

# 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

Snohomish County Public Works,  
Surface Water Management  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue,  
Everett, WA 98201  
(425) 388-3464  
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Meeting Summary – FINAL  
Thursday, June 23, 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

Board Members Excused: Kelly Wynn

SWM Staff: Sean Edwards, Gregg Farris

Guests: 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 5/23/16 meeting summary was approved with edits.**

Sean provided hard copy information packets including the following materials:

- CWDAB 6/23/16 preliminary meeting agenda
- CWDAB 5/26/16 meeting summary draft
- Shellfish Dinner 2016 – Flyer
- Display ad for recruitment of new CWD Advisory Board members
- Lower Stilly PIC Advisory Committee 6/1/16 meeting agenda
- Douglas Creek bacterial pollution source identification map
- Douglas Creek bacterial pollution bar chart
- Skagit Flats water quality monitoring results
- CWDAB 2016 draft recommendations letter to Snohomish Conservation District

## Subcommittee reports

**Stillaguamish Watershed Council (SWC):** Dave Ridgeway reported that the SWC met on 6/22/16. The meeting focused on a proposal to create a new stand-alone Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIO). This will be discussed further at the July SWC meeting. It was also reported that there is above average snow pack this year, but it has already melted. So this year is predicted to be as dry as last year.

**Lakes:** Miriam Lancaster presented a brief PowerPoint overview of all lakes in Snohomish County and provided a map handout of all of the lakes that Snohomish County SWM is monitoring. Miriam also noted the following more detailed information about Lake Howard:

- declining water quality
- phosphorus in both bottom and top increasing trends over time
- Lake Howard bottom layer [phosphorous] is 4<sup>th</sup> highest in the county and dramatically increased over a short time
- occasional blooms at Howard are an early symptom of the increasing phosphorus
- trends & potential for improvement are why Howard was chosen as SWM's pilot for LakeWise
- See SWM website for full report (<http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/1109/>)

**Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIO):** Bob Landles reported that the Sno-Stilly LIO Implementation Committee is continuing to work on prioritizing local “vital signs” and “pressures” for the Puget Sound Ecosystem Recovery Plan, which is due in September to the Puget Sound Partnership. The next step is a series of WebEx on-line meetings to define strategies for addressing the prioritized vital signs and pressures.

**Shellfish Protection:** Sean reported that Sound Salmon Solutions (SSS) is posting flyers for the Stillaguamish Shellfish Dinner at various locations around the CWD. On-line registration for the event is also off to a good start. SSS sent out an email invitation to their distribution list and within the first few days all 50

of the “general public” spaces were filled. Many of those RSVPs were for Camano Island residents. The remaining 150 spaces for the event are reserved for CWD ratepayers and partner agency representatives. Sean recommended that in the future, the initial email invitation for the event should first be sent to the CWD distribution list to ensure that CWD ratepayers and other interested parties are given priority. A postcard invitation will also be sent out to nearly 15,000 CWD ratepayers a few weeks before the event. Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers will be the lead speaker. SWM Director Will Hall will talk about the CWD and SWM services. SWM Water Quality Monitoring Program Manager Steve Britsch will present a water quality status update. Sean will present accomplishments of the Lower Stillaguamish Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Program and resources for landowners. Legislative District 10 representative Dave Hayes is also registered to attend. All of the promotional materials acknowledge the CWD Discretionary Fund as the funding source for this event.

**Finance:** Max Albert reported that he is continuing to work with SWM to ensure that actual CWD revenues are included in financial reports to the CWD Advisory Board. The Finance Subcommittee also needs another CWD Advisory Board Member to replace Herm van Lier. Gregg reported that SWM is continuing to try to collect unpaid CWD fee revenue from the US Navy and progress is being made. ***Gregg agreed to provide information to Max about the other federal agencies that have not paid their CWD fees.***

**Discretionary Fund:** Max reported that there are a couple of potential new grant applications forthcoming. Sean explained that they include one to rehabilitate the pasture at the Feller property where the Lervick horse stable waste pile is being removed. The other potential application is for the County’s Savvy Septic program.

**Lower Stillaguamish Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Advisory Committee:** Dale Shelton reported on the 6/1/16 PIC Advisory Committee meeting. She noted that Snohomish County gave back about \$123,000 of the PIC grant to the Washington Department of Health. Water quality monitoring data indicates the need for pollution source identification in the Douglas Creek drainage basin just north of Stanwood. On 7/23/16 the Snohomish Conservation District will conduct a PIC grant-funded community meeting at the Partridge family horse farm. The PIC Advisory Committee also discussed the need for follow-up effectiveness monitoring of publicly funded pollution clean-up cost share projects. The 8/13/16 Stillaguamish Shellfish Dinner will serve as the second of two public meetings required under the PIC grant contract.

Sean reported that SWM has initiated a targeted investigation of bacterial pollution in Douglas Creek, including bracketing water quality sampling to isolate where the pollution might be coming from. This investigation is in the vicinity of a meat processing business that has a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for treating and disposing of its wastewater. SWM is coordinating this investigation with Ecology and the City of Stanwood.

Sean also noted that the PIC Advisory Committee discussed a recent report titled “Agricultural Pollution in Puget Sound” published in April, 2016, by the Western Environmental Law Center. The report’s primary conclusion is that regulatory backstopping by the State of Washington is insufficient to protect water quality from livestock manure pollution from commercial dairies. The report also criticized the State’s over reliance on voluntary incentive programs. Sean recommended that there needs to be a balance between incentives and regulatory backstopping. Incentives can be effective for helping people to overcome barriers to implementing best management practices, but only if people are willing to work cooperatively. For those people who are uncooperative, regulatory backstopping is the only way to ensure compliance. ***Sean agreed to send an email to the CWD Advisory Board Members with a link to the agricultural pollution report.***

#### **Stillaguamish Shellfish Protection Program update and annual report to WDOH**

Sean reported that he has not yet been able to write the Stillaguamish Shellfish Protection Program annual report to the Washington Department of Health. However, SWM will soon be hiring a new Planner who will be able to help work on the annual report. SWM will submit a draft of the annual report to WDOH by the 7/25/16 deadline. Sean will present the draft annual report at the 7/28/16 CWD Advisory Board meeting. In lieu of presenting the report, Sean demonstrated how to use the CWD interactive mapping tool, which is accessible from the CWD web site at <http://cwd.surfacewater.info>.

**Finalize CWD Advisory Board's 2016 recommendations letter to SCD**

Max presented the draft letter to the Snohomish Conservation District that was prepared by the subcommittee consisting of Max, Steve, Kurt, and Dale. The letter was approved with minor edits. ***Sean will prepare the letter for signature by the Chair and Vice Chair and deliver the signed letter to the SCD Manager and post it on the CWD web site.***

**Meeting review, new business, and public comment**

No public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, July 28, 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](mailto:sean.edwards@snoco.org). More information about the CWD is also available at <http://cwd.surfacewater.info>.