

Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

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*Surface Water
Management Staff
Sean Edwards*

May 2, 2016

Will Hall, Director
Snohomish County Public Works
Surface Water Management
3000 Rockefeller Ave., MS 607
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Mr. Hall,

Pursuant to Title 25A.30.030, Snohomish County Code, the Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board (the Board) offers its annual recommendations to Surface Water Management (SWM).

Stormwater Drainage in the Lower Stillaguamish and Skagit Basins

The Board has received a joint letter from the Stillaguamish Flood Control District, Drainage District 12, and Diking and Drainage Improvement District 7, requesting Surface Water Management's assistance for improvements in their drainage networks and to better cope with stormwater run-off from the neighboring uplands.

- The Flood District and DD12 are asking for two actions. First, completion of the long-delayed inventory of their infrastructure, to map and describe each culvert, tide gate, ditch, and other drainage facility, its location, elevation, capacity, and current condition, along with projected costs for necessary upgrades or replacements. Such an inventory would assist them in seeking grant funding. Second, they request technical assistance in calculating the appropriate contribution of each benefited property to the capital and operation costs of the Thomle Road pump station.
- DD7 is requesting replacement of perched, county road culverts that are impeding both farmland drainage and potential fish passage in the DD7 network. These culverts have already been identified in SWM's 2014 report, *Douglas Creek and Vicinity Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modeling*. DD7 stands ready to work with SWM to prioritize these replacements in a multi-year effort.

The Board is well aware of the impacts of upland development on these districts, and the ever-rising costs, due to stormwater run-off, silt, debris, and pollution, compared to prior, less-developed conditions. **We recommend** that SWM provide these districts with the requested assistance.

SWM Staffing of the CWD

The Board no longer enjoys the services of a watershed steward, so that both the CWD Shellfish Protection/Water Quality program and Board staffing are largely tasked to a single individual. This has led to unavoidable delays in Board business, such as Council approvals of new Board members, and preparation of meeting summaries. Also, the informational binders to aid and orientate new members have not been provided in recent years. The Board was told that up to \$145,000 could be budgeted to the

Shellfish Protection program, but was not needed in 2016 because of the Lower Stillaguamish Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) grant. **The Board therefore recommends** that additional staffing be funded this year (and fully budgeted for 2017) to assist in the CWD, and we support SWM's decision to hire an additional planner toward that purpose.

SWM Contract with the Snohomish Health District

The Board is concerned about the slow progress on finalizing the contract with SHD. Cooperation with SHD plays a key role in achieving our water quality goals, and the contract also provides for their participation on the CWD Board. The Board was assured by SWM that the contract would be timely completed, and **we strongly recommend** that it be given top priority.

Horse Stable Waste

Despite some progress by the County and the Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) with horse barn waste management, and the disposal of one particularly troublesome pile, ongoing large accumulations of such waste continue to pose a threat to water quality in the CWD. **The Board recommends** that SWM survey and evaluate the scale and nature of the problem, not only to better inform clean-up efforts, but to develop, in cooperation with SCD, a written protocol for managing and reducing horse stable waste accumulation.

Lake Wise

The Board thanks SWM for its fine work with the residents of Lake Ketchum, and for the expansion of the Lake Wise program to include three CWD lakes. We support the continuation of these programs, as well as the 2016 Lake Wise communication plan for education, outreach and certification, including reminders to encourage regular septic system maintenance.

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

Sincerely,



Dale Shelton, Chair

cc:

Jeff Ketchel, Environmental Health Division Manager, Snohomish Health District
Monte Marti, Manager, Snohomish Conservation District