

Meeting Notes



## SPU Creeks, Drainage & Wastewater Advisory Committee (CDWAC)

July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue  
Room 5965  
5 p.m.-7 p.m.

*Co-Chair: Chris Hoffer*

*Co-Chair: Noel Miller*

**Present:** Kendra Aguilar, C'Ardiss Gardner Gleser, Chris Hoffer, Cheryl Klinker, Noel Miller, Brianne Zorn  
**Absent:** Suzie Burke, Tasha Gray  
**Staff:** Bruce Bachen, Trish Rhay, Maria Coe, Sheryl Shapiro, Jennifer Woods  
**Guests:** Rodney Jones

5:11 PM Call to Order

### 1. Regular Business (All)

- a. Review and approval of June meeting notes.
  - Approved; no corrections needed at this time.
- b. General review of meeting with Council Member Godden and Chair.
  - Attendees discussed the highlights of the meeting with Council Member Godden.
- c. Survey Results – Members please bring your calendars to discuss survey results and possible field trip scheduling.
  - Five members responded to the survey. After discussion with members present at the meeting the Duwamish River boat tour and Muckleshoot tour had the most interest expressed. **ACTION ITEM:** Staff will find out about the logistics and possible dates involved for the tours.
  - Additionally, another tour was solicited to the Committee for the Meadowbrook Pond tour. **ACTION ITEM:** Staff will send out more information to members about this trip and the WSAC tour next week.

### 2. General Review of Annual Meeting

- The feedback from attendees was positive from both members and staff.

### Monthly Topics:

### 3. Presentation and Discussion of SPU's Drainage and Wastewater Rate Proposal (Bruce Bachen, Division Director, Trish Rhay, Division Director, Maria Coe, Rates, Chairs)

- A summary of the proposal included the timeline of rate increases being three years when it is usually for two, King County is increasing their wastewater rates as well, and rate drivers include the CSO (Combined Sewer Operations) program and overall declining volumes of wastewater. Additionally, staff discussed impacts on the budget showing that discretionary funds are being reduced, due to the need to meet increasing regulatory obligations and other rising costs, contracts, capital financing, etc. Rate increases are needed to fill this funding gap and ensure the continuation of current operations.

- The drainage rates are based on impervious surface and the size of the property and are differentiated by intensity of use, such as low to medium density residential properties from higher density residential and commercial properties in order for property owners to pay for their fair share of what goes into the system. Drainage fees are paid through the property owner's King County tax bill.
- Staff discussed the rate increase proposal and answered member questions and provided clarification relating to the impacts of the rate increase proposal and possible program reductions and eliminations to the budget.
- **ACTION ITEM:** CDWAC members will be included in the discussion and planning for the expansion of the street sweeping program into residential areas, including parking issues.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Staff will provide CDWAC members with more information about the WMBE (Women and Minority Owned Businesses) inclusion plan and how it will impact monitoring and reporting of large contracts.
- The powerpoint presentation in the supporting materials contains more information about this topic.
- **ACTION ITEM:** An opportunity for CDWAC members to provide feedback about the rates proposal including the preparation and transmission of member comments, concerns, and merits of the proposal to the Director, Ray Hoffman, and Councilor Godden. Noel will coordinate member comments and feedback about the rates proposal, which are due by Friday of this week.
- Questions included:
  - What is the purpose of differentiating low to medium density residential properties from higher density residential and commercial properties?
  - What is the WMBE (Women and Minority Owned Businesses) inclusion plan and how will it impact the monitoring and reporting for large contracts?

## **Wrap Up**

### **4. Review**

- Recommendations
- **ACTION ITEMS:**
  - i. Staff will find out about the logistics and possible dates involved for the tours.
  - ii. Staff will send out more information to members about this trip and the WSAC tour next week.
  - iii. Staff will provide CDWAC members with more information about the WMBE (Women and Minority Owned Businesses) inclusion plan and how will it impact the monitoring and reporting for large contracts
  - iv. Noel will coordinate member comments and feedback about the rates proposal, which are due by Friday of this week.

### **5. Preliminary agenda for next meeting**

- The next meeting is August 8 and will be a working meeting to discuss possible subcommittees.

### **6. Possible future agenda items**

- Possible topic to explore in continuation of the rates discussion is race and social justice issues and budget impacts.

7:00 PM Meeting adjourned