

Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

BOARD MEMBERS

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

*Single Family Ratepayer –
Skagit Drainage*
Vacant

*Single Family Ratepayer –
Port Susan Drainages*
Vacant

Single Family Ratepayer - Lakes
Miriam Lancaster

*Single Family Ratepayer –
Tulalip Drainage*
Vacant

Ratepayer – At-Large #1
Vacant

Ratepayer – At-Large #2
Dave Ridgeway

Ratepayer – At-Large #3
Bob Landles (Vice Chair)

Ratepayer – At-Large #4
Ray Brown

Farm Rate Payer
Kurt Strotz

*Commercial, Industrial, and Other
Ratepayer*
Kelly Wynn

*Diking, Drainage, and Flood Control
Districts*
Max Albert

Snohomish Conservation District
Steve Van Valkenburg

Snohomish Health District
Steve Rice

*Washington Department of
Ecology*
Vacant by agency choice

*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

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Meeting Summary – FINAL
Thursday, May 26, 2016 5:30 – 7:30 PM
Peace Lutheran Church, Silvana

Attendance

Board Members Present: Max Albert, Ray Brown, Miriam Lancaster, Bob Landles, Steve Rice, Dave Ridgeway, Dale Shelton, Kurt Strotz, Steve Van Valkenburg, Kelly Wynn

SWM Staff: Sean Edwards

Guests: Chuck Hazleton, Bobbi Lindemulder, Eric Schuh

Welcome, introductions, agenda review, and meeting summary

Clean Water District Advisory Board (CWDAB) Chair Dale Shelton opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. with introductions and review of the meeting agenda. The 4/28/16 meeting summary was approved with edits.

Sean provided hard copy information packets including the following materials:

- CWDAB 5/26/16 preliminary meeting agenda
- CWDAB 4/28/16 meeting summary draft
- CWDAB 2016 recommendations letter to SHD draft
- Prioritizing Components and Vital Signs
- Shellfish Dinner 2016 – Advertising Campaign
- CWDAB 2016 draft recommendations letter to Snohomish Health District

SCD 2015 accomplishments and 2016 work plan

Bobbi Lindemulder presented a PowerPoint overview of the Snohomish Conservation District's 2015 accomplishments and 2016 work plan. The presentation included a comparison of the work plan requirements of SCD's Snohomish County farm planning services with what SCD actually accomplished in 2015.

SCD 2015 accomplishments in the CWD:

- Provided 344 farm contacts by email, phone, site visit, and technical assistance
- Installed 38 best management practices (BMPs)
- Completed 2 new farm plans
- Provided 31 technical assistance letters
- Led or participated in 20 information and education events
- Communicated with 1,883 people with 610 total contact hours
- Produced and distributed 4 quarterly Nexus newsletters, including 15,000+ mailings
- Used various social media services, including MailChimp, Flickr, and Facebook, to raise public awareness about SCD services and events
- Announced SCD education and outreach events through local print media, including Stanwood/Camano News, Everett Herald, and Camano Island Crab Cracker
- Conducted SCD annual open house
- Maintained SCD web site and launched Better Ground web site
- Publicly recognized several people in the Stillaguamish watershed for good stewardship practices
- Continued to provide manure spreaders for people to use on their properties during the dry season (April – October) for proper manure management
- Implemented 11 grant-funded projects, including Lower Stillaguamish Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC), Skagit Flats and Church Creek manure management BMPs, Stilly Biodigester, and Ellingsen Floodplains by Design.

SCD 2016 work plan:

- Continue implementing the Sound Horse Keeping certification program
- Continue to implement grant-funded projects

- Continue to work with Snohomish County on the Lower Stilly PIC Program
- Provide Ag BMP training to SWM's Business Inspection team that is inspecting animal handling facilities county-wide this summer as part of the County's NPDES municipal stormwater permit
- Continue to work with Snohomish County and Washington Dept. of Ecology (WDOE) on helping horse owners clean up large piles of horse stable waste

Discussion of the horse stable waste problem recognized the following issues:

- lack of enforcement of existing environmental regulations in Snohomish County has created a situation where horse stable operators have no reason to pay for the cost of hauling the waste to certified composting facilities
- proper disposal of horse stable waste should be part of the cost of doing business
- horse stable waste usually includes large amounts of wood shavings, which have high lignin content and therefore take a long time to compost
- there are few certified composting facilities in Snohomish County that will take horse stable waste and most of those that will take it charge a high tipping fee
- some horse stable waste piles are so large that the cost of proper disposal and clean-up is tens of thousands of dollars
- in some cases, horse stable waste with high wood content is being improperly disposed of by spreading it on farm fields, which can reduce soil health, worsen drainage problems, and contribute to pollution of surface and ground water
- Snohomish County and WDOE are providing public cost-share assistance to help a few horse stable operators clean-up large manure piles, but the problem is so widespread that it raises public policy and budget questions about how far the public should go to help pay for environmental clean-up on private property
- The horse stable waste problem is not limited to Snohomish County; it is a state-wide issue that is especially prevalent in Snohomish County due to the large number of horse properties
- Commercial horse stables generally have the largest piles
- Smaller non-commercial horse stables are generally small enough to compost horse stable waste on site, but some properties are too small to support the number of horses that are on them
- If horse stable operators would use chopped straw instead of wood shavings for stall bedding, then the stall waste could be composted more quickly for use as a soil amendment on local farm fields, which would reduce the high cost of hauling and proper disposal at certified composting facilities

For SCD's 2017 work plan, Bobbi identified the following priorities:

- Continue to use CWD funding as match for other grants
- Focus on the biodigester and Ellingsen Floodplains by Design projects
- Develop a stormwater action plan with local cities
- Identify cooperators for follow-up effectiveness monitoring and evaluation of BMP implementation and maintenance
- Complete commercial ag parcel assessment and fold that information into the ag resiliency plan
- Youth education
- Outreach

Create subcommittee to draft annual recommendations letter to SCD for 6/23/16 meeting

Max, Steve, Kurt, and Dale volunteered to draft the next recommendations letter to SCD, which the Board will finalize at the June 23rd meeting. ***Suggestions for the draft letter should be sent to Sean by 6/9/16, which he will forward to the subcommittee by 6/10/16. The subcommittee will meet on 6/12 or 6/19. The draft letter will be emailed to the Board for review at least two days prior to the next CWDAB meeting.***

Subcommittee reports

Stillaguamish Watershed Council (SWC): Dave Ridgeway reported that the SWC met on 5/25/16. The meeting focused on presentations of proposed salmon habitat protection and restoration project proposals.

Lakes: Miriam Lancaster provided an update on the Lake Ketchum algae control effort, which has greatly

reduced phosphorous and algae in the lake. With improved water clarity, aquatic plants are now growing more quickly and some parts of the lake require aquatic weed control work.

Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIO): Bob Landles reported on the 5/5/16 LIO Implementation Committee meeting, which was focused on prioritizing vital signs for the Sno-Stilly portion of the Puget Sound ecosystem recovery plan. Each participating organization on the committee was asked to review the draft list of prioritized vital signs and identify the top three priorities. Bob proposed that the CWD Advisory Board's top three vital signs from the draft prioritized list should be: surface water quality, marine water quality, and floodplains. The Board concurred.

Shellfish Protection: Sean reported on the advertising campaign for the Shellfish Dinner on 8/13/16, which has a goal of 200 participants with 75% of them being CWD ratepayers. Sean also noted that on 4/28/16 SWM's monthly water quality monitoring sample from Douglas Creek at Pioneer Highway had a fecal coliform concentration of 28,000 FC/100 mL, which far exceeded the single sample standard of 200 FC/100 mL. Despite variation among monthly samples, 60% have exceeded the standard, which makes Douglas Creek the hottest bacterial pollution site in Snohomish County. SWM is conducting a targeted sampling effort to identify the source of the bacterial pollution and is coordinating with the City of Stanwood, which has a sewer lift station near the site, and with WDOE. Interestingly, the Washington Dept. of Health's 5/5/16 marine water sampling of the South Skagit Bay commercial shellfish growing area showed unusually high fecal coliform levels at several of the monitoring sites on the east side of the shellfish area, which are closest to the outfall of Douglas Creek and other potential sources, including Big Ditch and the South Fork Skagit River. Sean also noted that the Stillaguamish Shellfish Protection Program annual report is due to the Washington Dept. of Health on 7/25/16. Sean proposed that the Shellfish Protection Subcommittee meet with him to work on the draft report before the next CWD Advisory Board meeting on 6/23/16. Kelly agreed to participate in this subcommittee work along with Dale, Ray, and Bob.

Finance: Max Albert reported that he had some follow-up communication with Gregg Farris on the issue of non-payment of CWD fees by federal agencies and the County's effort to collect that revenue. The County is continuing to try to resolve this issue.

Discretionary Fund: Max had nothing new to report. Sean noted that the next application deadline is 8/1/16 and that the final inspection for the Partridge Family Farm DF project work was conducted on 5/16/16. Sean also reported that he is not aware of any upcoming DF grant applications. Bobbi and Eric noted that SCD might have some new DF grant proposals. ***Sean will send out an email notice to the CWD interested parties list announcing the availability of DF grant funding and the upcoming August 1st quarterly application deadline.***

Lower Stillaguamish Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Advisory Committee: Dale Shelton reported that the PIC Advisory Committee's next meeting is scheduled for 6/1/16.

Finalize CWD Advisory Board's 2016 recommendations letter to SHD

Max presented the draft letter that was prepared by the subcommittee consisting of Max, Miriam, Ray, and Dale. The letter was approved with a few changes. ***Sean will prepare the letter for signature by the Chair and Vice Chair and deliver the signed letter to the SHD Director and post it on the CWD web site.***

Meeting review, new business, and public comment

No public comments. Sean welcomed new Board members Steve Rice and Kurt Strotz.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 23, 2016, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Peace Lutheran Church, Fireside Room.

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