

Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

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May 28, 2015

Monte Marti, Manager
Snohomish Conservation District
528 91st Ave. N.E., Suite A
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

Dear Mr. Marti,

Pursuant to Title 25A.30.030 SCC, the Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board (the Board) offers the following recommendations and comments relating to the Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) services in the CWD:

SCD Staff Assignments in the CWD – **The Board recommends** that sufficient staff hours or equivalent FTE, commensurate to the level of funding provided to you by the CWD, be dedicated to meet the service needs of our commercial farmers, small farms, and residents. This does not necessarily require that SCD staff, such a farm planner, be assigned exclusively to the CWD. However, Section III(A)(2) of the CWD by-laws stipulates that a member of SCD staff is required to attend our monthly Board meetings.

Discretionary Fund Projects – The CWD Discretionary Fund offers an effective means for prompt funding assistance to our ratepayers, for small, clean-water projects. **The Board recommends** that SCD increase its effort to bring forward DF project applications, for both small farm and restoration projects.

Fund Balance – While the uncertainty in RCW 90.72 (shellfish protection) revenues in recent years may prompt caution with regard to expenditures, an accumulation of RCW 90.72 fund balances on the other hand fails to reflect the need for stable base funding. The Board has recommended to Surface Water Management (SWM) that these fund balances be employed liberally in the 2016 CWD budget. Accordingly, **we recommend** that SCD be prepared to employ a significant portion of its RCW 90.72 fund balance in next year's contract.

Publicizing LakeWise – Reducing pollution in CWD lakes plays an important part in our clean water goals. **The Board recommends** that SCD continue to publicize the County's LakeWise program through your various education and outreach seminars and publications, particularly to the residents of lake watersheds, in cooperation with SWM lakes staff.

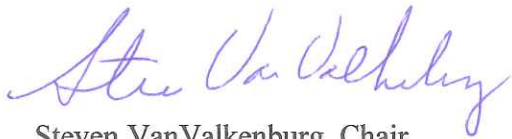
Soil Testing Services – Recognizing that soil nutrient analysis promotes proper application rates of soil nutrients, and preservation of our resources, **the Board recommends** the SCD aggressively pursue a soil testing program within the Stillaguamish watershed. Allocation of testing resources should

be prioritized as follows: commercial farming operations, small farming operations who hold current farm plans or are in the process of developing a farm plan, and then to those who are asking for technical assistance with their farms and to gardeners and homeowners.

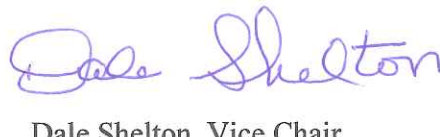
Drainage and Diking District 12 – SWM staff hopes to engage with the farmers and landowners of DD12 to develop a drainage management plan, both to protect water quality and to deal with increasing upland discharge. **The Board urges** SCD to offer assistance to SWM and the stakeholders in this process.

The Board compliments the Snohomish Conservation District for its continuing efforts with referral and compliance issues, here in the CWD, and for exceeding the outreach goals of the 2014 SCD Work Plan. We strongly support your work with farm planning, Best Management Practice consultations, and workshops focusing on clean water. We hope these recommendations will be helpful to you in the coming year, and look forward to your response.

Respectfully,



Steven VanValkenburg, Chair



Dale Shelton, Vice Chair

cc:

Gregg Farris, Interim Co-Director, Snohomish County Surface Water Management

Dave Garland, Washington Department of Ecology

Kirk Lakey, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Ginny Prest, Washington Department of Agriculture