

# Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

RECEIVED *RT* TIME *3:40 pm*

SEP 30 2010

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## BOARD MEMBERS

September 30, 2010

*Single Family-North  
Fork Stillaguamish*  
Bill Best

Snohomish County Council  
3000 Rockefeller, M/S 609  
Everett, WA 98201

*Single Family-South  
Fork Stillaguamish*  
Mike Wolanek

*Single Family-Main  
Stem Stillaguamish*  
Vacant

Dear Council Members,

*Single Family-Lakes*  
Bruce Black

The Stillaguamish River Clean Water District (CWD) Advisory Board (the Board) respectfully offers to the Council our recommendations and comments with regard to Surface Water Management's (SWM) 2011 work plans and proposed budget under Snohomish County Code (SCC) Title 25A. **The Board requests that the Council provide support and appropriate budget for our following recommendations. The issues include Shellfish Protection, Drainage and Water Quality, Inter-local Cooperation, and Financial Accounting.**

*Single Family-UGA*  
Vacant

*Single Family-At-Large*  
Herm van Lier

*Single Family-At-Large*  
Dave Ridgeway

*Single Family-At-Large*  
Christine Betchley (Vice  
Chair)

### Shellfish Protection

The Board strongly supports the efforts of SWM and its partners in the development of the draft Stillaguamish Shellfish Protection Program, submitted by SWM to the Washington Department of Health (WDOH) on July 3, 2010, as required by RCW 90.72. The core objective of the Program is the reduction of bacterial pollution in Port Susan and South Skagit Bay in order to expand the approved shellfish harvest areas and to maintain those shellfish harvest areas recently upgraded by the WDOH. This Program sets goals and actions for the Stillaguamish basin, where fecal coliform levels, though improving, often exceed Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) limits. Reducing fecal coliform contamination does more than protect shellfish. It makes surface water safer for recreational uses such as swimming, fishing, and boating, and for the irrigation of fresh produce.

*Farm Rate Payer*  
John Connolly (Chair)

*Retail, Industrial, Other  
Rate Payer*  
Kelly Wynn

*Stillaguamish Flood  
Control District*  
Max Albert

*Snohomish  
Conservation  
District*  
Bobbi Lindemulder

**The Board recommends that the Council receive a briefing on the Stillaguamish Shellfish Protection Program before finalizing the 2011 budget. The Board also requests that the Council provide full support for implementation of this Program.**

*Snohomish Health  
District*  
Vacant

*Wash. Department of  
Ecology*  
Vacant

### Drainage and Water Quality

Currently the Stillaguamish watershed has lakes, streams and reaches named on the 2008 WDOE 303(d)-5 list of impaired bodies of water. **The Board recommends that the Council approve sufficient budget to support expansion of public education and technical assistance, which has been shown to be effective in reducing non-point pollution.**

*Wash. Department of  
Fish and Wildlife*  
Jennifer Whitney

*Stillaguamish  
Tribe*  
Jody Brown

*Tulalip Tribes*  
Cathy Stanley

- The Puget Sound Partnership has identified contaminated stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces to rivers, streams, lakes and other water bodies as a serious threat to the health of Puget Sound. The Board has requested that SWM work with the Road Maintenance Division to focus RCW 36.89 revenues, including the in-kind County roads work as well as the \$704,000 year-end 2009 Fund Balance, to implement key drainage projects. **The Board requests that the Council support this effort.**

*Surface Water  
Management Staff*  
Sean Edwards  
Jake Jacobson

For more information:

Snohomish County Public Works - Surface Water Management  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue, M/S 607, Everett, WA 98201  
(425) 388-3464 • [www.surfacewater.info](http://www.surfacewater.info)

- An apparent decline in the health of CWD lakes was reported by SWM in the “State of the Stilly” report in 2007 and reinforced in the SWM 2010 CWD work program. This could lead to severe restriction of lake usage by people and pets due to water quality and related air quality problems that cause discomfort, illness, and even death. The Board views this as an unacceptable future for our CWD lakes. The Board has requested that SWM increase targeted outreach to lake-area landowners, followed by enforcement action, after a reasonable period, under SCC 7.53 (water pollution control). Thereafter, the Board has requested SWM to initiate clean-up programs for contaminated lakes. **The Board encourages the Council to schedule time for SWM to present a lake status report, recovery alternatives, and pro-forma budgets.**
- Human, pet, and equine waste create water quality problems in county and city parks draining to the Stillaguamish watershed; WDFW access points; soon-to-be-opened Centennial Trail extensions; and portions of the 27-mile White Horse Trail. Unlawful trash dumping is also a serious and increasing problem. The Board has requested that SWM take a lead role in working with appropriate partners, including the Snohomish County Parks and Recreation Department (PRD), to develop solutions including portable toilets, pet waste collection bags, disposal containers, and signage. **The Board requests that the Council support this effort by approving necessary budget, and scheduling time with SWM and PRD for periodic progress reviews.**

#### Inter-local Cooperation

The Board supports County inter-local agreements (ILA) with municipalities within the Stillaguamish watershed for management of stormwater, drainage, and water quality.

The Board has requested that SWM work with the City of Stanwood on the following issues, to reduce stormwater contamination of adjacent tidelands:

- Seek solutions for stormwater pollution in Irvine Slough, Douglas Slough, and West Pass identified in recent shellfish classification reports from the Washington Department of Health, Office of Shellfish and Water Protection.
- Encourage participation in the United States Geological Survey (USGS) study of household chemical and pharmaceutical contamination in the Stillaguamish Basin. The Board has been informed that Stanwood Public Works is arranging a presentation of this USGS study to the Stanwood City Council’s Public Works Committee in January or February of 2011.
- Discuss inclusion of the City of Stanwood in the CWD per RCW 90.72.040(1).

**The Board requests that the Council support and follow-up on the progress of our surface water management ILA recommendations for Stanwood, and also provide support for similar ILAs with the cities of Arlington and Granite Falls.**

#### Financial Accounting

The Board views accounting transparency as essential to stewardship of CWD funds. The CWD is a fee-for-service district; its revenues must be allocated to uses within the CWD only, pursuant

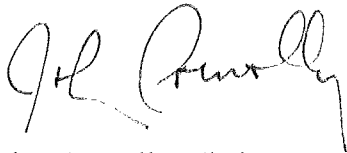
to Title 25A, and spent in a timely fashion as authorized by RCW 36.89 (storm water control), RCW 90.72 (shellfish protection), and aquatic weed control (Lakes).

In February 2010, the Board established a Finance Subcommittee, which has worked successfully with SWM to put in place a system of reporting on all CWD revenues, expenditures, and fund balances. SCC 25A.20.100 requires separate "special operating funds" for the service charges collected under RCW 36.89 and RCW 90.72. Henceforth, the Board hopes to provide more useful recommendations on funding levels and priorities, with complete financial information available to us. We thank the SWM Director and staff for their effort and cooperation.

The Board also takes this opportunity to thank Council for your unanimous action last December to clarify in Title 25A the County Roads discount for in-kind work under RCW 36.89. **We ask that the Council continue to support the fee-for-service principle, as well as clear, consistent reporting of all CWD accounts.**

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully submitted,



John Connolly, Chair



Chris Betchley, Vice Chair

