

**CREEKS, DRAINAGE AND WASTEWATER
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING Summary
SMT 5965
April 11th, 2012
5:00 – 7:00PM**

Administration:

- Members Present: Kendra Aguilar, Cheryl Klinker, Noel Miller, Douglas Mora, Tasha Gray (by phone), Chris Hoffer (by phone), CC D'Ardiss (by phone)
- SPU Staff Present: Bruce Bachen, Maria Coe, Ray Hoffman, Frank McDonald, Trish Rhay, Linda Rogers, Sheryl Shapiro, Ingrid Wertz, Jennifer Woods
- Visitors Present: None

Meeting called to order at 5:10PM

February meeting notes approved.

AGENDA TOPICS:

Introductions

SPU Financial Controls – Ray Hoffman, SPU Director briefed CDWAC on current issues and provided an overview and status update on SPU's actions to tighten internal controls. SPU will keep the Committee updated about the progress of our work.

CDWAC Business

Cheryl Klinker, Sheryl Shapiro

- **CDWAC Election** – Nominations made for Chair, Chris Hoffer, and Vice Chair, Noel Miller. Members present voted in nominees unanimously.
- **Membership Update** – Kendra, Noel and CC are CDWAC's newest members. Jennifer will send out a survey to new members. Appreciation awards were given to Doug Mora and Cheryl Klinker for their most appreciated terms of service on CDWAC. Outgoing members were informed of the exit interview process. The annual meeting date was discussed and is tentatively proposed for the end of June, possibly June 27th, from 5:30 – 7:30pm at a location to be determined.
- **New Member Orientation** – There are thirteen new members serving on the Community Advisory Committees. New members are encouraged to help shape the orientation.
 - The meeting with the Chairs of the Community Advisory Committees and Councilmember Godden will likely be in May. Sheryl will be in contact with more information soon.
- **CAC Chairs Meeting** with Councilmember Godden will be scheduled for May.
- **The Annual meeting** of all CAC members will be in June.

Update on Budget and Rate Process

Trish Rhay, Maria Coe

- The purpose of this agenda item is to discuss the 2013 – 2015 rates that are currently being developed. The first round of rate proposals has been submitted to the Director and the Director will choose the final rate proposal to propose to Council in June of this year.
- A member asked what was driving the rate and staff discussed the issue of larger (and more expensive) capital improvements projects (CIP) over the long term, till 2025. These projects are partially funded with current rates and partially through longer term bonds. Much of the increase in CIP projects is driven by regulatory requirements. ,
- A member asked about the differences in rates for drainage and wastewater fees The staff explained increases in costs have a greater impact (percentage wise) on drainage fees compared to wastewater because the drainage fund is smaller. Funding for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) improvements has been shifting over several years so that the drainage fees pay for a greater share of the costs and this is impacting rates.
- Members asked if there were any changes in budget priorities. Staff explained that priorities are reviewed and reset periodically to ensure the highest priority work is being done. The CIP program once included 350 projects and is now down to 50 projects.
- A member asked if Council provides any direction during the rate process and staff explained that the Director consults with the Mayor in developing the proposed budget and rate package that is delivered to the Council for their review and decisions.
- Please send any further questions about the rate process to Maria and once the proposal is ready in June, she will present it to the group.

Street Sweeping Program Summary (Removal of Solids and Debris)

Ingrid Wertz

- The purpose of this agenda item was to explain the processes by which SPU removes sediments and debris from SPU's drainage system in response to a member's question from a previous meeting regarding how much sediment and debris is collected from our drainage system and not allowed to be deposited in our creeks and waterways.
- Debris and sediments from SPU's drainage system can impair habitat and pollutants associated with the solids can impair water quality. Maintenance of SPU's drainage system to ensure facility function and remove pollutants is a strategy employed by SPU to reduce impacts on water quality. Sediments and associated pollutants are removed from SPU's drainage system through maintenance of stormwater facilities and conveyance system (i.e., catch basin cleaning, ditch cleaning, and line cleaning). In addition, sediments and associated pollutants are removed from Seattle's street via street sweeping.
- Members asked about the facilities shown in the powerpoint presentation. Staff discussed the various processes from removing sediments and the facilities pictured. Staff also discussed that some sediment removal activities are conducted by SPU and some activities are contracted out.

New and Different Approaches to Meeting Regulatory Requirements

Trish Rhay

- The purpose of this agenda item was to discuss the CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow) permit compliance which includes reducing overflows through the Long Term Control Plan

and CMOM (Capacity Management Operations and Maintenance) will aid in compliance as negotiated with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) in the Consent Decree.

- A member asked if combined sewers exist elsewhere and if the EPA was auditing any other cities in our area. Staff stated there are, but Seattle has the only combined sewer system in the area. Another city in our region that has been audited is Portland.
- The EPA and the City have been working together to develop the Consent Decree. All of the actions are intended to improve water quality.
- Bruce will supply the members with links to two articles and a blog about rain garden projects in Seattle, including a King County project in West Seattle (Barton).

CMOM (Capacity Management Operations and Maintenance)

Frank McDonald

- The purpose of this agenda item was to inform members of the CMOM program and its role in managing the maintenance of our combined and wastewater systems so it functions properly. Staff explained that CMOM is an asset management strategy that guides Field Operations in prioritizing their work.
- CMOM comes from the Clean Water Act and provides a set of best management practices.
- Members asked questions related to who pays the cost of fats, oils and grease (FOG) when it builds up in the public lines. If the problem can be traced to the responsible party, that party is responsible. In other cases, the costs are covered in the overall budget. The food service industry pays for onsite traps and maintenance that are intended to prevent FOG from accumulating in public lines.
- Additionally, members asked questions regarding the maintenance grid system, its size and effectiveness, and staff explained there were 42 (maintenance) grids, but SPU has moved from a grid system to a time window of opportunity and risk-based work assignment method which further reduces crew travel time between work sites while reducing risk of sewer backups.
- Frank will come back next month to finish his presentation on CMOM.

Announcements

Sheryl Shapiro

- Next Tuesday is the Water System Plan Meeting, 4/17/12; members are encouraged to attend.
- There are two CAC recruitment opportunities: 5/7, the YMCA Get Engaged Program (18-29 years olds); 5/9 United Way's Project LEAD.
- The Seattle Race Conference is 5/12 and members are encouraged to go.
- Restore Our Waters forum planning is currently on hold.
- If any former CDWAC members would like to continue on the CDWAC email list, please let her know.
- There is an event at UW (Indigenous Scholars) that may be of interest to the group; she will provide the group with that information.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.