



CREEKS, DRAINAGE AND WASTEWATER CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING NOTES

SMT 4096

November 12, 2008 5:00 – 7:00

Attendance:

Present: Eric Dripps, Lydia Heard, Steve Ruden, Cheryl Klinker

Absent: Nancy Malmgren, Suzie Burke, Jay Stark, Douglas Mora

SPU Staff Present: Craig Omoto, Martha Burke, Renee Burchfield, Trish Rhay

Interim Chair Report Report

Cheryl

Review and approval of prior meeting minutes. Review of agenda items needing adjustment due to Julie Hall's absence. Julie Hall's presentation will be moved to the December agenda.

Presentation on the Strategic Outlook for Drainage & Wastewater by Trish Rhay

- Trish Rhay is the Division Director for SPU Drainage and Wastewater Line of Business (LOB) with overall responsibility for SPU's Drainage & Wastewater Fund.
- Trish brought a slide presentation on the Strategic Outlook for SPU's Drainage & Wastewater Utility prepared for internal staff. The presentation contained a review of the history of City of Seattle municipal drainage and wastewater system including the creation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and replacement of the system from the 1880's to the 2000's. The material also included a review of the unique opportunities and challenges facing the drainage and wastewater system including public health and environmental regulations beginning in the 1960's and 1970's through the present and the need to be strategic in decisions moving forward as a result of constrained resources and legal requirements.
- Highlights of the presentation include construction of the combined sewers from 1890 to 1940, the first treatment plants built in 1950's and 1960's, the development of CCTV in the 1960's, Clean Water Act in 1972, an aging infrastructure and the shift from combined sewers in the 1980's, streams and rivers approach and water quality sampling, development of the Watershed Action Plans for Thorton, Longfellow and Piper's Creeks, implementation of stream gages in the 1990's and the impact of permits and environmental regulations including the two superfund sites at Duwamish and Gas Works through the present, and the application of Asset Management Principles to Drainage and Wastewater decisions beginning in the 2000's.
- Discussion ensued regarding varying characteristics of urban watersheds and the various solutions, WRIA integration, use of GIS to layer attributes and track progress, Seattle's impact on Puget Sound. Strategic plans need to balance core service, politics, and regulations and develop an approach that provides multiple benefits; a watershed approach that combines habitat and flood control as one vision being the ideal.
- Tracy Tackett developing "tool box" of green alternatives for developers.
- Miles Mayhew coordinating upcoming Watershed Forum to create common purpose; there are two dates planned.
- **Action Items:** Invite CDWCAC members to the Watershed Forum; Request table at Watershed Forum to recruit CDCWAC members; Invite Tracy Tackett to CDCWAC meeting to present the "tool box" of green alternatives.

Discussion of 2009 Draft Work Plan

- Martha Burke, SPU Policy Liaison to the CDCWAC committee lead a discussion on the 2009 Draft Work Plan for the CDCWAC Committee.
- Proposed Work Plan items include Watershed Plan; SPU Strategic Plan review; Drainage & Wastewater Rates Study review; CDCWAC Year-end Report.
- Martha described SPU implementation of Storm Watch teams.
- **Action Items:** Jeff Neuner to write a paragraph to attach to the minutes regarding response to the committee's questions regarding the North Transfer Station drainage requirements, the opportunities for input on the design by the committee, and the status of the now blocked "unofficial" CSO.

Update of Restore Our Waters meeting by Steve Rude

- ROW reviewed the SPU response to the draft proposed action plans presented by the Puget Sound Partnership. SPU to develop final response incorporating ROW input.
- ROW members felt SPU did not express enough urgency in its response to the Puget Sound Partnership action plan.
- SPU responded that the action plan needed to outline responsibility for the actions outlined and what funding sources would be used to carry them out.
- Action Plan available on the Puget Sound Partnership website.
- Martha asked what's next; citizen recruitment and agency implementation?
- Steve indicated various constituents to respond as well (Sierra Club, private citizens). ROW ahead of the curve on actions already.

Preliminary Agenda for Next Meeting

Please confirm these items with Cheryl and Martha **8** days before the meeting

- Julie Hall: SPU's Science Framework and the State of the Waters Report.
- Tracy Tackett: "Tool Box" of Green Alternatives for Developers.

Handouts

- 2009 CDWAC Draft Work Plan