

Stillaguamish River Clean Water District Advisory Board

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September 27, 2013

Monte Marti, Manager
Snohomish Conservation District
528 91st N.E. Suite A
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

Dear Mr. Marti,

Pursuant to Snohomish County Code Title 25A.30.030, the Stillaguamish Clean Water District (CWD) Advisory Board offers you the following recommendations, requests, and comments that relate to the Snohomish Conservation District (SCD) 2014 Work Plan:

Resource Management: The Board recommends continued SCD technical assistance for resource management, including the Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) funded, Church Creek Riparian Restoration and the South Skagit Flats Riparian and Best Management Practice (BMP) Implementation Projects. We ask you to report to us in the coming year on the progress of these projects. The Board also supports the water quality efforts of SCD in educating horse owners through Sound Horse Keeping workshops, education and outreach, and farm tours, including involvement in youth horse activities. The Board also recommends continuation of current programs such as farm planning services, BMP recommendations, workshops, and annual plant sale.

Referral and Compliance: The Board has requested an update from Surface Water Management on its effort to make the referral and compliance process work effectively, by "clarifying roles and responsibilities" among the County, DOE, and SCD. SWM has scheduled progress reports to be presented at our October and November meetings. Please work collaboratively with SWM on this issue.

Pollution Identification and Correction: The Board supports development of the Lower Stillaguamish Sub-basin Pollution Identification and Correction program and recommends SCD assist this program with outreach, technical assistance, and BMP implementation.

Acknowledgment of CWD Funding: The Stillaguamish CWD is a fee-for-service district, funded by its ratepayers, and it is important to keep them informed of what their money is being spent on. Therefore, whenever CWD funds are used for SCD programs, the Board requests that SCD work to ensure that CWD is appropriately credited by name in all news articles, publications, and other information released to the public.

Title 25A Funding of SCD: As you know, Snohomish County Ordinance 13-009 has reduced the CWD RCW 90.72 revenue by 47%, causing a proportional

reduction of the revenue allocated by Title 25A to each of CWD 90.72 programs, including for SCD. The Board has recommended to SWM that 25A.20.030(2) be amended, to reestablish the balance between 90.72 and 36.89 revenues and thereby restore a workable base funding for our 90.72 programs. SWM acknowledges such an amendment can be done, effective as of 2015, and our Finance Subcommittee is working to see it brought before Council. In the meantime, a sizable 90.72 SCD fund balance is available, and SWM has assured the Board that it will be used to avoid funding cuts in your 2014 contract.

The Board wants SCD to continue its fine work in the Stillaguamish watershed. We hope these recommendations and comments will help you in forming your 2014 Work Plan and annual contract with SWM. We request your written response in time for review at our November 2013 Board meeting. Thank you.

Respectfully,



Steven VanValkenburg, Chair



Ragina Gray, Vice Chair