

Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

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Vacant by agency choice

Surface Water Management Staff
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June 22, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Marti,

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

2016 Accomplishments: We thank Bobbi Lindemulder for her presentation at the May 25, 2017 CWD Board meeting. Overall, your 2016 accomplishments are impressive. We especially appreciated learning how you leveraged funding to raise and utilize the additional \$400,600. We commend the SCD for your excellent work.

2017 Work Plan: Overall, the SCD 2017 Work Plan appears to be comprehensive and ambitious, yet realistic. It has a good balance of training and education, technical assistance, and hands-on projects.

Education and Outreach: The Board recommends that you continue and enhance outreach and educational services, engaging both rural and urban residents in ways that they can improve water quality, including but not limited to social media, meeting and event presence, technical assistance during on-farm visits, mailings and in-service classes. We encourage you to continue your efforts in engaging youth in education and outreach programs.

Technology to reduce and manage manure waste stream: The Board commends the SCD for its efforts in being pro-active in reducing the effects of animal waste on water quality, including education of rural producers, soil testing and manure application programs and the work with the manure processing technology. We encourage the SCD to continue and even increase involvement in these programs in the future and would like a report on these on-going programs.

Involvement with cooperator organizations: We encourage the SCD to continue to work closely with entities within Snohomish County, such as local diking and drainage districts, and others with interests and activities that include water and water quality.

Funding: The Board supports and applauds your continuing efforts to leverage and increase available funding through grants. We would appreciate additional specific information about the SCD rates and charges proposal and how any additional funds will be used.

Compliance: The Board commends the SCD in your work with other agencies in referral and compliance issues with landowners. We encourage your continued involvement and efforts in this area.

Alternatives for Horse Bedding: In our 2016 recommendations letter to the SCD, we

asked for a study to be made of alternatives to wood products for horse bedding and your response letter indicated an interest in looking into this issue. We would like an update on the status of this study and any progress which has been made to supplant wood products with more easily composted material such as straw.

Ordinance 17-020: With Ordinance 17-020 currently before the Snohomish County Council, we mutually face uncertainties until the ordinance issues are resolved and a path forward is outlined. It is our hope that we will have the opportunity to continue to work cooperatively together and continue to accomplish our mutual priorities and without breaks in services currently provided.

The Board thanks SCD for its continuing assistance to CWD landowners, in both resource management and clean water education and outreach. We hope our recommendations and comments will be helpful to you in the coming year, and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Dale Shelton, Chair



Bob Landles, Vice Chair

cc:

Brian Sullivan, Snohomish County Council Chair
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Alessandra Durham, Boards and Commissions Coordinator
Steve Thomsen, Public Works Director
Gregg Farris, SWM Planning Manager
Sean Edwards, SWM Senior Planner