

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
 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 and Elisa Dawson

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

October 13th, 2016

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
 RECEIVED E TIME 11:42am

Terry Ryan, Chair
 Snohomish County Council
 3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 609
 Everett, WA 98201

OCT 18 2016

CC'D TO	CF		
JRM	DIST 1	SRC	
JDG	DIST 2	DLE	
YSW	DIST 3	RNR	
CJT	DIST 4	ELL	
GOT	DIST 5	CMF	

Dear Councilman Ryan,

Pursuant to Title 25A.30.030 SCC, the Stillaguamish Clean Water District Advisory Board (Board) offers the following recommendations and comments to Council regarding the Surface Water Management (SWM) budget and work plan in the Clean Water District (CWD):

Funding for Savvy Septic – Despite a recommendation from the Board for SWM to provide \$25,000 for Savvy Septic in the Clean Water District (see attached letter), SWM currently has not allocated the funds to this valuable program in its proposed 2017 CWD budget. This sum is about 1% of projected CWD revenue for the year, revenue that SWM staff assured both Council and the Board could be used for water quality projects whenever the need arose. In contrast, SWM did allocate funds for Savvy Septic in the South County and Snohomish Water Management Areas.

Aside from the success of the program itself, two stipulations in Ordinance 93-078, which established the CWD, unquestionably make Savvy Septic a funding priority. The first (Section 1.1) explicitly calls for a program “to repair failed on-site septic systems.” Savvy Septic at long last institutes such a program. The second (Section 1.2) directs Public Works to “take full advantage” of outside funding sources to leverage surface water fees. Savvy Septic is matched dollar for dollar by a Department of Ecology grant.

Furthermore, on-site septic systems are the sole means of domestic waste treatment in areas newly incorporated by last year's expansion of the CWD (Oso, Darrington, and the Stillaguamish Flood Control District). This expansion is projected to bring in an additional \$45k in fees. If Savvy Septic is not funded in the CWD the question of what needed services these new areas actually get for their money is likely to arise again.

The Board recommends that Council include \$25,000 for Savvy Septic in its 2017 CWD budget. Few projects comply so directly with the stated intent of Council and the mission of the Clean Water District.

Snohomish Health District Inter-Local Agreement - The Board appreciates SWM's establishment of an Inter-Local Agreement with the Snohomish Health District (SHD), which provides \$100,000 for an SHD sanitarian in the CWD

and countywide. SHD plays an important role in our clean water/shellfish protection effort. **We strongly support the renewal** of the inter-local agreement in 2017 at the proposed funding level, and would welcome the opportunity to review the 2017 SHD work plan in process. The Board continues to urge Council to seek an equitable fee structure, one that includes the cities, to establish long-term SHD funding.

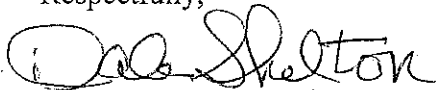
Lakes - Snohomish County is home to a wealth of lake resources including twelve lowland public lakes located in the CWD. Through monitoring efforts by SWM and their lake volunteers, the health of many of these lakes has shown to be at risk. Five CWD lakes are considered impaired (Category 5) by the State for excessive phosphorus pollution. The pollution leads to toxic algae blooms that can severely impact the liver, nervous systems, and overall health of lake users and residents. In the past few years, six CWD lakes have had toxic blooms exceeding state recreational standards. Toxic algae pollution in the CWD must be among the highest priorities because of the risk to human health. While toxic blooms have largely been eliminated at Lake Ketchum, this has only been accomplished through great effort on the part of SWM, volunteers, grants, and the lakeside property owners. Many of the remaining CWD lakes are increasingly toxic with no foreseeable resolution. The Board continues to commend SWM and their volunteer lake monitors, and the LakeWise phosphorous-prevention outreach program for excellent work.

The Board Recommends full funding for the lakes program as a priority, including volunteer lake monitoring, milfoil control, lake restoration, and the LakeWise outreach program. We also support cooperation with the Snohomish Health District to help define and address the risks to human health posed by toxic algae.

Shellfish Protection – the Board commends SWM’s decision to fund the shellfish protection program at \$145,000 as requested by the Board.

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,



Dale Shelton, Chair



Bob Landles, Vice Chair

cc:

Dave Somers, Executive, Snohomish County

Will Hall, Director, Snohomish County Surface Water Management

Lisa Dulude, Energy and Environmental Sustainability Manager, Snohomish County Facilities Management

Kevin Plemel, Manager, Snohomish Health District

Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

BOARD MEMBERS

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

August 22, 2016

*Single Family Ratepayer –
Skagit Drainage Basin*
Vacant

Will Hall, Director
Snohomish County Surface Water Management
3000 Rockefeller Ave., MS 607
Everett, WA 98201

*Single Family Ratepayer –
Port Susan Drainages*
Vacant

Single Family Ratepayer - Lakes
Miriam Lancaster

Dear Mr. Hall,

*Single Family Ratepayer –
Tulalip Drainage Basin*
Vacant

Ratepayer – At-Large #1
Vacant

The Stillaguamish Clean Water District Advisory Board (Board), pursuant to its duty to make recommendations concerning "funding levels and priorities" (SCC Title 25A.30.030), urges you to include in your 2017 Surface Water Management (SWM) budget \$25,000 for the Savvy Septic program. This funding would ensure that on-site septic system maintenance rebates and repair grants administered by the Savvy Septic program will continue to be available within the Stillaguamish Clean Water District (CWD). This \$25,000 will be matched by a Washington Department of Ecology grant. We bring you this recommendation because the Board at its July 28th meeting was informed by SWM and the Savvy Septic Program Manager that no CWD funding is available in 2017 for this valuable program, other than to use the Discretionary Fund (DF). The Board supports the Savvy Septic program and recognizes the importance of having a county-wide program to provide incentives for responsible operation and maintenance of on-site septic systems. However, the Board believes Savvy Septic should be funded in the 2017 SWM budget rather than from the DF.

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Dave Ridgeway

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Max Albert

Snohomish Conservation District
Steve Van Valkenburg

We wish to point out two important considerations:

Snohomish Health District
Steve Rice

First, the DF was established by County Council in 2000 to economically fund small, clean water projects. The Savvy Septic funding request does not meet DF application requirements.

*Washington Department of
Ecology*
Vacant by agency choice

- DF grants require a 25%-50% match from the beneficiary for all proposed projects. Savvy Septic grants require no such match.

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

- DF applications "must include" a concise project description and itemized costs. Both are essential for project evaluation and for specifying the deliverables in the County contract. Because Savvy Septic cannot know its grant recipients in advance, it is simply not able to provide the needed information.

Stillaguamish Tribe
Vacant by agency choice

Tulalip Tribes
Vacant by agency choice

Surface Water Management Staff
Sean Edwards

- The DF is intended for broad eligibility, as is appropriate to a fee-for-service district, so that grants can be available to the vast majority of our residents and rate payers. Savvy Septic grants are meant to serve only a small fraction.

Snohomish County Public Works,
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Furthermore, the DF has recently seen its annual revenue cut by a quarter, and its fund balance adjusted downward by nearly a third. Although \$25,000 is only about 1% of projected 2017 CWD revenue, it is more than half of projected DF revenue.

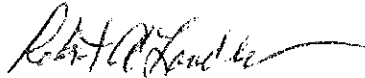
Second, other funding can be found if Savvy Septic is given the priority that such a successful program deserves. Last year both the Board and Council were assured by SWM that "more flexible" RCW 36.89 fee revenue could be directed to water quality/shellfish protection projects whenever the need arose. In the 2016 budget, however, where the water quality/shellfish protection fund balance was used up (including \$33,583 allocated to Savvy Septic), it was the \$145,000 in Water Quality/Shellfish Protection revenue that was directed elsewhere. We were told that because of the PIC grant, there was no water quality project to spend it on. In 2017 there is a successful water quality program to fund, but apparently none of the 2016's \$145,000 was set aside for it, even though SWM staff must have been aware of Savvy Septic's funding needs for 2017. It is possible, however, that some of this (2016 SWM budget RCW 36.89 fee revenue) remains unspent.

All this highlights the disturbing trend of CWD funds being shifted away from clean water projects favored by our Board, and into the servicing of County infrastructure. The Board keenly appreciates that there will never be so much money that prioritization is unnecessary. We therefore urge you to fulfill the assurances made to us and to Council, and give budget priority not only to the 1% needed by Savvy Septic, but to the full \$145,000 for water quality/shellfish protection as well. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully yours,



Dale Shelton, Chair



Robert Landles, Vice Chair

Cc: Ken Klein, Snohomish County Council Member
Greg Farris, SWM Planning Manager
Lisa Dulude, Savvy Septic Program Manager