

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 – FINAL
Thursday, March 23, 2017 5:30 – 7:30 PM
Peace Lutheran Church, Silvana

Attendance

Board Members Present: Colleen Crotty, Bob Landles, Steve Rice, Dave Ridgeway, Dale Shelton, Kurt Strotz, Steve Van Valkenburg, Miriam Lancaster, Kelly Wynn

Board Members Excused: Graham Logen

SWM Staff: Elisa Dawson, Gregg Farris

Guests: Max Albert, Sean Edwards, Mak Kaufman, 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. Steve Van Valkenburg moved to approve the 2/23/17 meeting summary. Colleen Crotty seconded the motion. There was no discussion. **All were in favor and the 2/23/17 meeting summary was approved as written.**

Elisa Dawson provided hard copy information packets including the following materials:

- CWDAB 3/23/17 preliminary meeting agenda
- CWDAB 2/23/16 meeting summary draft
- Article on Drayton Harbor shellfish from the Encyclopedia of Puget Sound
- SWM 2016 Accomplishments and 2017 Work Plan report
- SWM 2016 year end budget versus actuals
- SWM draft preliminary CWD 2016 year end fund balance
- SWM 2017 projects in CWD revised 03/13/2017
- SWM response letter 03/06/2017

Subcommittee reports

Stillaguamish Watershed Council (SWC): Dave Ridgeway reported that he attended the March 22, 2017 SWC meeting. There was a presentation by the University of Washington Climate Impacts Groups which discussed the different variables of salmon recovery which are affected by climate change. The group also discussed the restructuring of the Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization, budget updates, and new project opportunities.

Lakes: Miriam Lancaster reported that Lake Howard is still under caution warning. No other lakes are currently listed. Miriam reported that there will be two upcoming natural lawn care workshops. One on Tuesday April 18 at French Creek Manor in Snohomish from 6:30-8:30PM. Another on Wednesday April 19 at the Brightwater Center from 6:30-8:30PM. Miriam reported that there are also two septic care workshops that will be held in July 2017. One will be Wednesday July 19 at Weston High School in Arlington from 6:30-9PM. Another will be Thursday July 20 at French Creek Manor in Snohomish from 6:30-9PM.

Snohomish-Stillaguamish Local Integrating Organization (LIO): Bob Landles reported that the LIO did not meet in March. The next LIO meeting will be April 20th. A LIO subcommittee is reviewing the process for the NTAs as well as the structure of the LIO. The LIO expects a report from the subcommittee at the April 20th meeting.

Shellfish Protection: Elisa Dawson presented an article on Drayton Harbor shellfish from the Encyclopedia of Puget Sound. The article describes how high levels of bacterial pollution shellfish beds in Drayton Harbor closed hundreds of acres of shellfish harvesting area in the 1990's. After the closure, the community worked with the Puget Sound Restoration Fund to start a community oyster farm. The vision with this project was to rally the community around clean water and what that can bring. The community planted oyster seed and worked with partners to clean up the agricultural and septic system pollution in Drayton Harbor. In November

2016, 810 acres of shellfish harvesting area was reopened in Drayton Harbor for the first time in 22 years. This significantly added towards the regional goal to achieve 10,800 acres of renewed shellfish beds in Puget Sound by 2020. The example of Drayton Harbor's community oyster farm project could show a way forward for shellfish recovery throughout the Puget Sound.

Finance: Steve Van Valkenburg reported that the finance committee received the SWM 2016 year end budget versus actuals document, the SWM draft preliminary CWD 2016 year end fund balance document, and the SWM 2017 projects in CWD revised 03/13/2017 document from Michael McGuiness, SWM Fiscal and Administration Supervisor. All these documents were provided in the meeting packet for the board members. The Board asked about funding for Savvy Septic. Gregg reported that Lisa Delude who coordinates the Savvy Septic program is finalizing an additional recent grant contract for the Savvy Septic funds. Gregg reported that he believed that contract will be finalized soon. Steve reported to Gregg Farris that he had several further questions related to specific numbers in the documents provided by Michael McGuiness. Gregg reported that Michael McGuiness would be the best person to answer these questions.

Discretionary Fund: Steve Van Valkenburg noted that the Discretionary Fund status has not changed and continues to be on hold for new applications. Elisa Dawson reported that the Feller-Thoms scope of work and contract were completed. The contract is currently awaiting signature from Feller-Thoms. Bobbi Lindemulder reported that Washington Conservation Crews were on the property today completing planting work on the wetland buffer.

Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) funding update

Bobbi Lindemulder presented a PowerPoint presentation on the SCD new rate system proposal. Bobbi reported that for the past eight years the SCD has received funding through an assessment in the CWD, which has been leveraged with grants and other funding sources. In light of Snohomish County SWM making changes to the CWD which would include how the assessment funds were being collected, the SCD Board of Supervisors will be filing a new rate proposal with the Snohomish County Council to ensure that the SCD can continue to provide services in the CWD in the future. The proposal will transition the SCD from an assessment structure to a rate structure. The new rate will have a maximum per parcel amount of \$10 per parcel and \$.10 per acre. The proposal will provide an increase in three key priority areas which were identified by the SCD and partners. These three key areas are youth education, agricultural engagement, and landowner programs to address residential stormwater issues. Bobbi reported that there will be a public meeting in the CWD at the City of Arlington Public Works office on April 4 from 6:30-8PM. There will also be a public meeting in Everett at Snohomish County PUD on April 3, and in Snohomish at Snohomish County PUD offices on April 11. Both events are from 6:30-8PM.

SWM 2016 Accomplishments and 2017 Work Plan report presentation

Gregg Farris presented a PowerPoint presentation of the Snohomish County Surface Water Management 2016 Accomplishments and 2017 Work Plan. A hard copy of the report was provided in the meeting packets. The report responds to an annual request by the CWD Advisory Board for an update on SWM's operations and budget as it relates to the CWD service area. The report documents the 2016 Accomplishments and 2017 Work Plan for each of the primary services provided by SWM, which are administrative and fiscal services, drainage, water quality, habitat, and floodplain services.

Gregg began his presentation with an overview of the current delinquent charges and funding challenges that the CWD Advisory Board has been discussing over the last several months. The Navy continues to maintain that they will not pay the fees, as reflected in a recent letter from the U.S. Secretary of the Navy. SWM is weighing out potential next steps with the delinquent charges. While there is a funding shortage, SWM has implemented reductions to spending in the CWD. SWM is also looking for other ways to reduce spending and continue services through two different pathways. The first is the consolidation of the three utility districts into one district and the second is through the SWM Business Plan. SWM is proposing that the district consolidation will improve efficiency, save money, and preserve services while also giving SWM greater flexibility to address urgent needs in Snohomish County. Gregg reported that SWM Director Will Hall has made presentations to Snohomish County Council, which Gregg had given notice to the CWD Advisory Board about this last month. The proposed new ordinance, which would enact the district consolidation, is being routed to Snohomish County Council. For the SWM Business Plan, Gregg reported that SWM is currently in

the process of hiring a consultant team for this project. The purpose of the SWM Business Plan will be to evaluate the services and levels of service provided by SWM, as well as evaluate the types and levels of funding needed to support these services. Gregg reported that SWM hopes to have a consultant hired and begin this work in May, and to be finished by the end of 2017. Next, Gregg went through an overview of the 2016 Accomplishments and 2017 Work Plan for drainage, water quality, habitat, and floodplain services.

Max Albert asked Gregg how the fund balances would be resolved with the Snohomish Conservation District if the ordinance were to go through. Gregg said that an inter-local agreement would be made between the Snohomish Conservation District and Snohomish County would be created just as it is now. Once the fund balance was used, there would be no more need for an inter-local agreement in the future.

SWM updates

Gregg reported that SWM has created several documents as a follow up to the questions and concerns the CWD Advisory Board raised regarding the consolidation of the three fee collection districts within Snohomish County into one district at the last meeting. After the last meeting, SWM created "Surface Water Management Utility Consolidation FAQ" and "Volunteer Opportunities within Surface Water Management." Gregg handed out copies of both of the documents.

On the Surface Water Management Utility Consolidation FAQ sheet, Gregg specifically directed the CWD Advisory Board members to the question "how ratepayers' needs and concerns would be identified and acknowledged by SWM in the Stillaguamish River Basin?" Gregg reported that SWM is dedicated to maintaining communication with its ratepayers across Snohomish County, including the Stillaguamish River Basin. Under the proposed consolidation, SWM will increase transparency through annual reports and encourage citizen engagement with increased opportunities to provide feedback and input on priorities. Gregg reported that some of these opportunities to provide feedback would include a public input process on the SWM Utility Business Plan, which is happening this year, an annual public input process on SWM's budget, a 2017 NPDES stormwater management plan workshop, and opportunities for ratepayers to participate in volunteer lake management, natural yard care workshops, watershed stewardship, etc. Next, Gregg went over the question "the discretionary fund in the CWD is used to support and assist private landowners, community groups, and/or local agencies in undertaking small-scale projects to improve water quality on private or public property, will this program continue?" Gregg reported that if the consolidation were to go through, the new ordinance would make the Discretionary Fund a county-wide program. This program would continue to support and assist private landowners, community groups, and/or local agencies in undertaking small-scale projects to improve water quality on private or public property. Finally, Gregg specifically addressed the question "will fund balances for the Snohomish Conservation District and the Discretionary Fund be preserved?" Gregg reported that if the new ordinance is approved, funds collected for the Stillaguamish CWD, Snohomish Conservation District and the CWD Discretionary Fund will be maintained as is up to the consolidation and then expended for the purpose they were originally collected for. Then, once the consolidation is in place, all newly collected fees under the new system would be collected into this system.

Gregg went over the "Volunteer Opportunities within Surface Water Management" handout with the CWD Advisory Board. Specifically, Gregg mentioned that SWM is planning a public open house prior to developing its budget to provide details of SWM's priorities for 2018 and will elicit additional input from the community on priorities and issues. Another opportunity for the community to provide input would be during the development of SWM's Business Plan. Gregg said that the Advisory Board members will be invited to participate in the stakeholder process and that more information would be coming on this opportunity. Gregg reported that Snohomish County will also be seeking opportunities to receive input from the public on the review of the Discretionary Fund grant program as SWM reviews the scope of project types for the Discretionary Fund program to implement as it would transition to a county-wide program. Gregg also reviewed several other opportunities on the handout as well as the table "Snohomish County Advisory Boards for County Resident Opportunities" with the CWD Advisory Board.

Dale Shelton called for the meeting to be extended by 15 minutes. Bob Landles moved to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. Steve Van Valkenburg seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

In questions and responses to Gregg Farris' presentation, the board members expressed their consternation with and opposition to SWM's proposed WMA consolidation plan and consequent dissolution of the CWD Advisory Board. The Board noted that the Stillaguamish watershed had unique characteristics regarding water quality restoration, surface water control, and shellfish bed pollution problems, and that the unique characteristics of the Stillaguamish watershed was recognized by the County Council and served as the basis for the formation of the CWD by the County Council. The CWD Advisory Board noted that these unique clean water restoration, pollution control, and surface water control needs still existed in the Stillaguamish CWD.

Gregg responded that SWM is still very interested in getting input from the public on their priorities, such as through a public input process previously described that would be conducted each year before SWM develops its annual budget.

The CWD Advisory Board voiced concern that having a single, annual public input process on SWM's budget for ratepayers to speak to the County Council about their water quality concerns and their priorities for watershed improvement projects would not be an equal replacement for losing the informed opinion of the Board, which many members have served on for numerous years.

Gregg reminded the Advisory Board members that in addition to the annual public input process for all ratepayers across the county to provide input, there would be opportunities for the Board members to provide input into the upcoming SWM Business Plan and the review of the Discretionary Fund.

The Board shared concern over the proposed ordinance regarding the consolidation being routed to the Snohomish County Council. The Board asked Gregg if they could see a copy of the ordinance before it was given to the Snohomish County Council. Gregg reported that SWM Director Will Hall would prefer to share the ordinance with the Council before sharing it with the Board. Kelly Wynn made the point that the proposed ordinance is a public document and could not legally be withheld from any citizen requesting to view it through a public records request. The Board shared their concern for not including the CWD Advisory Board in the drafting of the ordinance. Gregg said he will report this concern and the other concerns shared in the meeting back to SWM Director Will Hall.

Create subcommittee to draft recommendations letter to SWM

Miriam, Bob, and Dale volunteered to draft the next recommendations letter to SWM, which the Board will finalize at the April 27th meeting. Dale requested that suggestions for the draft letter should be sent to the subcommittee within the next week.

Meeting review, new business, and public comment

Sean Edwards reported that there was an article published in the Stanwood-Camano News on March 20, 2017 under the title "Navy's refusal to pay fees impedes SnoCo water management work." The article describes SWM's revenue shortage due to the unpaid Navy fees, the program cuts in the CWD, and the proposed consolidation of the three different SWM fee areas in Snohomish County.

Max Albert asked Bobbi Lindemulder if the SCD would have their new fund structure in place by the time the consolidation went through. Bobbi responded that the plan would be for the consolidation to start in 2018, and the new fee structure to also start in 2018. Therefore, the SCD would have their new funding structure in place and be able to maintain services in the Stillaguamish River basin throughout the SWM transition.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 27, 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>.