

Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

BOARD MEMBERS

*Single Family Ratepayer –
Stillaguamish Drainage*
Dale Shelton (Chair)

*Single Family Ratepayer –
Skagit Drainage*
Graham Logen

*Single Family Ratepayer –
Port Susan Drainages*
Vacant

Single Family Ratepayer - Lakes
Miriam Lancaster

*Single Family Ratepayer –
Tulalip Drainage*
Vacant

Ratepayer – At-Large #1
Vacant

Ratepayer – At-Large #2
Dave Ridgeway

Ratepayer – At-Large #3
Bob Landles (Vice Chair)

Ratepayer – At-Large #4
Vacant

Farm Rate Payer
Kurt Strotz

*Commercial, Industrial, and Other
Ratepayer*
Kelly Wynn

*Diking, Drainage, and Flood Control
Districts*
Vacant

Snohomish Conservation District
Steve Van Valkenburg

Snohomish Health District
Steve Rice

*Washington Department of
Ecology*
Colleen Crotty

*Washington Department of Fish
and Wildlife*
Vacant by agency choice

Stillaguamish Tribe
Vacant by agency choice

Tulalip Tribes
Vacant by agency choice

Surface Water Management Staff
Sean Edwards and Elisa Dawson

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Surface Water Management
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Meeting Summary – FINAL
Thursday, April 27, 2017 5:30 – 7:30 PM
Peace Lutheran Church, Silvana

Attendance

Board Members Present: Bob Landles, Graham Logen, Steve Rice, Dave Ridgeway, Dale Shelton, Kurt Strotz, Steve Van Valkenburg, Miriam Lancaster

Board Members Excused: Colleen Crotty

Board Members Absent: Kelly Wynn

SWM Staff: Sean Edwards, Gregg Farris

Guests: Max Albert, Mak Kaufman, Jeff Ketchel, Eric Schuh

Welcome, introductions, agenda review, and meeting summary

Clean Water District Advisory Board (CWDAB) Chair Dale Shelton opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. with introductions and review of the meeting agenda. Bob Landles moved to approve the 3/23/17 meeting summary. Dave Ridgeway seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **All were in favor and the 3/23/17 meeting summary was approved as written.**

Sean Edwards provided hard copy information packets including the following materials:

- CWDAB 4/27/17 preliminary meeting agenda
- CWDAB 3/23/17 meeting summary draft
- Commercial Shellfish Growing Area Statistics by County (WDOH, August 2016)
- WDOH Early Warning System (EWS) letter to SWM Director 4/13/17
- BEACH Monitoring & Warm Beach Training Agenda Draft 4/26/17
- ECAF SWM proposal to consolidate
- CWDAB Draft #7 SWM Annual Letter

Subcommittee reports

Stillaguamish Watershed Council (SWC): Dave Ridgeway reported that the April meeting was cancelled and the next meeting will be in May.

Lakes: Miriam Lancaster reported that the latest alum maintenance treatment of Lake Ketchum to control phosphorous levels and algae growth was conducted on 4/26/17. On budget since original treatment was done in 2014.

Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIO): Bob Landles reported that the LIO Implementation Committee met on 4/20/17. Focused on final changes to LIO Ecosystem Recovery Plan in preparation for final adoption by the LIO Executive Committee. There is a subcommittee that has been working to identify changes to the LIO restructure and function. The next step is to identify specific criteria for the LIO structure. There was a presentation on implementation strategies by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE). They noted positive progress on floodplain restoration, but not much progress on freshwater quality. Thirty Puget Sound lowland streams have improved from "fair" to "good." Puget Sound Partnership has also identified the criteria that will be used for the 2018 funding for Near Term Actions addressing the vital signs for Puget Sound recovery. Regional vital signs identified by PSP are consistent with the Snohomish-Stillaguamish LIO's priorities and recovery plan. The revised Puget Sound regional recovery vital signs include: Chinook salmon, land development and cover, marine water quality, shellfish beds, freshwater quality, shoreline armoring, summer stream flows, floodplains, estuaries, and toxics in fish.

Shellfish Protection: Sean Edwards reported on regional shellfish harvest by county in Washington State through 2016 using a summary report provided by WDOH.

Sean also reviewed the WDOH annual letter to Snohomish County regarding shellfish classification status review. This year's letter identifies marine water sampling station 297 in Port Susan as now failing to meet the water quality standards for commercial shellfish harvest. As a result, WDOH is going to downgrade a portion of the 1,800-acre Port Susan commercial shellfish growing area around station #297. Samples collected in November and December 2016 at station 297 and other nearby stations detected significant increases in fecal coliform (FC) compared to previous samples collected over a nearly five year period. SWM is going to discuss this impending downgrade with WDOH and the Stillaguamish Tribe with regards to possible causes of the increased FC levels in November and December 2016 as well as what kind of pollution response plan is needed. Sean noted that while the heavy rainfall this winter might have caused widespread stormwater runoff and flushing of FC to Port Susan, the November/December 2016 FC spikes might also be due to one or more site-specific discharges of pollutants from new sources that we are not already aware of or old sources that we thought had been cleaned up.

Sean also reported that SWM has contracted with the WSU Extension Beach Watchers Program to have trained volunteers collect marine water quality samples at the south end of Warm Beach during the spring/summer swimming season starting after Memorial Day. This monitoring will be done as part of the Beach Environmental Assessment, Communication, and Health (BEACH) Program. Sean solicited feedback from CWDAB Members who might be interested in participating in a BEACH water quality monitoring training session in Mukilteo on 5/9/17. Copies of the training agenda were provided in the meeting packets.

Finance: Steve Van Valkenburg reported that he emailed some questions to Mike McGuinness and is waiting for a response.

Discretionary Fund: Steve Van Valkenburg had nothing new to report regarding Discretionary Fund status, which continues to be on hold for new applications as directed by SWM Director Will Hall. Sean Edwards reported that the final inspection of the Feller-Thoms DF project was in the process of being scheduled with the Snohomish Conservation District. After the final inspection, the grant recipient will submit a final invoice for reimbursement of eligible costs according to the DF grant contract.

SWM updates

Gregg Farris reported that the Snohomish County Council has scheduled a public hearing on May 17th at 10:30 a.m. for proposed ordinance 17-020, which would consolidate the Stillaguamish CWD with the Snohomish and South County Watershed Management Areas (WMAs), dissolve the CWD Advisory Board, expand the Discretionary Fund, and eliminate the existing shellfish protection district function of the CWD. Regardless of how this turns out, Gregg thanked the Board Members for their volunteer service. SWM is looking for a more efficient way of getting public input. Gregg also thanked Sean for his many years of staff support for the Board.

Gregg announced that SWM is holding a public open house on Thursday, May 4th, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the main Snohomish County Campus to get public feedback on the County's water quality program, related to the county's NPDES stormwater permit, which requires public participation. Gregg also said that regardless of whether the county consolidates the three SWM fee areas, the SWM Management Team is interested in reviewing the Discretionary Fund Grant Program guidelines, including eligible project types.

Bob Landles commented that SWM has a group of volunteers in the CWDAB that have a tremendous commitment to the clean water objectives in the Stillaguamish watershed. Through SWM and the information that has been provided, the CWDAB has developed a substantial body of expertise that is irreplaceable. Dissolving the CWDAB would be a big loss.

Max Albert commented that the proposed ordinance includes a statement that the CWD and the other two WMAs are nearly identical, which Max said is not true. Steve Van Valkenburg asked Gregg to ask Will Hall why the County does not have similar advisory groups for the rest of the county to address the unique characteristics of each watershed. Dave Ridgeway also noted that the CWDAB has established its credibility

to the point where counties have looked at the CWD as a model. He also noted that the DF laid the groundwork for the successful Savvy Septic Program. Dale noted that Council may not be aware of any of these issues, so it is important for the CWDAB to provide input at the May 17th public hearing. Miriam also suggested that the Board communicate to Council the collective years of experience and areas of expertise that the CWDAB brings to the collaborative watershed stewardship effort. Max added that the CWD has accomplished a lot since it was created.

Snohomish Health District (SHD) 2016 Accomplishments and 2017 Work Plan

SHD's interim administrator Jeff Ketchel described his previous experience as a King County employee working with the local community on Vashon Island to improve on-site septic system repairs through a series of "septic socials" at people's houses to educate septic system owners about operation and maintenance requirements and resources. He compared his Vashon experience with the work that the CWDAB and Snohomish County is doing to protect and restore water quality in the Stillaguamish watershed.

A month ago Jeff was the Environmental Health Division Director, but after the Public Health Officer and Administrator both left SHD recently, Jeff was promoted to interim administrator. Jeff expressed appreciation for the intergovernmental agreement between SHD and Snohomish County SWM, which includes \$100,000 to help pay for SHD sanitarian services. That agreement is in the process of being extended by six months to the end of 2016.

Jeff provided copies of a one-page summary of SHD's work in the CWD in 2016 compared to 2015, including the number of septic system complaints, septic system repair designs, solid waste complaints, etc. The number of building permits and associated septic permit applications continue to be high compared to a couple of years ago.

Jeff also discussed the impact of the Hirst decision, which requires counties to not permit new construction in rural areas where groundwater is over allocated due to instream flow requirements for fish. This new requirement of counties may have a big impact on rural property values and the regional economy. Staff note: for more information about the Hirst decision, see Ecology's web site at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/nwro/hirst.html>.

Jeff also discussed HB 1476, which is sponsored by Strom Peterson from Snohomish County. This bill would amend existing requirements for local health jurisdictions to update their on-site septic system management plans every five years for review and approval by the Washington Department of Health (WDOH). SHD is preparing to submit a septic management plan to WDOH for review and approval. Jeff noted that the plan will be available for public review and comment and he offered to provide it if the CWDAB is interested in reviewing it. Staff note: for more information about HB 1476, see the Washington State Legislature's web site at <http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1476&Year=2017>.

Jeff said that SHD is likely to not implement an annual septic system management fee to help pay for SHD's ongoing work because of the lack of political support for it. Sean noted that the original vision for allocating SWM fee revenue to SHD for Sanitarian Services was to provide a temporary bridge to help SHD develop other sources of funding to pay for SHD's participation in the CWDAB and inter-agency coordination efforts for bacterial pollution control.

Sean asked about the status SHD's evaluation of its organizational structure and funding. Jeff explained that the Snohomish County Executive hired former Council member Dave Gossett to look at what it would mean to the County if SHD became a department of the County. Gossett's report has been delivered to the Executive. The last SHD Board of Health retreat was well-attended and the Board Members are actively engaged in preparing the 2018 budget and work program.

Finalize annual recommendations letter to SWM Director

Miriam Lancaster led the Board's review and editing of the draft letter, paragraph by paragraph. The draft letter was prepared by a subcommittee that included Miriam, Dale, and Graham. The letter writing process went through eight different drafts. The main subject of the letter was SWM's proposed Ordinance 17-020. After making various edits to the letter, the Board unanimously approved it for signature by the Chair and Vice

Chair. Sean will coordinate with the Chair and Vice Chair to get their signatures and to distribute the final letter on Monday.

Create subcommittee to draft recommendations letter to SHD

Graham and Dale volunteered to draft the next recommendations letter to SHD, which the Board will finalize at the May 25th meeting. Dale requested that suggestions for the draft letter should be sent to the subcommittee by Friday, May 5th.

Meeting review, new business, and public comment

Sean Edwards thanked the Board for working with his colleague Elisa Dawson while he was out on FMLA leave following the death of his mom, his own health issues, and other stressors in his life.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 25, 2017, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Peace Lutheran Church, Fireside Room.

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