



## CREEKS, DRAINAGE AND WASTEWATER CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**MEETING Summary**  
**SMT 4096**  
**November 18, 2009**  
**5:00 – 7:00**

---

### **Administration:**

- Members Present: Suzie Burke, Eric Dripps, Steve Rudin, Lydia Heard, Nancy Malmgren
- SPU Staff Present: Trish Rhay, Bruce Bachen, Craig Omoto, Maria Coe, Ingrid Wertz, Sheryl Shapiro
- Acting Chair Suzie Burke called the meeting to order.

### **AGENDA TOPICS:**

**Rates-** Craig Omoto presented financial information describing the projected 2010 Drainage and Wastewater rates. Subject to final Council approval, the drainage rate will increase 2% and the wastewater rate will increase 1% (this does not include any pass-through increase from King County) . These rate increases result in an additional \$877,000 for O&M programs and additional tax payment and \$9.5 million for CIP projects.

In approving this rate increase, City Council determined that SPU had cut too much from the 2010 proposed budget. Council restored funding in the following areas:

- Hire an additional 3 DWW field staff
- NPDES monitoring work
- Reinstatement of system improvement projects: Venema Natural Drainage, MLK/Norfolk water quality project
- Additional funding for point sewer rehab, sanitary sewer overflow, and improvements to address localized flooding.

Committee members discussed the rate increase. There was support for additional field staff. Questions were asked regarding monitoring at the North Transfer Station and an outfall near Fremont and a request for further information about the drainage rate credit program. Bruce agreed to followup on questions concerning the North Transfer Station. (follow up note: Craig sent the link to the rate credit program site and email address for further information to the committee on 11/19):

[http://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Drainage\\_&\\_Sewer/Rates/DrainageRates/StormwaterFacilityCredit/index.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/util/Services/Drainage_&_Sewer/Rates/DrainageRates/StormwaterFacilityCredit/index.htm)

**Storm Observer Program-** Ingrid Wertz provided a history and status report of SPU's storm observer program. This program utilizes office staff during major storms to provide input to help deploy field operations staff to situations where they are needed and can be most effective. Storm observers take limited action to correct developing problems (for example, clearing leaves) and communicate with citizens. Observers have been deployed twice so far



this fall. Currently storm observer staff are used in four areas: Densmore, upper and lower Thornton Creek and Madison Valley. Further expansion to other areas may occur in coming years.

Committee discussion followed. There are a number of citizens actively supporting programs like Adopt-a-Drain and there was further discussion about ways to encourage more participation by volunteers, including approaching neighborhood groups and District councils. Nancy would like to have pamphlets explaining what citizens can do to prevent flooding and helping the system operate.

**2010 Work Plan** The committee began discussion of their 2010 work plan and this discussion included the role of CDWAC and other committees that SPU works with (Creeks and Restore Our Waters). The committee members felt that the role of CDWAC should be focused on three areas: 1) interact with SPU regarding rates; 2) outreach to the community and providing comments to SPU; and 3) public input as specified in the NPDES permit. Cheryl Klinker provided a list of current issues that should be considered for inclusion in the work plan. Trish indicated she would need the CDWAC's help in efforts to help achieve public understanding about required improvements to address regulatory requirements for CSOs. A number of ideas and issues were presented and discussed including how to introduce stormwater management (trees, curb cuts, to transportation projects, especially those that are smaller in scale, how to expand interest in programs like Adopt-a-drain, how to utilize neighborhood centers for outreach, how to work with property owners, and adding warning signs on creeks.

The committee and staff agreed that staff would work with Cheryl Klinker on a draft work plan and have that available for the January CDWAC meeting. There was agreement that a work plan would help focus the committee and help to achieve measurable results.

Meeting was adjourned.