

Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

BOARD MEMBERS

*Single Family-North Fork
Stillaguamish*
Dale Shelton

*Single Family-South Fork
Stillaguamish*
Vacant

*Single Family-Main Stem
Stillaguamish*
Ray Brown

Single Family-Lakes
Vacant

Single Family-At-Large #1
Herm van Lier

Single Family-At-Large #2
David Ridgeway

Single Family-At-Large #3
Christine Betchley

Single Family-UGA
Vacant

Farm Rate Payer
John Connolly

Retail, Industrial, Other Rate Payer
Kelly Wynn

*Stillaguamish Flood Control
District*
Max Albert

Snohomish Conservation District
Steve Van Valkenburg (Chair)

Snohomish Health District Staff
Rich Ollivier

*Washington Department of
Ecology*
Vacant

*Washington Department of Fish
and Wildlife*
Vacant

Stillaguamish Tribe
Gina Gray (Vice Chair)

Tulalip Tribes
Mike McHugh

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

July 31, 2013

Kevin Plemel, Environmental Health Manager
Snohomish Health District
3020 Rucker Avenue
Everett WA 98201

Dear Mr. Plemel,

The Stillaguamish River Clean Water District (CWD) Advisory Board appreciates the participation of the Snohomish Health District (SHD) in the CWD. Annual intergovernmental service agreements between SHD and Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM), in 2011 and 2012, have greatly improved SHD's ability to contribute to our clean water goals.

We understand, however, that SHD and SWM do not yet have a new intergovernmental service agreement for 2013, due to budget uncertainty resulting from Snohomish County Ordinance 13-009. **The Board recommends** that SHD and SWM produce an agreement for 2013 and, based on our review of the 2012 agreement, we offer the following comments and recommendations for the scope of work:

Stillaguamish Shellfish Protection Program

The 2012 agreement stated that the SHD will deliver a report to SWM with review and comments on potential SHD actions that might further contribute to the Stillaguamish Shellfish Protection Program. **The Board requests** that SHD include an addendum to its annual review, addressing the following: (a) on-site septic (OSS) permitting; (b) complaint response, and; (c) assurance of maintenance and repair. **The Board further requests** that SHD coordinate with SWM to ensure these comments are received in time for inclusion in Snohomish County's 2013 shellfish protection program annual report to the Washington Department of Health, Office of Shellfish and Water Protection.

Online OSS Operation and Maintenance

The 2012 agreement stated that SHD will deliver periodic updates to the CWD Advisory Board on your efforts to deploy online OSS operation and maintenance (O&M) reporting, to document service provider certification and compliance within the CWD. Such a reporting system could assist SWM in instituting an O&M inspection requirement for Discretionary Fund supported OSS repairs. **Therefore, the Board recommends** that SHD continue implementation of this online O&M reporting system in 2013 and advise us on its status.

Point of Sale Verification

The CWD Advisory Board has supported SHD's efforts to develop a program

for point of sale (POS) verification of OSS compliance with O&M guidelines. We understand that a proposed POS program was not approved by the SHD Board of Health. We believe that this program would be a valuable tool for identifying and repairing failing OSS, and should be reconsidered. **The Board offers its support of this program, and recommends** that SHD once again pursue a POS program with the Board of Health and the Snohomish County Council.

OSS Education and Outreach Workshops

The 2012 agreement stated that SHD will participate in OSS operation and maintenance training workshops conducted by the Snohomish Conservation District. **The Board recommends** that SHD seek opportunities in 2013 to participate in or conduct additional homeowner OSS workshops similar to those discussed above.

Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization

The CWD Advisory Board understands that the SHD has attended some of the Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIO) meetings in support of the Puget Sound Partnership Action Agenda. **The Board recommends** that SHD's representative attend all bimonthly LIO meetings to help advocate for near-term actions that will complement the CWD goal of improving water quality within the Stillaguamish River watershed and adjacent shellfish beds.

SHD Involvement in CWD Advisory Board

The CWD Advisory Board has been engaged in a substantial effort to improve water quality through the use of small-project grants from the CWD Discretionary Fund. A significant portion of this fund has been used for cost share to encourage prompt and effective OSS repairs. In supporting 17 separate OSS repairs since 2011, we have relied on SHD staff to help us evaluate the grant applications, a key to the success of the program. **The Board recommends** that SHD continue as an active member of the CWD Advisory Board and its Discretionary Fund Subcommittee.

SHD Funding in the CWD

The CWD Advisory Board understands that funding is a critical issue for the SHD, because most of SHD's funding is tied closely to permit fee revenues that can have significant cyclical variation. Therefore, in our letter this fall to the Snohomish County Council, we intend to voice our support for allocating a portion of CWD fees to the SHD to ensure base funding for its efforts in the CWD. This change may be possible as an outcome of SWM's Service District Reassessment Study, which is currently underway, and associated code amendments that are expected to be implemented in 2015.

Thank you for considering our comments and recommendations, and for your participation on the CWD Advisory Board.

Respectfully submitted,



Steve Van Valkenburg, Chair



Ragina Gray, Vice Chair

Cc: Dr. Gary Goldbaum, SHD Health Officer
Karen Guzak, SHD Board of Health 2013 Chair
Debbie Terwilliger, SWM Director