



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

**SMT 4096
November 10, 2010
5:00 – 7:00PM**

Administration:

- Members Present: Suzie Burke, Lydia Heard, Nancy Malmgren, Cheryl Klinker, Steve Ruden, Douglas Mora
- SPU Staff Present: Bruce Bachen, Sheryl Shapiro, Holly McCracken, Maria Coe, Judi Gladstone, Susan Stoltzfus, Sue Morrison
- Guests Present: Leigh Nelson, Tasya Gray, Chris Hoffer, Jim Hull, Rick Bechtel

Meeting called to order at 5:05PM

AGENDA TOPICS:

CDWAC Business

Cheryl Klinker

Guest introductions were made.

September 8, 2010 CDWAC meeting notes were accepted as written. Cheryl explained that the intent is to recruit up to six people for the committee.

Brief Rate/Budget Update

**Bruce Bachen,
Maria Coe**

Bruce reported on the 2 year rate setting process. Requests made to the Mayor's office have been made with changes that affect a few employees. There are some layoffs proposed in DWW. Net loss is about 30. Staff is being added where required and trimmed in other areas. Additions are being made to inspections, FOG, and street sweeping programs. These additions are mostly in response to regulatory requirements.

Maria overviewed the affects of proposed rate increases on Drainage and Wastewater customer bills for residential and commercial accounts. Bruce said that one of the drivers in the drainage rate increase is some of the cost of the combined system. Council will adopt the budget on November 22nd.

Storm Preparedness and Flood Control

Holly McCracken

Holly works in the section of DWW that is focused on flooding and sewer backup. She presented SPU's storm preparedness and flood control plan and asked for input from the committee. SPU advertises and communicates through their website, newspapers, twitter, Facebook, etc... to get information out to



the public. Holly stressed the importance of calling SPU phone number 386-1800 which is staffed 24x7 for flood and backup related issues. Work orders are written directly from phone calls, and crews can be dispatched. Two committee members mentioned issues in their communities. Holly again stressed that calling 386-1800 is the best number to call because all calls to that number are tracked. When there is tracked information about spot drainage or localized flood control issues we are aware of the problem. Engineers can be sent out to look at the areas and determine how to prevent issues from happening again. Holly also said that it is possible the Urban Floods Response Plan will need to be activated this year because of the La_Nina forecast. Website takewinterbystorm.org is the central space for Seattle, King County, Auburn, PSE and State Farm Insurance for sharing information with the public.

Reclaimed Water Study

Judi Gladstone

Judi explained that the study looked at the benefits of reclaimed water from Brightwater. Input was received from King County every step of the way. The results of analysis of the North Seattle reclaimed water project showed the project would not be a sound investment because of high costs and low level benefits. This study was approached like every other asset management project except that usually the problem is first identified and then alternative solutions are analyzed. With this project, there was already a solution. Demand was analyzed – primarily irrigators such as golf courses, cemeteries, parks, schools and the UW. Analysis started with 76 potential users and quickly was reduced to 60 for several reasons, including that many of the potential irrigators didn't irrigate any longer. In the end, the study was able to identify 50 customers with a potential use of 1.7 MGD which would require the installation of 27 miles of pipeline. SPU current supply is 171 MGD. SPU is not mandated to use reclaimed water. The project hired a consultant to look at the environmental benefits. Water supply quantity, reliability and cost, as well as the upstream (watersheds) and downstream (Puget Sound) environmental benefits were studied. In the end, it was determined that the greatest benefit would be environmental. However, the benefit would still be small.

CSO Program and Public Engagement

Susan Stoltzfus

Seattle has three types of systems: Separated, partially separated, and combined sewers. Combined systems are of the most concern because sewage and drainage go into the same pipe and when overload occurs the overflow goes into Puget Sound, Lake Washington, and the ship canal. Much of this is driven to topography. In the 1970s some work was done to separate drainage from sewer. The goal is to get pollutants out of the lake. The Feds won't be too specific about the approach that is used as long as the objective is accomplished. SPU's NPDES permit is good for the next 5 years. In 5 years, Ecology has said that SPU must begin construction along Lake Washington (early action projects – Windermere, Genesee, South Henderson, and North Henderson). Locating of facilities can sometimes be contentious. Projects have been prioritized based on criteria established by the EPA. Lake Washington was a priority and defined as "A" or #1. Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) is being piloted in Ballard. No one has ever tried to use it to control volumes of water. The rain gardens become storage facilities. SPU will need to craft a method of storing 3 million gallons of water. SPU needs 500 people in Ballard to participate.



Division Directors' Reports

Bruce Bachen

Bruce provided a briefing of what's going on in the utility. A map of sewage connections in the south part of the city was provided. The bottom line is that sewage from New Holly has been going into the storm system for 10 years. Smoke and dye testing was used to find the source of the problem. SPU is working with the Seattle Housing Authority to resolve the problem.

A culvert program to create a fish friendly open culvert from a previously undersized culvert at 105TH & 17TH was overviewed. This was partially built with stimulus money. Crews got work done within timeframe. CIP over the next few years will fund a programmatic culvert replacement programs.

Wrap Up

**Cheryl Klinker,
Sheryl Shapiro,
Bruce Bachen**

- Sheryl Shapiro provided a recruitment update. Two more interviews are scheduled and then recommendations will be made to the director.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:00PM