

# Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

## BOARD MEMBERS

*Single Family Ratepayer –  
Stillaguamish Drainage Basin*  
Dale Shelton (Chair)

*Single Family Ratepayer –  
Skagit Drainage Basin*  
Vacant

*Single Family Ratepayer –  
Port Susan Drainages*  
Vacant

*Single Family Ratepayer - Lakes*  
Miriam Lancaster

*Single Family Ratepayer –  
Tulalip Drainage Basin*  
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*Ratepayer – At-Large #1*  
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*Ratepayer – At-Large #2*  
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*Ratepayer – At-Large #3*  
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*Diking, Drainage, and Flood Control  
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*Snohomish Conservation District*  
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*Snohomish Health District*  
Steve Rice

*Washington Department of  
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*Washington Department of Fish  
and Wildlife*  
Vacant by agency choice

*Stillaguamish Tribe*  
Vacant by agency choice

*Tulalip Tribes*  
Vacant by agency choice

*Surface Water Management Staff*  
Sean Edwards

Snohomish County Public Works,  
Surface Water Management  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue,  
Everett, WA 98201  
(425) 388-3464

[www.cwd.surfacewater.info](http://www.cwd.surfacewater.info)

May 31, 2016

Dr. Gary Goldbaum, Director and Public Health Officer  
Snohomish Health District  
3020 Rucker Ave., Suite 306  
Everett, WA 98201

Dear Dr. Goldbaum,

The Stillaguamish Clean Water District Advisory Board (the Board) fully supports the Snohomish Health District (SHD) 2016 Work Plan presented by Kevin Plemel at our March Board meeting. We thank SHD for its responsiveness to our 2015 recommendations, and have formally urged Snohomish County Surface Water Management (SWM) to gain approval of the SHD contract for 2016 without further delay.

Pursuant to Title 25A.30.030 of the Snohomish County Code, we would like to comment in more detail on the tasks enumerated in the Work Plan:

**Investigation and Correction of On-Site Septic Failures** – The Board strongly supports a continued robust SHD response to OSS complaints in the CWD, close coordination with SWM water quality staff, and the pilot program to identify high-priority areas.

**Education and Outreach** – Programs providing for OSS repairs, through Savvy Septic and the CWD Discretionary Fund, along with the LakeWise program, offer opportunities to educate homeowners on proper operation and maintenance of their systems. We urge SHD to make your technical expertise available to the involved agencies to help facilitate such community outreach efforts.

**Time of Sale Verification** – The Board has long recommended development of a program for time-of-sale verification of OSS compliance with operation and maintenance (O&M) guidelines. We recognize that some in the real estate sector view such a program as a costly duplication of paperwork, since OSS inspection and verification is already required by lending institutions and only a subset of OSS properties are sold without it. Nevertheless, we believe mandatory inspections and reporting would significantly improve your on-line information for service providers, lenders, and home buyers, and do much to encourage proper OSS installation and maintenance to avoid OSS failures.

**Solid Waste and Manure Management** – The Board encourages SHD to continue its monitoring of exempt waste sites and its cooperation with SWM, Washington Department of Ecology, and the Snohomish Conservation District to reduce accumulations of horse-stall waste piles.

**Pharmaceutical Take-Back** – The Board thanks you for informing us of the state of pharmaceutical contaminants in our waterways. We strongly support an improved program of pharmaceutical “take-back” to reduce such chemical contamination at the source. Please keep us apprised of how the Board can aid SHD in dealing with this important problem.

**Toxic Algae Impacts on Human Health and Shellfish** – Despite outstanding success in ridding Lake Ketchum of toxic algae, the CWD continues to have at least six lakes that are to some degree impaired, and the Board remains concerned about the health risks involved. The willingness of lakefront residents to work with the appropriate agencies, and the support of the Board, were key to the success of the Lake Ketchum project. We therefore propose that you lend your expertise to help the Board, as well as affected landowners, be more fully informed of the dangers of toxic algae. This would enable us to better prioritize future efforts, secure public support, and allocate the Board’s Discretionary Funds. We hope for further discussion of this proposal at your earliest convenience.

The Board appreciates SHD's willingness to participate on our Board, on the Lower Stillaguamish Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Advisory Committee, in the Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIO), and in the Stillaguamish Shellfish Protection Program annual review. To ensure your future capability to perform these and other tasks in the Work Plan, the Board stands ready to actively support your quest for secure, long-term funding under RCW 70.05.190.

Thank you for your consideration. We value your contribution to our mutual goal of providing clean water for residents, visitors, pets, shellfish, and wildlife. The Board appreciates your attention to our comments and recommendations. We look forward to receiving your written response.

Sincerely,



Dale Shelton, Chair



Bob Landles, Vice Chair

cc:

Pete Mayer, Deputy Director, Snohomish Health District  
Jeff Ketchel, Environmental Health Division Director, Snohomish Health District  
Kevin Plemel, Environmental Health Manager, Snohomish Health District  
Brian Sullivan, 2016 Chair, Snohomish Board of Health  
Adrienne Fraley-Monillas, 2016 Vice Chair, Snohomish Board of Health  
Will Hall, Director, Snohomish County Surface Water Management