

Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

BOARD MEMBERS

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

**Single Family Ratepayer –
Skagit Drainage**
Graham Logen

**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
Vacant

Farm Rate Payer
Kurt Strotz

**Commercial, Industrial, and Other
Ratepayer**
Kelly Wynn

**Diking, Drainage, and Flood Control
Districts**
Vacant

Snohomish Conservation District
Steve Van Valkenburg

Snohomish Health District
Steve Rice

**Washington Department of
Ecology**
Colleen Crotty

**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

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Meeting Summary

Thursday, January 26, 2017 5:30 – 7:30 PM
Peace Lutheran Church, Silvana

Attendance

Board Members Present: Colleen Crotty, Bob Landles, Graham Logen, Steve Rice, Dave Ridgeway, Dale Shelton, Kurt Strotz, Steve Van Valkenburg, Roy Van Winkle (alternate for Miriam Lancaster), Kelly Wynn
SWM Staff: Elisa Dawson, Sean Edwards, Gregg Farris
Guests: Max Albert, Eric Schuh, Shawn Smith

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. Kelly Wynn moved to approve the 11/17/16 meeting summary. Steve Van Valkenburg seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **All were in favor and the 11/17/16 meeting summary was approved as written.**

Sean Edwards provided hard copy information packets including the following materials:

- CWDAB 1/26/17 preliminary meeting agenda
- CWDAB 11/17/16 meeting summary draft
- Lummi clammers, dairy farmers team up to clean bacteria-polluted bay, rather than fight (Seattle Times, 1/13/17)
- Snohomish County Council Motion No. 17-012 Removing a Member of the Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board
- Proposed CWD Budget Reductions (1/18/17 email from Gregg Farris to the board)
- Proposed Changes to 2017 Budget for Stillaguamish CWD (SWM spreadsheet)
- Estimated 2016 Fund Balances – Year End
- CWDAB 2017 Schedule, Priorities, and Focus Topics
- Stillaguamish CWD Advisory Board Roster 1-26-17

Subcommittee reports

Stillaguamish Watershed Council (SWC): Dave Ridgeway reported that he attended the 1/25/17 SWC meeting. The SWC reviewed the new bylaws with LIO language and discussed the possibility of restructuring the LIO. Pat Stevenson and Bill Blake were reappointed as Co-Chairs of the SWC during the election of officers. SWM members reviewed the 2017 Salmon Recovery Funding Board Request for Proposal and discussed project priorities.

Lakes: Roy Van Winkle, serving as alternate for Miriam Lancaster, had no report for the lakes subcommittee.

Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIO): Bob Landles reported that he attended the 1/5/17 LIO Implementation Committee meeting. The Puget Sound Partnership Strategic Initiative (SI) Leads attended the meeting which was intended to allow the LIO to give feedback on the funding process to the SI Leads. Bob noted that the LIO emphasized to the SI Leads that they would prefer there to be more funding at the local level, and for the process for creating Near Term Actions to be streamlined. The LIO also would like to see the SI Leads focus more on implementation of projects. Bob noted that the phase of funding which recently ended was the first round of many in the plan. He reported that the SI Leads took feedback from the LIOs and will be incorporating that feedback in future funding rounds.

Shellfish Protection: Sean Edwards presented the Seattle Times article “Lummi clammers, dairy farmers team up to clean bacteria-polluted bay, rather than fight” which was published 1/13/17. Sean reported that the article summarizes work being done in Whatcom County after the Portage Bay shellfish harvest closure in 2014 due to bacterial pollution. The article describes how tribal leaders and seven family dairy-farm operators in Whatcom County are launching a collaborative effort to clean up the bay. Sean expressed that this work

was a direct result of threatened law suits from local tribes in Whatcom County. Sean noted that while there is collaboration happening on this topic in Snohomish County, it is not at the same extent as in Whatcom County. Dave Ridgeway added that one example of collaboration is the tribes and local farmers are participating in the Sustainable Lands Strategy work in Snohomish County. Eric Schuh added the Snohomish Conservation District is working with tribes and farmers in their Omni-Processor Distiller Project.

Finance: Steve Van Valkenburg reported that Gregg Farris provided the CWD advisory Board with the list of proposed changes to the 2017 budget for the Stillaguamish CWD. Steve noted the total cuts in the CWD which are proposed add up to \$159,612. Steve emphasized that the number shown in the document under “2017 budget” represented county-wide funding allocations. Therefore, specific funding cuts impair the budget for individual projects within the CWD at a percentage that in some cases is fairly high. For example, Lakewise has a county-wide budget of \$175,301. The proposed cut for Lakewise is \$39,470. This is approximately a 23% funding cut for the county-wide LakeWise Program. However, the total allocated budget for the CWD for LakeWise is \$41,767; therefore this cut represents a 94.5% reduction in funding for LakeWise in the CWD. Steve presented several concerns about the proposed changes, including the high percentage of cuts in the CWD for certain projects, the approximately 50% cut in CWD Advisory Board staff funding, the proposal to have fewer CWD meetings, and the amount of time given to the board to respond with feedback on the list of proposed changes to the 2017 budget for the Stillaguamish CWD. Board members shared these concerns, and also voiced concerns about the Discretionary Fund still being frozen even though it is not under the list of proposed projects to have funding cut. The board agreed to discuss these concerns further during the “review Snohomish County’s draft CWD 2017 budget reductions” agenda item.

Discretionary Fund: Steve Van Valkenburg noted that as of today, the Discretionary Fund is still frozen, mandated by SWM director Will Hall. Sean Edwards confirmed this statement. Sean reported that the Be the Solution 2016 final report was submitted by Sound Salmon Solutions. Sean asked the board if there was interest in seeing the final report. The board responded with interest, and **Sean will email the Be the Solution 2016 final report to the board.**

Snohomish County policy on harassment

Gregg Farris reported that he was asked by SWM Director Will Hall to review the Snohomish County policy on Harassment with the CWD Board due to the removal of a CWD Advisory Board member. Gregg noted that the motion to remove the board member by the Snohomish County Council is included in the meeting packet. Gregg referred to the Snohomish County policy on harassment. He noted that all Snohomish County Board members, while they are volunteers, are held accountable to the same harassment policies as Snohomish County employees. Kelly asked for a copy of the harassment policy. While copies of the policy were not prepared for the meeting, **Gregg will respond to this request by providing a copy of the harassment policy to the board via email.**

Review Snohomish County’s draft CWD 2017 budget reductions

Gregg Farris reported that on January 18, 2017 he sent the CWD Advisory Board the list of proposed changes to the 2017 budget for the Stillaguamish CWD via email. Gregg reported that as discussed at the November CWD Advisory Board meeting, SWM Management has developed a list of proposed reductions in the 2017 budget. A copy of this list was provided in the meeting packet. The purpose of these reductions is to help close a gap in funding for the Stillaguamish CWD revenues that SWM has estimated to be roughly \$418,000. This assumes that the entire 2016 budget for the Stillaguamish CWD was spent, which is not likely to occur, though the year end accounting of expenses is not yet available. To prepare this list of proposed reductions, SWM Management reviewed all projects that have some funding from the Stillaguamish CWD. Programs that will receive a funding cut are: CWD Advisory Board, Shellfish Protection Program, Native Plant Riparian Restoration, Lake Volunteer Monitoring, LakeWise, Residential Facilities- Inspection and Maintenance Non-NPDES, Small Drainage Capital Prelim Designs, Failing/Aging Infrastructure Analysis, and Fish Passage Culvert Prioritization and Implementation. In total, the budget cuts within these programs add up to \$159,612. The list of proposed changes to the 2017 budget for the Stillaguamish CWD document also contains a list of projects that SWM management reviewed and decided should not be reduced. This includes projects with dedicated funding, such as the Discretionary Fund and funds collected for specific lake purposes, as well as projects that are required by our NPDES permit, countywide projects that are proportionately funded, the Inter-local Agreement with the Snohomish Health District, and projects that are already heavily subsidized by

other funding sources. Gregg noted that the list of proposed changes to the 2017 budget for the Stillaguamish CWD only addresses a portion of the deficit, and that reductions in the 2018 budget will likely be needed in order to close the entire funding gap. Gregg reported that SWM intends to begin implementing the cuts on February 1. SWM encourages the Advisory Board to provide feedback to SWM on the proposed budget reductions. If the Advisory Board is able to provide feedback to SWM before the end of January, then SWM will evaluate that feedback prior to implementing the proposed changes. If the Advisory Board needs additional time, SWM will evaluate that feedback once it is received and then evaluate whether to modify or reverse any of the budget reductions.

Gregg reported that in addition to these proposed budget reductions, SWM is interested in looking at alternative options that have the potential to reduce costs or increase revenues so that SWM can preserve services. Gregg stated that SWM is working to ensure that programs and services are as efficient as possible. This follows recent direction from the County Executive, who has asked all departments to look for efficiencies as part of an initiative called Service, Technology, Excellence Program (STEP). STEP is an effort to incorporate lean management principles into county processes. Among the potential changes that SWM management has reviewed to improve the efficiency of SWM programs and operations, the one that has stood out as having the greatest potential benefit is the consolidation of the SWM revenue districts into one countywide district. SWM currently collects and tracks revenues and expenses separately for each of the three revenue districts: the Stillaguamish CWD, the Snohomish Watershed Management Area (WMA), and the South County WMA. The result is that a significant amount of SWM staff and management time is spent developing the annual SWM budget and tracking expenses and revenues for SWM projects and programs for three different revenue districts. SWM is proposing a new initiative to the County's elected officials to consider the consolidation of the SWM revenue districts into one countywide district. In addition to increasing efficiencies in SWM operations, this initiative will provide SWM with more flexibility to address emerging issues and priorities and will allow SWM to provide more equitable levels of service throughout the County.

The board had several questions regarding the restructuring of SWM. Steve Van Valkenburg asked what the implications of combining the three districts would be for the CWD. Gregg said that this is something that will be addressed in SWM's assessment, and that different options would be considered, but one option is that there may be a county-wide board. Dale asked if this restructuring would require a vote. Gregg responded that it would require a vote of the County Council.

Kelly inquired about the status of payment of CWD fees by the Navy. Gregg responded that SWM has not received an update from the Navy since they said they would not pay in November. SWM is vetting further options to persuade the Navy to pay their SWM fees. The board asked Gregg why the Discretionary Fund was still frozen, even though it was not proposed to be affected in the proposed changes. Gregg responded that SWM Director Will Hall was not comfortable lifting the freeze until there was a plan in place to address the budget deficit. The board also expressed concern that the projected \$418,000 deficit does not reflect real numbers until the 2016 year-end actuals from all SWM projects were reported. Gregg confirmed that the \$418,000 number was a projected amount, and that SWM would have year-end actuals by the February 2017 meeting.

Priorities and focus topics for 2017

Sean Edwards shared the 2017 Stillaguamish Clean Water District Advisory Board Meetings Priorities and Focus Topics document with the board. The document identifies the 10 regular meeting dates for 2017 and a schedule for accomplishing the board's mission to deliver recommendation letters to SWM, Snohomish Health District, Snohomish Conservation District, and the Snohomish County Council. The document also includes a list of topics which the board has brainstormed to discuss beyond the recommendation letters. Due to the budget cuts, Sean said that it is hard to make a decision on how to arrange the schedule because of the uncertainty of meetings being cut. Sean shared that it would be difficult for the board to complete their letters as well as address other focus topics if there were less than 10 meetings in 2017.

Kelly made a motion to reduce the number of meetings to 5 in 2017 to accommodate the budget cuts. The motion was not seconded.

The board shared the desire to wait for the year-end actuals before cutting the number of meetings. This would allow for the board to have a better idea for what types of cuts need to be made. For now, the board will keep the February meeting as scheduled.

Status of the CWD Advisory Board vacant positions

Sean Edwards announced that Colleen Crotty, representing the Department of Ecology, and Graham Logen, representing Single Family Ratepayers in the Skagit Drainage Basin, both were appointed by the County Council and are officially members of the CWD Advisory Board. Unfortunately, Ray Brown gave his resignation to the CWD Advisory Board as he will be moving out of the state. Therefore, Ray Brown's position, Ratepayer- At Large #4, is now vacant. The Diking, Drainage and Flood Control Districts' position is also now vacant. In total, there are eight current vacancies on the CWD Advisory Board. Sean solicited the board to help with recruitment for the board and suggested to reach out to people they know who may be interested in becoming a member.

Elect CWD Advisory Board chair and vice-chair for 2017

Dale Shelton announced that she was nominated for CWD Advisory Board chair for 2017, and Bob Landles for vice-chair. Kelly made a motion to elect the CWD Advisory Board chair and vice-chair as proposed. Steve Van Valkenburg seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Meeting review, new business, and public comment

Under meeting review Steve Van Valkenburg asked that the board come to a consensus on how to address the list of proposed budget cuts in the CWD proposed by SWM. Bob Landles made a motion that the Stillaguamish CWD Advisory Board request that SWM delay implementation of the proposed 2017 budget reductions for the CWD until such time as the final year-end accounting of SWM 2016 actual expenditures are available, and until the Board has developed a consensus response to SWM regarding the list of proposed budget reductions. Colleen seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. Dale and Bob will write the letter to SWM Director Will Hall informing him of this motion and making the request to delay implementation of budget cuts.

Max Albert made a public comment encouraging the board to continue to address the budget cuts. He suggested that the board reach out to Miriam about the Lakes budget cuts. Max thanked the board for their time and the board thanked Max for his service.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 23, 2017, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Peace Lutheran Church, Fireside Room.

This meeting summary was prepared by Elisa Dawson. Please direct any questions or comments to Elisa at 425-388-6466 or elisa.dawson@snoco.org. More information about the CWD is available at <http://cwd.surfacewater.info>.