented the DF Subcommittee's review of each application:

1. Miller On-Site Septic System (OSS) Repair

- Applicant: Ray Miller
- Location: west shore of Lake Goodwin
- Funding request: \$9,623
- Total project cost: \$19,246

Chris moved and Dave seconded a motion to recommend the Miller OSS Repair DF grant application for approval by the SWM Director: motion was approved unanimously.

2. Weidert OSS Repair

- Applicant: Linda and Jim Weidert
- Location: Warm Beach
- Funding request: \$10,000
- Total project cost: \$27,586

Chris moved and Dave seconded a motion to recommend the Weidert OSS Repair DF grant application for approval by the SWM Director: motion was approved unanimously.

3. Community Oyster Gardens (education and outreach)

- Applicant: Pacific Shellfish Institute
- Location: Workshop to be held in Warm Beach area
- Funding request: \$5,864
- Total project cost: \$7,829

Chris moved and Gina seconded a motion to recommend the Community Oyster Gardens DF grant application for approval by the SWM Director: approved unanimously.

4. Be the Solution 2014 (education and outreach)

- Applicant: Sound Salmon Solutions
- Location: Shellfish dinner to be held in Stanwood

- Funding request: \$12,466
- Total project cost: \$16,874

Max noted that the proposed funding request included \$3,000 for “planning”, which is not an eligible expense for DF grants. Andy Noone handed out copies of a revised project budget showing that the expenses are for essential project management activities related to organizing the proposed shellfish dinner. **Gina moved and Dale seconded a motion to recommend the Miller OSS Repair DF grant application for approval by the SWM Director: motion was approved unanimously.**

The Board also briefly discussed the Discretionary Fund 2014 budget. **Sean agreed to email the revised DF 2014 budget to the Board.**

Finalize Recommendations Letter to SWM

Max led the Board through the final review and editing of its annual recommendations letter to SWM. **At 8:00 p.m. Max made a motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes, it was seconded by Gina, and approved unanimously.**

Herm moved to accept the letter as edited, the motion was seconded by Max, and it was approved unanimously.

Steve and Gina will work with Max and Sean to make any additional refinements as needed, sign it, and submit it to SWM Director Debbie Terwilleger by May 1st.

Begin Preparing Recommendations Letter to Snohomish Conservation District and Create Subcommittee to Draft Letter for 5/22/14 Meeting

Dale, Chris, and Steve volunteered for the subcommittee to draft the recommendations letter to SCD. **Steve requested that Board Members send any topics for the letter to Sean by May 1st.**

Meeting Review, New Business, and Public Comment

This agenda item was skipped for lack of time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 22, 2014, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Peace Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall.

This meeting summary was prepared by Sean Edwards. Please direct any questions or comments to Sean Edwards at 425-388-3024 or sean.edwards@snoco.org. More information about the CWD is also available at <http://cwd.surfacewater.info>.