

# Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

## BOARD MEMBERS

April 28, 2010

**Single Family-North  
Fork Stillaguamish**  
Bill Best

Debbie Terwilleger, Director  
Snohomish County Public Works, Surface Water Management  
3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 607  
Everett, WA 98201

**Single Family-South  
Fork Stillaguamish**  
Mike Wolanek

**Single Family-Main  
Stem Stillaguamish**  
Vacant

Dear Ms. Terwilleger,

**Single Family-Lakes**  
Bruce Black

**Single Family-UGA**  
Vacant

The Stillaguamish River Clean Water District (CWD) Advisory Board is providing the following recommendations to Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM) for the 2011 budget. They relate to the SWM 2010 Work Program, and to the Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) 2010 Work Plan, submitted to the CWD Board. We appreciate SWM's willingness to work closely with the Board to address past and current recommendations.

**Single Family-At-Large**  
Hern van Lier

**Single Family-At-Large**  
Dave Ridgeway

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

### Financial Accounting

**Farm Rate Payer**  
John Connolly (Chair)

The Board wishes to emphasize its support of the effort by its Finance Subcommittee and SWM to improve the transparency of the County's CWD revenue and expenditure accounting. Constructive recommendations on CWD funding levels and priorities require a complete and current picture of its finances. We urge SWM's timely completion of these improvements, as agreed upon in the SWM/Finance Subcommittee meeting of February 18, 2010.

**Retail, Industrial, Other  
Rate Payer**  
Kelly Wynn

**Stillaguamish Flood  
Control District**  
Max Albert

The cost of staffing the Board is currently paid solely from shellfish protection funds (RCW 90.72). Because the Board's responsibilities encompass drainage fund (RCW 36.89) issues as well, the Board recommends that its staffing be paid from both funds, proportional to each fund's percentage of total CWD revenues.

**Snohomish  
Conservation  
District**  
Bobbi Lindemulder

**Snohomish Health  
District**  
Vacant

The Board notes that the 2009 year-end CWD fund balances are larger than the entire 2010 projected CWD revenue. The Board urges SWM to put these monies to use in support of the Board recommendations herein. It is our firm expectation that every fee dollar collected in the CWD will be spent in the CWD for Snohomish County Code (SCC) Title 25A purposes in a timely manner.

**Wash. Department of  
Ecology**  
Vacant

**Wash. Department of  
Fish and Wildlife**  
Jennifer Whitney

### Shellfish Protection

**Stillaguamish  
Tribe**  
Jody Brown

The Board strongly supports the effort of SWM and its partners toward maintaining and expanding the approved shellfish harvest areas in Port Susan and South Skagit Bay. We urge completion and implementation of the Stillaguamish Shellfish Protection Program, setting out actions for the improvement of water quality within the CWD. We recommend that a part of the RCW 90.72 fund balance be directed to funding a Program Manager to oversee this effort.

**Tulalip Tribes**  
Cathy Stanley

**Surface Water  
Management Staff**  
Sean Edwards  
Jake Jacobson

The Board further requests that SWM provide periodic updates on the results of the Snohomish Mussel Watch program that tests for chemical contaminants.

### Stewardship and Education

The Board reiterates its support of current projects, education, farm plans, and BMP implementation efforts of SWM and the SCD. Outreach efforts should emphasize the reduction of water pollution due to domesticated animal and human waste, nutrients, pesticides, herbicides, pharmaceuticals, and hazardous household waste. We support the partnering of SWM with the Snohomish Health District, the Stillaguamish and Tulalip Tribes, and other organizations to achieve this result.

The Board believes that SCD's follow-up farm surveys offer a prime opportunity to build on existing farm plans through the use of the CWD Discretionary Fund. To increase public awareness of water quality issues and encourage watershed stewardship, the Board recommends use of the SCD *Nexus* circular and SCD webpage to publicize the Discretionary Fund, as part of the SWM marketing program.

### Drainage and Water Quality

The Puget Sound Partnership has identified contaminated storm water runoff from impervious surfaces to rivers, streams, lakes and other water bodies as a serious threat to the health of Puget Sound. Contaminated runoff from roadways is of particular concern to the Board. The Board requests that SWM focus the use of Title 25A/RCW 36.89 revenue to develop and implement an expanded road runoff control program, in partnership with the Washington Department of Transportation (WDOT) and incorporated cities in the CWD. The CWD is also obliged, by its establishing ordinance, "to help landowners with surface water problems."

The Board continues to be concerned about negative water quality impacts due to fecal contamination from pet/equine/human waste on the 27-mile White Horse Trail, and in waterfront parks and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) access points elsewhere in the CWD. Unlawful trash disposal in these areas is also a serious, increasing problem. The Board requests SWM to take a lead role, working with appropriate partners, to develop effective solutions, including pet waste collection bags and disposal containers, and informative signage.

The health of CWD lakes appears to be declining. This is reported by SWM in the State of the Stilly report (March 2007) and reinforced in the SWM 2010 CWD work program (pg. 10). Landowner practices appear to contribute heavily to contamination of state-owned waters and lake beds. Public education and technical assistance can be effective in reducing non-point sources of nutrient pollution, but more resources are needed to do this well. The Board requests that SWM increase efforts to improve lake water quality through targeted outreach with a reasonable period to achieve compliance, followed by enforcement action under 7.53 SCC "Water Pollution Control". Thereafter, the Board requests SWM to initiate clean-up programs for contaminated lakes in the CWD.

### Water Quality Monitoring

We encourage expanded monitoring for fecal coliform bacteria as a means of focusing clean-up efforts. We also encourage continued monitoring of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to ensure compliance. We recommend that SWM continue to coordinate with the Snohomish Health District (SHD) to utilize RCW 90.72 revenues for personnel to inspect onsite sewage systems within the CWD and encourage SWM to broaden the illicit discharge detection program into additional areas.

### Habitat Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

The Board supports habitat restoration projects, including native plant buffers along streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries and marine shorelines. Currently, the CWD helps fund the North and South Fork Stillaguamish Big Tree Projects, using RCW 36.89 revenue.

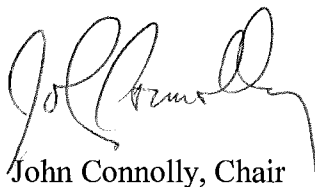
### Inter-local Cooperation

The Board urges the County to seek inter-local agreements (ILAs) with municipalities within the Stillaguamish watershed for management of storm water, drainage, and water quality. The Board requests that SWM work with the City of Stanwood on the following items, to reduce storm water contamination of CWD tidelands:


- Seek solutions for drainage problems identified in recent shellfish classification studies and reports by 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.
- Discuss inclusion of the City of Stanwood in the CWD per RCW 90.72.040(1).

Thank you for consideration of the recommendations of the Stillaguamish River CWD Advisory Board. We look forward to your comments.

Respectfully submitted,



John Connolly, Chair



Chris Betchley, Vice Chair