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April 3rd, 2014

Livingston Bay Community Association
C/O Matt Griffin and Dave Clemens
26910 92nd Ave NW Ste C5
Stanwood, WA 98292

Hello Matt and Dave,

As we've discussed via email and during our October 2013 visit to the Livingston Bay Community Association's property along Livingston Bay, the Snohomish Conservation District supports the Association Board's desire to improve the community-owned shoreline area (approximately 2,000 feet of shoreline) of Livingston Bay.

As we discussed during our site visit, the Snohomish Conservation District can provide free technical assistance and recommendations about invasive plant removal, structure removal, and re-planting with native species. We can also offer technical assistance with residential planting plans and natural yard care, rain water harvest and stormwater issues, and drainage issues. However, the District and Association will need to look to other experts in the coastal geology field for technical assistance in addressing some of the other shoreline violations that Tess Cooper discussed last fall (including bulkhead and dock removal or modifications, "softshore armoring" practices, etc). Island County Public Health can provide assistance with septic compliance including inspections, failing septic repairs, and education. (FYI – Island Co's Septic class dates for Camano Island are set – Thursday July 17th and Monday September 8th – visit their website for more information: <http://www.islandcountyh.org/page/105>).

Our staff is also available to assist at community meetings (presentations or less formal discussions), free site visits for homeowners to discuss natural resource concerns and recommendations) and assist with community work parties.

During our visit last year, we discussed the idea of working with Tess Cooper and Island County Lead Entity Coordinator Dawn Pucci to develop a feasibility study to investigate the feasibility of developing a community restoration plan for the shoreline. The Conservation District is interested in engaging in this process.

In the meantime, the Conservation District can work with you to develop a native planting demonstration project for the area adjacent to the western-most community access path – activities would include invasive plant removal and revegetation with native plants. I will complete a draft planting plan for the demo project area. In the meantime, it would be great if the community could begin removing the invasive plants growing in the planting area. **Invasive plant removal is an allowable activity in critical areas**, although you will need to take care to protect the native rose and other native plant species growing amongst the morning glory, ivy, and blackberry. A person familiar with native plants should supervise any volunteers who assist with invasive vegetation removal – Matt, Dave, and Tracy were all able to differentiate between the non-native invasive blackberry and the native rose during our site visit. These individuals will need to supervise any volunteers to ensure that only the invasive plants are removed.

Community volunteers should remove invasive vegetation using hand tools (shovels, loppers, etc). Taking care to protect existing native vegetation, volunteers can dig roots and pull or cut above-ground vegetation. Bag the invasive plant materials (roots, leaves, and vines/stems) and dispose of the material – composting invasive plant material is not recommended.

If a large area of bare ground is exposed after invasive plant removal, we recommend using temporary soil stabilization techniques – please call me if your removal efforts result in exposed soils and I will provide specifications for temporary soil stabilization for specific conditions.

I will continue to work on a site planting plan this week, and will provide a draft for review on April 8th.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Regards,

Kristin Marshall
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