

Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

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SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
RECEIVED 12 TIME 10:50 am October 14, 2011

OCT 14 2011

CC'D TO:	CF _____	MJI _____
JCA _____	DIST 1 _____	KJB _____
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Snohomish County Council
3000 Rockefeller Ave, M/S 609
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Council Members:

Pursuant to Snohomish County Code (SCC) Title 25A, the Stillaguamish River Clean Water District (CWD) Advisory Board wishes to provide you the following recommendations and comments:

Lakes Outreach and Remediation - Surface Water Management (SWM) is implementing a pilot Outreach and Remediation (O&R) project at Lake Howard to identify the best approaches to educating local residents and correcting behaviors that contribute to pollution. This project is scheduled for 2011-2012, after which, in 2013, it will be used as a model for an expanded program on all lakes in the CWD. Although the Board supports the Lake Howard project, we believe that O&R on the other lakes should not be delayed where specific problems, such as the recent toxic algae blooms on Lake Ketchum, Sunday Lake, and Lake Howard, reveal a critical need to reduce pollution. **The Board is recommending that SWM expand and accelerate accordingly its lakes outreach and remediation, in 2012. We suggest that Council have periodic progress reports on this issue from SWM.**

Lakes Aquatic Plant Control - For over 10 years, the County has employed divers to maintain control of invasive milfoil plants in Lakes Goodwin and Shoecraft. The program is funded by a small "Aquatic Plants" fee from lakeside taxpayers. Recently, however, the Washington Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) has raised concerns about similar programs elsewhere in Washington, which also operated under "scientific diving" regulations. L&I pressed for such divers to operate under stricter, far more expensive, "commercial" safety standards. As a result, efforts by the County and lakeside property owners to control invasive species had to be reduced in 2011. Already it appears that the use of herbicides will be necessary in 2012, and even greater expense threatens if these plants are allowed to proliferate. An ongoing mediation process begun by L&I to address the safety issue has so far been inconclusive. **The Board requests that Council lend its support to resolving the L&I mediation process and commit additional funds to this program if necessary, so that divers might remove the milfoil both affordably and safely.**

Pet Waste Disposal in County Parks - Recreational users of county parks and trails in the CWD frequently run dogs off-leash near streams, posing a threat to water quality. Pet Waste Disposal Stations, including bag dispensers, waste receptacles, and signage, are commonly used in public parks to reduce that threat, but are not adequately provided in Snohomish County parks. Although SWM is beginning a reconnaissance to identify high-risk areas, and is consulting with the Parks Department on pet waste control, **the Board wishes to reiterate its recommendation that Parks establish a program to place Pet Waste Disposal Stations where County parks and trails give access to the Stillaguamish River and its tributaries.**

The Shellfish Protection Program - **The Board asks Council to approve by resolution the**

goals of the Stillaguamish Shellfish Protection Program, presented to you last fall by SWM staff, and to support its implementation. Key objectives of the CWD are to reduce bacterial pollution in Port Susan and South Skagit Bay, to expand approved shellfish harvest areas, and to maintain those harvest areas already upgraded by the Washington Department of Health. The Shellfish Protection Program sets goals and actions for the Stillaguamish basin, where fecal coliform levels, though improving, often exceed Washington Department of Ecology limits. Reducing fecal coliform also makes water safer for recreational uses such as swimming, fishing, and boating, and for the irrigation of fresh produce.

Snohomish Health District Membership on the CWD Board - SCC Title 25A.30.040(h) states that the Stillaguamish Clean Water District Advisory Board membership shall include:

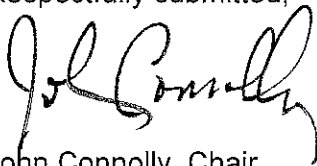
"The Snohomish health district (until such time as the health district receives funds from the district at which time they will serve as staff to the board)."

The Board sees no need for this parenthetical restriction, which is imposed on none of our other member agencies. We are already well staffed by Surface Water Management, and our by-laws contain clear rules governing participation in the decision-making process by agencies receiving funds. We value full, voting membership for the Snohomish Health District, and its management has expressed willingness to fulfill that role. **The Board therefore requests that Council amend 25A.30.040(h), to strike the phrase in parentheses, during your next review and update of Title 25A or "housekeeping" amendments to the SCC.**

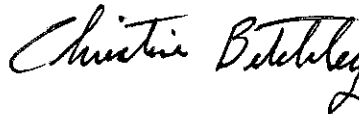
Discretionary Fund - The Board wishes to advise Council that we have instituted, through our Discretionary Fund Subcommittee and with the support of SWM staff, a strengthened Discretionary Fund program. We believe that the Discretionary Fund is essential for assisting our landowners with small water-quality projects and for encouraging stewardship in the CWD.

The Board thanks you for your continued support of CWD objectives and welcomes any comments or suggestions you might wish to make.

Respectfully submitted,



John Connolly, Chair



Christine Betchley, Vice Chair

Cc: Tom Teigan, Snohomish County Parks & Recreation Department Director
Debbie Terwilleger, Snohomish County Public Works, Surface Water Management Director
Kevin Plemel, Snohomish Health District, Environmental Health Division Manager

For more information:

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