

# Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

June 23, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Marti,

Pursuant to Snohomish County Code Title 25A.30.030 SCC, the Stillaguamish Clean Water District (CWD) Advisory Board offers you its recommendations for the Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) 2012 Work Plan. To enable sufficient funding for your 2012 contract for the Stillaguamish Watershed, our May 2, 2011 letter to Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM) recommends drawing upon the current RCW 90.72 SCD fund balance, in addition to the full 33% allocation of RCW 90.72 revenue projected for 2012.

## Resource Management Assistance

**The Board recommends continuation of the SCD program of Best Management Practice (BMP) technical assistance, farm plans, site visits, soil testing, and water-quality improvement cost share, as detailed in your 2011 Work Plan, including continuation of a full-time planner dedicated to the Stillaguamish watershed.** In particular, we urge you to implement the waste management (manure pile) projects funded through the Discretionary Fund, as well as the rental manure-spreader project. We request that you provide us an update in July on the status of these two projects. The Board supports SCD's partnerships with SWM regarding Low Impact Development (LID) projects and the Water Quality Facilities Plan.

## Referral and Compliance

Surveys and inventories conducted by SCD and SWM, in such sub-basins as Glade Bekken, Portage Creek, Fish Creek, and Warm Beach, have identified numerous, non-compliant land-use practices that directly impact water quality and that can be remedied by the implementation of BMP's. **Therefore, the Board recommends that SCD shift its focus in 2012 toward addressing these identified problems through resource management assistance.** Since voluntary cooperation by the landowners involved is not always forthcoming, **the Board further recommends that SCD consult with SWM and the Department of Ecology (DOE) to clarify the referral and compliance process.**

## Water Quality Monitoring

Although the CWD already funds water quality monitoring through SWM, we are pleased to hear that SCD is expanding its own capability in that area. **The Board recommends that SCD work with SWM to supplement County water-quality data useful to the Microbial Water Quality Assessment**

**(MWQA) and DOE programs, particularly in such basins as Church Creek, Portage Creek, Glade Bekken, and the lower Stillaguamish.** We urge SCD to meet with SWM and the Stillaguamish Flood Control District, to explore possible SCD monitoring on the Stillaguamish Old Channel, south of Stanwood.

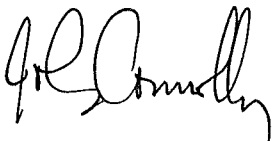
Education and Outreach

SCD information services form a key element in the CWD Education and Outreach Strategic Plan, promoting the activities and programs that reflect water-quality priorities of the CWD. **Accordingly, the Board recommends that SCD adapt its program of workshops, community events, and other outreach to fully support the Plan,** including such programs as Shellfish Protection, the Discretionary Fund, and MWQA. The SCD website and Nexus newsletter need to emphasize the connection between basin-wide clean water benefits and the implementation of BMP's, Farm Plans, and LID. SCD publications should note, where appropriate, that your services in the CWD are paid for by Clean Water District fees.

The Board has recommended to SWM that ample funding be provided to SCD for education and outreach opportunities in 2012. We ask that SCD provide an annual, end-of-year summary of such SCD services delivered.

We greatly appreciate the work of SCD in the Stillaguamish watershed, and hope that these recommendations will assist you in forming your 2012 Work Plan and annual contract with SWM. We request your written response by our July Board meeting. Thank you.

Respectfully,



John Connolly, Chair



Chris Betchley, Vice Chair

Cc: Debbie Terwilleger, Director SWM  
Ralph Svrjcek, DOE