



**CREEKS, DRAINAGE AND WASTEWATER
CUSTOMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING Summary**

**SMT 4096
September 8, 2010
5:00 – 7:00PM**

Administration:

- Members Present: Steve Ruden, Douglas Mora, Suzie Burke, Cheryl Klinker, Nancy Malmgren, Lydia Heard
- SPU Staff Present: Bruce Bachen, Sue Morrison, Maria Coe, Trish Rhay
- Guests Present: Jim Hull

Meeting called to order at 5:05PM

AGENDA TOPICS:

CDWAC Business

Cheryl Klinker

June, 2010 CDWAC meeting notes were accepted as written.
Membership Recruitment

Drainage and Wastewater Rates and Budget

**Maria Coe,
Trish Rhay,
Bruce Bachen**

Maria Coe provided an overview of the 2011-2012 rate proposals. If adopted, the new rates would be effective January, 2011. Proposed increases:

2011: Sewer – 4.0% & Drainage 12.5%

2012: Sewer – 4.0% & Drainage 10.8%

These rates are based on continued cost reductions, increased capital expenditures due to regulatory requirements (upgrading combined sewer overflows (CSOs), claims (\$3M available annually with the 2010 max reached), combined system shift (portion of costs historically allocated entirely to wastewater is now funded by drainage), Operations and Maintenance (O&M) costs where a increase in the baseline has occurred; as well as new O&M costs such as street sweeping, the Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) program, and NPDES monitoring. Note that in 2010, SPU did not request a Drainage or Wastewater rate increase; however, Council ended up approving a small increase to cover specific capital projects. Committee members asked a number of questions related to 2010 claims. It was reported that 2010 claims are anticipated to be \$5 million dollars. The rise in cost is due to litigation for backups and creek overflows. Additional drivers of the rate increases include inflation, baseline adjustments, and healthcare. It is also important to note that the wastewater rate does not reflect the King County treatment rate increase of 13%.



Bruce indicated that in 2012 the current NPDES permit will be renewed and SPU has sent comments to Ecology indicating that the two highest priorities for monitoring will be source control monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of programs. Bruce also said that SPU is applying for grants. Seattle received \$1.6 million in capacity grants. SPU will receive about ½ of that amount with the rest going to other Departments to cover stormwater management expenses.

Controlling Overflows from the Combined System

Trish Rhay

100 million gallons are discharged annually. There are about 200 discharge events annually. Goals of CSO reduction program include improving water quality, complying with the Clean Water Act, minimizing rate impacts, and partnering for cost effective solutions. Short term goals (2010-2015) include building confidence with the regulatory agencies to show that Seattle is focused, committed and able in meeting requirements. Long term goals (2016 to compliance in 2025) include managing rate impacts, maximizing the right investments, and committing to informed schedule for compliance

CSO reduction solutions include retrofits (optimizing and repairing the system), Green (increase the holding capacity of soil and slow the flow), and storage (increase the capacity of underground pipes and tanks). The CSO public involvement strategy includes phase 1 which is planning with public involvement, phase 2 which is design with public involvement, and phase 3 which is construction with public involvement.

Early-action projects will be going to bid during 2011-2014. Long-term control plan projects will go to bid 2015-2023. Rate increases will be necessary to fund the CSO program.

Review of GIS CD

Steve Ruden

Steve indicated that there is a lot of GIS data on the first CD. He assessed how useful the data would be and concluded that data from the USGS was more helpful in his particular analysis needs than the data contained on the City disk.

Wrap Up

Cheryl Klinker

- Next meeting Wednesday, October 13th.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:00PM