

Surface Water Management- Drainage, Diking, Flood Control and Clean Water Districts

Response to comments raised by Ag Board members at June 13, 2017 meeting

Prepared by SWM Staff 8-7-17

- 1) Jesse Allen – If your farmland is in the flood plain, is not in one of the special districts [flood, diking, drainage] who can you go to for help with water coming from upland property? [note, he also stated that he does not pay any SWM fees]
 - a. All residents within the SWM fee area, whether they pay SWM fees or not, may contact SWM with questions regarding water quality and drainage, at 425-388-3464. SWM can provide drainage and water quality investigation staff to meet with landowners and provide technical assistance.
- 2) Gerald Labish – SWM has gathered extra fees to handle situations like this and he would like to know how the money is going to these projects. What is SWM responsible for? Mr. Allen added that SWM will just say that they have no responsibility for water on private property.
 - a. The purpose of expanding the SWM district boundaries into the county's river floodplains was to give SWM the ability to continue to provide services in these areas. Revenues that had been used in the past to fund these important programs were no longer available to SWM, such as Real and Personal Property Taxes (RPPT). Without the expansion of SWM's boundaries, SWM would have had to reduce or eliminate certain services that it had provided in the floodplains for years. The current river programs that rely solely or heavily on these SWM revenues include county and USGS river gages, the county's flood warning system, development of SLS Reach Scale Plans to guide future work along our rivers, a portion of the Flood Damage Reduction Grant Program, and river engineering analyses (such as the report written by SWM staff reviewing landowner concepts along the Skykomish River). A more complete list of SWM services is attached.
- 3) Mike Harnden – Feels like there is some responsibility for upland water that ends up on farmland. What districts get help and which ones don't? If they get help how much and from whom?
 - a. SWM currently has Interlocal Agreements with two districts (French Slough FCD and Marshland FCD) to help offset some of the costs of handling upland runoff discharging into these districts:

- i. Marshland FCD \$62,242 (SnoCo 2016)
 - ii. French Slough FCD \$11,360 (SnoCo 2016)
 - 1. French Slough FCD also receives funding from the City of Monroe for stormwater drainage.
- 4) Brian Bookey – Roadmap of funding from all the sources. Overlapping districts and how they work. (What is the difference between the different categories) Countywide SWM what is their involvement.

District Funding:

- a. Each district adopts their own individual assessment methods to generate fees from all landowners within their district: individual, governmental, commercial, railroad, etc. See answer to question number 6.
- b. Districts are eligible to apply for funding from SWM's Flood Damage Reduction Grant Program. The amount requested and awarded to individual districts changes each year. The table below lists the amounts requested and awarded to districts in 2017 under this program. This funding is only available to special purpose districts.

Applications			Proposed Award Amount	
<u>District</u>	<u>2017 Request</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>220,000.00</u>
DD #1 - #1	\$ 35,000.00	Pump replacement	\$	35,000.00
DD #1 - #2	\$ 30,000.00	Pump replacement	\$	30,000.00
DD #1 - #3	\$ 15,000.00	Repair tide gate culverts	\$	15,000.00
DD #13	\$ 60,000.00	Levee repairs	\$	60,000.00
DD #17	\$ 500,000.00	Tide gate repairs	\$	12,500.00
FSFCD	\$ 7,500.00	Levee top repair	\$	7,500.00
FSFCD	\$ 20,000.00	Tree removal	\$	20,000.00
MFCD	\$ 300,000.00	Levee repairs	\$	-
SFCD	\$ 40,000.00	Drainage analysis	\$	40,000.00

SWM's involvement with Districts Countywide:

The services provided by SWM within the districts include county and USGS river gages, the county's flood warning system, development of SLS Reach Scale Plans to guide future work along our rivers, a portion of the Flood Damage Reduction Grant Program, river engineering analyses (such as the report written by SWM staff reviewing landowner concepts along the Skykomish River), and supporting the formation of new districts (such as the new Lochsloy Pilchuck

FCD). These services are different than the services provided by the districts themselves.

5) Jeff Ellingsen - What is SWMs new involvement with the districts?

a. See answers to questions #2, #3 #4, and #9.

6) Jeremy Visser – Please layout overall budget of each (special purpose district) entity.

District	2017 Budget
DD 1	\$ 85,000
DD 2	\$ 22,295
DD 3	\$ -
DD 4	\$ 5,087
DID 5	\$ 790,000
DDID 7	\$ 22,021
Drainage District 12	\$ 17,454
Drainage District 13	\$ 11,822
French Slough FCD	\$ 483,000
Stillaguamish FCD	\$ 78,523
Robe Valley FCD	\$ 10,101
Lochsloy Pilchuck FCD	\$ -
Marshland FCD	\$ 196,573
Total	\$ 1,721,877

7) Mark Craven – Flood Control District & Flood Control Zone District what is the difference?

- Flood Control Districts and Flood Control Zone Districts are established under Chapter 86 RCW.
- Generally, a Flood Control Zone District can be run by the County and a Flood Control District can be run by commissioners from within the District.

8) Jesse Allen – Who is responsible for changes in pattern of water flow that ends up affecting water quality that is passing through your land?

a. See answer to question #1 for water quality issues.

9) Marv Thomas – Is in the Marshland district and he explained how some of the funding works. May be useful to use a model developed by Arthur Lee for ditches and kilowatts.

- a. The assessment methods used by each district are unique to each district and they use metrics such as acres protected from flooding, acres drained, impervious area, value of protected property, etc.
- b. The model that Marv is referring to is to compensate Marshland Flood Control District for increased costs to pump runoff and remove sediment from the District due to increased upland development. Details of this are contained in the interlocal agreement between Snohomish County and the Marshland Flood Control District.

10) Gerald Labish – Does a flood control zone district have to be inside of a diking district?

- a. No. See answer to question #7.

11) Mike Harden – concerned about water quality, who is liable for the bad water? [Who is responsible for water quality coming from upland properties?]

- a. The responsibility for water quality from upland properties is dependent on the given situation. We recommend contacting SWM with questions regarding water quality and drainage. SWM can provide drainage and water quality investigation staff to meet with landowners and provide technical assistance.

12) Brian Bookey – Maybe an overhaul of the whole system needs to happen.

- a. SWM is in the process of developing a utility business plan to guide its services in the coming years. The consultant that was recently hired will be reaching out to our ratepayers for comments and ideas. We hope that you will be willing to offer input.

13) Several of the members reiterated with Mr. Stockdale (Erik Stockdale, SWM) that the runoff onto their properties is increasing; it causes sediment buildup and changes to how they have to operate.

- a. Our records show that in parts of the county rainfall has been increasing over the last ten years. A recent review of the Silver Lake rain gage shows precipitation has increased from 36 inches to 46 inches between 1988 and 2014, a 25 percent increase over 26 years.

14) Jeremy Visser stated that he was told that SWM would not be doing pollution control inspections on properties that were already inspected or regulated through other, agencies (such as Ecology). However, his neighbor received a letter from SWM stating that an inspection regarding water quality was necessary, regardless of whether they had already been inspected by another agency. He asked why there

need to be duplicate visits and visits to farms that don't have animals. Brian Bookey had also received similar letters.

- a. The Pollution Source Control Program is a requirement of the County's Phase I Municipal Stormwater Permit (NPDES permit). Commercial properties in unincorporated Snohomish County that have the potential to pollute and/or discharge contaminated storm water to the County's municipal separate storm sewer system are eligible for inspection. Staff inspect a minimum of 20% of these properties annually whether or not the property is subject to permits issued by another agency.

Duplication of site visits with other agencies is uncommon. If there are multiple site visits from different agencies, it is because they address different topics and issues. We strive for efficiency and coordinate to avoid duplications.

Please contact Laura Frolich at 425-388-6691 for more information about the specifics of the County's Source Control Program or with any questions or concerns.

15) Jesse Allen – How does the Clean Water District fits into the SWM consolidation proposal?

- a. The Snohomish County Council recently approved a plan to restructure the county's surface water management utility from three separate districts into one. Operating as a single utility district will improve efficiency and save money. In addition, the county's shellfish district was expanded to become a countywide district. The CWD advisory board has been funded through the remainder of 2017. The small grants program, previously only found in the Stillaguamish River Clean Water District, will be expanded into a countywide program open to all ratepayers.
- b. Additional information on the consolidation is available on the SWM website at <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/208/Surface-Water-Management>.

Additional Resources Available on the SWM Website

1. Special District Maps (provided in Ag Board handout Aug 8, 2017 meeting)
<https://team/depts/spw/FLOOD/MAPS/Forms/AllItems.aspx?InitialTabId=Ribbon.Library&VisibilityContext=WSSListAndLibrary>
1. Drainage Inventory Interactive Map & Data <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/1129/Drainage-GIS>
2. Snohomish County Flood Information Center <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/796/Flood-Information-Center>
3. Voluntary Floodplain Home Buyout Program
<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6345>
4. Voluntary Floodplain Home Elevation Program
<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6346>
5. Applying for FEMA Grant Funding to Protect Your Property
<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6344>
6. Surface Water Online Data http://test.snoco.org/app2/SPW/SPW_SWHydro/index.asp
7. Real Time Flood Warning Map <http://gismaps.snoco.org/fws/>

(attach “summary list of SWM services” from
<https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/40686>)