June 24, 2015

Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO May 28, 2015 LETTER

Thank you for your letter dated May 28, 2015 and your input to the Snohomish Conservation District’s (SCD) 2016 Work Plan. The District appreciates the opportunity to work with the Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board and your guidance on the District’s 2016 Work Plan.

SCD Staff Assignments in the CWD

SCD will continue to maintain staffing levels commensurate to the level of funding provided by the CWD in relation to staff hours or equivalent FTE. We will be using a variety of staff to complete needed work within the CWD as it relates to meet the needs of commercial farms, small farms and residents. As stipulated in the CWD by-laws (Section III (A)(2)), we will make sure there is staff representation at all CWD monthly Board meetings.

Discretionary Fund Projects

SCD understands and is grateful for the opportunity to provide assistance to landowners with project implementation funding. We understand how important it is to have prompt funding assistance to your ratepayers as it relates to small, clean-water projects. SCD will increase our efforts in the CWD to bring forward projects applications for both small farm and restoration to the Discretionary Fund Program.

Fund Balance

SCD is already planning ahead for the 2016 CWD budget and will be prepared to employ a significant portion of our RCW 90.72 fund balance in next year’s contract.

Publicizing LakeWise

SCD understands the importance of reducing pollution in CWD lakes in relation to clean water goals. SCD will continue to publicize the County’s LakeWise program through our various education and outreach seminars and publications. We will emphasize those residents of late watershed, and look forward to our continued partnership with SWM lakes staff.
Soil Testing Services

Healthy soils and proper nutrient management are key components of our SCD services. SCD will continue with its existing (and very popular) soils testing program within the Stillaguamish watershed. We will prioritize our soil testing resources to: commercial farming operations, small farming operations who hold current farm plans or who are in the process of developing a farm plan, and then to those who are asking for technical assistance with their farms, to gardeners, and home owners.

Drainage and Diking District 12

SCD will offer assistance to SWM and the stakeholders of DD12 to the best of our capabilities as it relates with SWM's development of a drainage management plan dealing with water quality as well as increasing upland discharge.

Thanks again for all your help, support, and guidance. We appreciate your continued efforts and leadership as a Board for the CWD.

Respectfully,

Mark Craven
Chair, Board of Supervisors