

Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

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Surface Water Management Staff
Sean Edwards

Snohomish County Public Works,
Surface Water Management
3000 Rockefeller Avenue,
Everett, WA 98201
(425) 388-3464
www.cwd.surfacewater.info

April 27, 2015

Gregg Farris, Interim Co-Director
Snohomish County Public Works, Surface Water Management
3000 Rockefeller Ave, MS607
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Mr. Farris,

Pursuant to Title 25A.30.030, Snohomish County Code, the Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board (the Board) offers its recommendations and comments:

Budget Allocations – Surface Water Management (SWM) has requested detailed recommendations regarding funding levels and priorities for the 2016 budget. This entails an appraisal of relative emphases between the various programs and projects funded by Clean Water District fees collected under both RCW 90.72 (shellfish protection) and RCW 36.89 (stormwater control). Much of this appraisal is outlined in the Shellfish Protection Work Plan developed by SWM staff and the CWD Shellfish Committee (see attached).

It is important to note that use limitations stemming from the statutory delineation of these two revenue sources are less than they may appear at first glance. Many projects, such as Lake Ketchum, Drainage and Diking District 7, or NPDES, fall into a gray area where surface water and water quality/shellfish protection problems overlap, and funds have been drawn from both sources to meet project needs. Furthermore, 90.72 program funds are used cooperatively. The 59.1% of revenue assigned to SWM's water quality/shellfish projects, including any funding to the Snohomish Health District (SHD) has been complemented by projects performed by the Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) (33% of revenue) or the Discretionary Fund (DF) (7.9%). For example, monitoring and analysis funded within the Water Quality/Shellfish program, have led directly to remediation measures through the SCD contract, or to implementation by means of DF projects.

This considered flexibility and project synergy has proven to be an effective approach. With that in mind, the Board offers the following recommendations regarding the 2016 budget:

- ▲ Water quality monitoring, analysis, and follow-up provide the basis for corrective actions to reduce pollution in the CWD lakes and streams. **The Board recommends** full, Work Plan funding of monthly freshwater monitoring, focusing on the lower Stillaguamish River, coastal waterways, and lakes that drain to Port Susan and South Skagit

Bay, followed up by bacterial pollution source identification surveys in high priority areas, with technical assistance, cost share incentives, and regulatory enforcement;

- ▲ The Work Plan also proposes \$100,000 funding to SHD for a sanitarian FTE, to support both the CWD water quality effort and the County's Savvy Septic loan and grant program launched this year. **The Board recommends** allocation of \$50,000 from the Water Quality/Shellfish Protection funds toward this FTE, provided that SWM allocates funding for the remaining \$50,000 from the Snohomish and South County Water Management Areas (WMAs). SHD services are county-wide, and Savvy Septic serves not only the CWD, but the two WMAs as well. The CWD allocation could be assigned its own budget-line project number;
- ▲ **The Board recommends** that the annual budget for SCD and the DF be maintained at no less than the 2015 level, and augmented beyond that wherever necessary by liberal use of the respective fund balances;
- ▲ The \$12,000 in 36.89 funding cut from the 2015 lakes budget jeopardizes the progress of Eurasian water milfoil plant control at Lakes Goodwin and Shoecraft. The 36.89 fund balance at the end of 2014 is larger than projected, and **the Board recommends** the milfoil funding be restored in 2016;
- ▲ **The Board recommends** \$10,000 of 36.89 revenue be allocated to support drainage maintenance planning in Drainage and Diking District 12.

Amendment of T25A – County Council has stated its intention to amend SCC Title 25A to codify the respective shares of CWD revenues now allocated to the 90.72 and 36.89 funds in the 2015 budget. To ensure adequate base funding for our 90.72 program, **the Board again recommends** that SWM support this amendment.

Stillaguamish Shellfish Protection Program – **The Board recommends** SWM formally request that the Snohomish County Council adopt the Stillaguamish Shellfish Protection Program, finalized in 2011, as required by RCW 90.72.030. This adoption will enable annual reporting to the Washington Department of Health, Office of Environmental Health and Safety, also required by RCW 90.72.

Lakes – The Board commends SWM's lakes personnel for their fine work in the LakeWise program, and particularly in reducing toxic algae on Lake Ketchum. Our lakes are a vital natural resource of the CWD, entwined with the health of fresh and marine waters downstream, impacting the health of humans, pets and wildlife, including shellfish. Five are listed as impaired. The Board is concerned that SWM budget changes could reduce services to CWD lakes, and makes **the following recommendations:**

- ▲ Continued efforts, such as the successful alum treatments underway at Lake Ketchum, to control toxic algae and restore impaired lakes;
- ▲ Continued outreach to property owners in lake watersheds via the LakeWise program to reduce residential bacteria and nutrient pollution;
- ▲ Volunteer monitoring of lake water quality at all 12 CWD lakes.

Education and Outreach – The Board strongly supports funding for education and outreach, not only in the SCD contract and DF projects, but also as an integral part of the Stillaguamish Shellfish Protection Program. Also, the Board requests an update on SWM's inter-agency education and outreach through the Snohomish-Camano Eco Net program.

Partnerships – The Board is encouraged by the inter-agency cooperation that has undertaken the clean-up of the horse manure pile near Happy Valley Road. We urge SWM to continue to facilitate the effort until all the waste has been removed and the site is no longer a source of bacterial pollution. We also urge SWM to fund the development of interlocal agreements with the cities of Stanwood and Arlington for cooperative water resource management in the CWD. These ILAs should address reporting of wastewater overflow events to SWM and representation on the CWD Advisory Board.

The Board appreciates your attention to our recommendations and comments. We look forward to receiving your written response.

Respectfully,


Steve Van Valkenburg, Chair


Dale Shelton, Vice Chair

Cc:

Lenda Crawford, Executive Director, Snohomish County Executive's Office

Dave Somers, Chair, Snohomish County Council

Paul Ellis, City Administrator, City of Arlington

Deborah Knight, City Administrator, City of Stanwood

Monte Marti, Manager, Snohomish Conservation District

Kevin Plemel, Interim Environmental Health Division Manager, Snohomish Health District

Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board, Shellfish Protection Subcommittee Stillaguamish Shellfish Protection Program – Work Plan Recommendations

April 24, 2015

Recommendations for SWM 2016 Work Plan and Budget	Cost Estimate	SWM Staff Hours	Notes
Conduct monthly long-term freshwater quality monitoring with focus on Lower Stillaguamish River and coastal waterways that drain to South Skagit Bay and Port Susan.	\$21,200	280	Assumes 12 sites monitored monthly for fecal coliform bacteria, ammonia, and potassium. Need one extra sample from each site during the 4-month dry season (June – September) to obtain a minimum of 5 samples for seasonal comparison to water quality standards. Annual cost of lab analysis is ~\$7,200 (\$600/site/year). Annual cost of staff time to collect samples is ~\$5,200 (8 hrs/sampling day x 13 sampling days/year @ \$50/hr). Annual cost of staff time for data management and reporting is ~\$8,800 (8 hrs/month x 12 months + 8 hrs/year @ \$50/hr). High priority areas for monitoring: Stillaguamish River swimming holes near Silvana, Old Stilly Channel, Miller Creek, Stangeland Ditch, Dettling Ditch, Big Ditch downstream of hunting cabins, Irvine Slough, Douglas Creek at Pioneer Hwy, Warm Beach Dike Pond, Greenwood Creek, Glade Bekken, and Church Creek.
Conduct bacterial pollution source identification field surveys in high priority areas based on water quality monitoring results and/or land uses that are likely to pollute.	\$26,000	480	Assumes 6 weeks of work per year for a 2-person team. Annual cost of staff time is \$24,000 (480 hrs @ \$50/hr). Annual cost of lab analysis for investigative water quality samples is ~\$2,000 (lab analysis of up to 40 samples per year @ \$50/sample).
Follow-up on identified bacterial pollution sources with technical assistance, cost share incentives, and regulatory enforcement as needed to ensure corrective measures are implemented.	\$26,000	480	Assumes 6 weeks of work per year for a 2-person team (480 hrs @ \$50/hr). Requires investigative freshwater quality sampling at ~\$2,000/year for lab analysis. Requires maintenance of an electronic system for documenting sources identified and tracking status of corrective measures.
Support horse manure pile clean-up efforts of partner agencies, including Ecology, SCD, and SHD.	\$3,000	60	Requires Snohomish County to participate in inter-agency coordination efforts led by Ecology to define scope of the problem and clean-up strategy. Assumes 60 hrs of work in 2016 @ \$50/hr. Need SHD Solid Waste Program involvement because of their regulatory role.
Conduct education and outreach to raise public awareness about water quality conditions and promote behavior changes needed to protect and restore water quality.	\$25,600	320	Requires development of a social marketing plan to define the types of education and outreach activities that will be effective for raising awareness and promoting behavior change in the CWD. Assumes 4 weeks of work for a 2-person team (320 hrs @ \$50/hr). Also requires maintenance of CWD web pages, participation in education and outreach activities led by external partners, etc. (16 hrs/mo. x 12 mo. @ \$50/hr). Target audiences include: livestock owners, OSS owners, OSS industry professionals, pet owners, sportfishers, swimmers, boaters, and CWD ratepayers.

Recommendations for SWM 2016 Work Plan and Budget	Cost Estimate	SWM Staff Hours	Notes
Continue to administer Discretionary Fund Grant Program as the primary source of cost share incentives for BMPs in the CWD.	\$7,200	144	Assumes 1.5 days of work per month to maintain DF application materials, review DF applications for completeness, coordinate quarterly DF Subcommittee meetings, develop DF grant contracts, track implementation of DF projects, maintain DF Grant Program web pages, and prepare year-end DF summary report (12 hrs/mo. x 12 mo. @ \$50/hr).
Maintain annual Discretionary Fund Grant Program budget at approximately \$60,000 per year.	\$60,000	0	Per SCC Title 25A.20.030(3)(c), 7.9% of annual CWD revenue collected under the authority of RCW 90.72 is allocated to the Discretionary Fund.
Support drainage maintenance planning for Drainage District No. 12 to ensure that their drainage maintenance activities are conducted in compliance with environmental regulations.	\$10,000	200	Assumes SWM participates in DD12 stakeholder meetings led by WDFW and provides leadership for inter-agency coordination (200 hrs @ \$50/hr). Does not include technical support for engineering surveys, modeling, fish passage design, etc.
Update Stillaguamish Shellfish Protection Program and ensure that it is adopted by Snohomish County Council as required by RCW 90.72.	\$8,000	160	Assumes 2 weeks of work in January for a 2-person team (160 hrs @ \$50/hr).
Prepare and submit annual shellfish protection program report to Washington Department of Health, Office of Shellfish and Water Protection as required by RCW 90.72.	\$8,000	160	Assumes 2 weeks of work in February of each year for a 2-person team (160 hrs @ \$50/hr).
Develop interlocal agreements with cities of Stanwood and Arlington for cooperative water resource management in the CWD.	\$8,000	160	Assumes 4 weeks of work (160 hrs @ \$50/hr). This could be completed in 2015 if clearly assigned to a specific SWM staff person. Support for this work might be available from PA's Office and/or PW Contract Administration Group.
Continue partnership with the Snohomish Conservation District for farm planning services in the CWD.	\$235,000	0	Assumes status quo annual funding allocations to SCD per SCC Title 25A.20.030.
Re-establish partnership with Snohomish Health District for sanitarian services in the CWD.	\$100,000	0	Based on SHD's need to permanently increase its Wastewater Program staffing by 1 FTE. Assumes that the County assures \$100,000 annual funding for SHD in the form of amendment to SCC Title 25A.20.030, which would likely reduce SWM's portion of annual RCW 90.72 revenues. This would not be necessary if SHD would use its existing authority to charge annual OSS fees to generate adequate sustainable funding for implementation of its OSS management plan.
Provide leadership on fostering inter-agency cooperation for water quality protection and restoration in the CWD.	\$4,000	80	Requires coordination with the following partners: Ecology, WDOH, WSDA, WDFW, tribes, Sno. Co. PDS, Sno. Co. Parks, SCD, SHD, Stanwood, Arlington, PSP, and Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO. Assumes 80 hrs/yr @ \$50/hr.
Total	\$542,000	2,524	