

Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

Meeting Summary – FINAL
Thursday, January 22, 2015 5:30 – 7:30 PM
Peace Lutheran Church, Silvana

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
Miriam Lancaster

Single Family-UGA
Vacant

Single Family-At-Large
Herm van Lier

Single Family-At-Large
Dave Ridgeway

Single Family-At-Large
Christine Betchley

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*
Vacant by agency choice

*Wash. Department of
Ecology*
Vacant by agency choice

*Wash. Department of
Fish and Wildlife*
Vacant by agency choice

*Stillaguamish
Tribe*
Kate Konoski

Tulalip Tribes
Vacant by agency choice

*Surface Water
Management Staff*
Sean Edwards

Attendance

Board Members Present: Max Albert, Christine Betchley, Ray Brown, John Connolly, Miriam Lancaster, Dave Ridgeway, Dale Shelton, Herm van Lier, Steve Van Valkenburg, Kelly Wynn

Board Members Excused: Kate Konoski

SWM Staff: Sean Edwards, Beth Liddell, Debbie Terwilleger

Guests: Brett de Vries, Andrew Funk, Gina Gray, Snohomish County Councilmember Ken Klein, Tania and Bob Partridge

Welcome, introductions, agenda review, and meeting summary

Clean Water District Advisory Board (CWDAB) Chair Steve Van Valkenburg opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. with introductions and review of the meeting agenda. The draft agenda was approved with adjusted time allocations for several items.

Sean provided hard copy packets including the following materials:

- CWDAB 1/22/15 preliminary meeting agenda
- CWDAB 11/20/14 meeting summary – DRAFT
- CWDAB bylaws (last updated 6/28/12)
- CWD 2015 budget revision summary
- CWD Discretionary Fund grant application guidelines (effective 1/1/15)
- Snohomish County Clean Water Grant and Loan Program standards (revised 1/9/15)
- Snohomish County Clean Water Grant and Loan Program overview
- Snohomish Health District Board of Health 1/13/15 meeting agenda
- Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials 2015 legislative agenda
- Puget Sound Partnership Legislative Update, Week 2 (1/19/15)
- Article: "Precision Conservation" (9/9/13)
- CWDAB 2015 schedule – DRAFT (1/14/15)
- CWDAB final letter to the Snohomish County Council
- Amendment to proposed Amended Ordinance No. 14-099 adopting the 2015 operating and capital budget

The 11/20/14 draft meeting summary was approved with minor corrections. The 10/9/14 meeting summary will be reviewed at the next CWDAB meeting.

Elect Chair and Vice Chair

The Board unanimously elected Steve Van Valkenburg as Chair and Dale Shelton as Vice Chair for 2015.

Review CWDAB bylaws and 2015 subcommittee assignments

Sean referred to the CWDAB bylaws and reminded Board members to adhere to the courtesy guidelines contained therein, regardless of whether they are interacting with one other, SWM staff, or the public. He then asked the Chair and the Board to reaffirm current CWDAB subcommittee assignments.

Subcommittee members appointed by the Chair:

- Finance – Max, Herm, Dale
- Shellfish Protection – Chris, Dale
- Discretionary Fund (DF) – Max, Kelly, Kate, Monte Marti
- Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIO) – Chris

Max recommended that the Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) retain a seat on the DF subcommittee. Steve reaffirmed existing appointments to the above three subcommittees. Ray indicated his willingness to join the Shellfish Protection subcommittee; Steve then appointed him as a new member.

Existing subcommittee members:

Lower Stillaguamish Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Advisory Committee – Dale
Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIO) – Chris
Stillaguamish Watershed Council (SWC) – Dave
Lakes – Miriam

The Board reaffirmed existing assignments to the above four subcommittees.

Subcommittee reports

Finance: Max referred to the 2015 SWM budget revision summary he prepared in consultation with SWM, which was included in the meeting packet. The summary outlines the disposition of \$229,000 in RCW 36.89 funds from the CWD following the approval of a budget amendment by the Snohomish County Council in December 2014. The Board briefly discussed some of the cuts and reallocations listed in the summary. The Board also briefly discussed the Lake Ketchum project, specifically whether it should be considered an RCW 36.89 or 90.72 fund project. Kelly moved to approve the budget revision summary as presented. **The summary was approved unanimously as recommended by the DF Subcommittee.**

Discretionary Fund: Max reported that the County has produced standards for its new Clean Water Loan and Grant Program. The most recent version of these standards (1/9/15) was included in the meeting packet, along with an overview of the program. Applications for the new program will be accepted starting March 1, 2015. Only a small amount of money will be available for grants under the new County program; the DF will serve as a backstop.

Max stated that the DF grant application guidelines have been revised and pointed to new language under "Eligible Projects." This added language makes the repair of failing on-site septic systems (OSS) eligible for a DF grant provided that the applicant does not qualify for a loan through the new Clean Water Loan and Grant Program, or that the applicant qualifies for a grant through the County program but funding for the current year has run out. Herm moved to approve the revised DF grant application guidelines. **The guidelines were approved unanimously.**

Shellfish Protection: Sean welcomed Snohomish County Councilmember Ken Klein to the CWDAB meeting, stating that Mr. Klein is the 2015 Vice Chair of the Snohomish Health District's Board of Health (BOH). He then presented the agenda for the January 13 BOH meeting, noting that the Snohomish Health District (SHD) representative on the CWDAB had been pulled off due to capacity issues. Sean stated that if the CWDAB wants to see changes to the SHD Wastewater Program, they will need to go through the BOH. Mr. Klein commented that cities do not contribute funds towards the operations of the SHD, so the district has found it necessary to reduce its scope (e.g., it has closed the immunization clinic). He added that he does not believe that scope reductions should come in terms of environmental health. Mr. Klein asked CWDAB members to contact him if they have questions or comments.

Sean provided updates on 2015 legislative items. He referred to the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials 2015 legislative agenda, which was included in the meeting packet. He pointed to the item titled "Onsite Septic Management Programs," stating that a bill will be introduced soon pertaining to the funding of local OSS management programs. Sean said he would keep the CWDAB posted. Sean also referred to the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) January 19 legislative update and an article on "Precision Conservation," which is an approach similar to PIC.

Lower Stillaguamish Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Advisory Committee: Dale stated that she will have something to report at the February CWDAB meeting. Sean noted that the next PIC Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2015.

Stillaguamish Watershed Council (SWC): Dave noted that the last SWC meeting was 11/19/14. He will have something to report at the February CWDAB meeting.

Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIO): Chris reported that the LIO will soon be reviewing Near-Term Actions and its work plan for 2015.

Lakes: Miriam had nothing to report.

Review DF Grant Program application guidelines and approve changes for 2015

The revised DF grant application guidelines were reviewed and approved by the CWDAB earlier in the meeting, during the DF Subcommittee report (see above).

Adopt 2015 meeting schedule and focus topics

Steve referred to the draft 2015 CWDAB meeting schedule included in the meeting packet, asking if anyone would like to add focus topics or placeholders. The 2015 schedule was adopted with date corrections and the deletion of two focus topics: the evaluation of toxic chemicals in local shellfish and results of Sound Salmon Solutions' Be the Solution project because Sean had already provided updates on those topics via emails sent to the CWDAB.

CWDAB 2015 strategy for addressing SHD Wastewater Program staffing capacity issue

Sean reported that the SHD has scheduled a BOH planning retreat on Saturday, February 7, 2015, which will focus on big

picture questions about SHD governance and funding. Snohomish County Councilmember Ken Klein confirmed that the BOH planning retreat is an open public meeting, but that there will not be opportunities for public comment. Sean and Chris said that they were planning to attend the meeting.

Steve stated that the CWDAB intends to write letters to the Snohomish County Council and SHD regarding inadequate staffing capacity for the SHD Wastewater Program. Kelly commented that the SHD should have better OSS operation and maintenance (O&M) inspection requirements and level of service. He noted that Skagit and Whatcom Counties have effective O&M programs.

Debbie Terwilleger commented that SWM will be looking at fee changes in the CWD, and asked the Board what outcomes they would like to see in terms of funding for the SHD. Max commented that the SHD historically has not liked receiving funds from the CWD because those funds must be spent within the CWD.

Meeting review, new business, and public comment

- Sean asked the CWDAB if shellfish protection issues warrant a special meeting. He asked what the appropriate level of service should be for shellfish protection, and how much it would cost. He also noted that action items haven't been updated in a while (the original scope of work was developed through a collaborative stakeholder process in 2008-2009). Kelly proposed that these issues be added to the June CWDAB meeting agenda. Debbie Terwilleger requested that they be added to the March or April CWDAB meeting agenda instead, due to the timing of the SWM Service District Reassessment Study. She also asked the CWDAB to make recommendations on priorities for 90.72 and 36.89 revenues so that she can bring funding issues to the attention of the County Council during the 2016 budget planning process, which will start in April or May 2015. Kelly proposed that the shellfish protection discussion be added to the February CWDAB meeting agenda and subsequent CWDAB meetings as needed. Sean stated that he would confer with the Shellfish Protection Subcommittee and follow up.
- Sean announced that the next review of DF grant applications will take place on April 1. Max encouraged project proponents to submit their applications before March 1, when the Snohomish County Clean Water Loan and Grant Program is scheduled to start. He commented that only \$29,000 will be available for DF grants this year. Debbie Terwilleger added that she would probably be able to accommodate spending another \$30,000 within the Council-approved 2015 SWM budget. Sean noted that \$59,000 should be sufficient, but even more additional money might be available from the fund balance, if needed.
- Brett De Vries stated that the SCD is currently planning to submit up to five DF grant applications for small farm conservation projects.
- Sean announced that he has developed a draft 2014 year-end report for the DF Grant Program, which he will finalize pending review by SWM financial services supervisor Dawn Martinez.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 26, 2015, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Peace Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall.

This meeting summary was prepared by Beth Liddell. Please direct any questions or comments to Sean Edwards at 425-388-3024 or sean.edwards@snoco.org. More information about the CWD is also available at <http://cwf.surfacewater.info>.