



Creeks, Drainage, and Wastewater Advisory Committee (CDWAC)

October 8, 2014 Meeting notes
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue
Room 5965
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Co- Chairs: Kendra Aguilar & Noel Miller

Committee Members & CAC Staff	Present?	SPU Staff & Guests	Role
Kendra Aguilar	N*	Julie Crittenden	SPU Presenter
Jeremy Andrews	Y	Don Anderson	SPU Presenter
Marilyn Baylor	Y	Shanti Colwell	SPU Presenter
Suzie Burke	Y	Seth McKinney	Prospective Member
C'Ardiss Gardner Gleser	Y		
Schylar Hect	Y		
Cheryl Klinker	Y		
Kaifu Lam	Y		
Fiona McCargo	Y		
Noel Miller	N*		
Devin O'Reilly	Y		
Heidi Fischer, Program Support	Y		
Linda Rogers, Interim Program Support	Y		
Sheryl Shapiro, DWW Policy Liaison CAC Program Manager	Y		
	*excused		

PLEASE NOTE ACTION ITEMS ARE ✓ MARKED AND HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW

1) Regular Business

a. Welcome and Introductions

Heidi Fischer is the new Community Advisory Committees Program support. Thanks to Linda Rogers who has acted as our interim support.

b. Around the Table

- A landslide is developing in Lakeridge Park, in SE Seattle, better known as "Dead Horse Canyon" or the site of SPU's Taylor Creek Restoration Project. Devin wondered why past comments about the landslide (in 2013) didn't seem to be captured in meeting minutes when the restoration project has been discussed in the past- also how past geotechnical studies conducted at the site on behalf of SPU identified adjacent debris slides but missed the landslide. An SPU crew was working at the site evaluating the landslide in September.
 - ✓ Julie Crittenden, SPU DWW Planning Manager, who was present at CDWAC to give a presentation on another matter, will check on the status of the untreated slope and provide more information.
 - Since it is not possible for the note taker to record everything that is said, the CAC Program Manager suggested that we could perhaps address this by clarifying key points after our conversations and discussions to make sure they are captured as intended.
- Thurston County residents may have to pay up to \$40,000 to connect to a septic system upgrade.
- Seattle Public Schools are changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' day.
- Cheryl Klinker announced her resignation from CDWAC due to personal circumstances. The Program Manager is working on a proposal for alumni participation.
- Signs have been sighted in three peoples' homes that advise not flushing the "flushable wipes."
- A local street adjacent to the construction site of the new North Transfer station is being closed for a week due to industrial drainage issues.

c. Review/Approve Meeting Notes for September 2014

The committee reviewed and discussed the draft notes from September.

- There was a question about why the pipe in the Beersheva Park project didn't go all the way to the lake.
 - Julie Crittenden, SPU DWW Planning Manager, responded that they had been waiting for developments with the bridge, and the pipe was reconnected this week.
- The CAC Program manager reported that the presenter from September on the topic of "No Trash Down the Toilet," appreciated CDWAC's comments and integrated them into the SPU document sent to the consultant working on the project.
 - Rather than saying "it is a straight flush," the mailer now says "make it a straight flush."
 - The Program Manager passed around a copy of the revised mailer and advised Committee members to let her know if they would like a copy emailed to them.
- A member's question and the response about the number of people who had applied for the Utility Discount Program was not captured in the notes.
 - The SPU staff person who was taking notes asked Committee members to please speak a bit louder to help her capture more of the questions and comments.

- The Program Manger suggested that the note taker might be better seated in the middle of the table rather than at the end.
 - The new CAC support person, who will be taking notes going forward, moved to the center of the table.
- Also missing from September's notes were the following comments:
 - The infographic of hair that was shown in the No Trash Down the Toilet mailer does not represent all the different kinds of hair
 - Ways to improve the effectiveness of the maps used in that presentation
 - Wipes and paper towels may be more of an issue at the beach and park areas in the study area due to use of sunscreen, lotions, etc.
- ✓ The notes from September are not yet approved.
 - The CAC Program Manager will have any missing comments added to the notes if members advise her of the omitted comments upon their review. September notes will be available for final review prior to and at the November CDWAC meeting.

2) Presentation: SPU Green Stormwater Infrastructure Program & Project Update; Donald Anderson and Shanti Colwell, SPU. **See the power point for more information.**

Here are some background links provided by the presenters:

[Green Stormwater Infrastructure Project Website](#)

[GSI Program FAQ Sheet](#)

[Delridge NDS Project Website](#)

[Delridge NDS FAQ Sheet](#)

[Ballard NDS Project Website](#)

- The intent of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) is to decrease the amount of ground that is covered by impervious surfaces (like pavement) and therefore decrease the amount of fast, polluted water that is running off of these impervious surfaces with the potential of overflowing the sewers.
- The presenters explained that Seattle has a complicated drainage system, with some sewers partially separating wastewater and stormwater, and some completely separating wastewater and stormwater with different pipes.
 - GSI can be used under both conditions.
 - Numerous approaches are used in GSI, including raingardens, bioretention, green roofs, permeable paving, and cisterns.
- In July 2013 the Seattle City Council passed a resolution that GSI should be the first strategy to manage stormwater wherever possible.
- Two current active GSI projects are in the Delridge and Ballard basins, both of which are in the design stage.
 - SPU is working closely with the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) on both of these projects (especially in the Delridge project), to consider transportation and right of way issues, and to choose appropriate trees and plants.
- Community engagement with regard to the Delridge Project included surveys, three public meetings, two walk and talks, and many door to door discussions.
 - SPU also worked with the White Center Community Development Association enlisting people who live in the neighborhood to go door to door as ambassadors to speak with people about plans and ask about their concerns.

- Community engagement with regard to the Ballard project also included surveys, three public meetings, two walk and talks, and many door to door discussions.
 - SPU also worked with Loyal Heights School and Community Center to enlist and use neighborhood ambassadors.
- There are also some public rights-of-way retrofits in the works in the Capitol Hill (Central), Barton Basin (West Seattle), and Venema Creek (NW Seattle) areas.

Questions, Comments, and Discussion about the GSI Presentation

- Question: What is the total amount of stormwater processed by the sewer system?
 - ✓ The presenters did not have this figure but will follow up.
- Question: What is a mega-gallon?
 - A mega gallon in GSI is equal to one million gallons of stormwater that did not go into the sewer system.
- Question: Is the soil not very permeable?
 - The presenters explained that a lot of the soil in Seattle is what's called till soil, which does not drain very well. Consequently, GSI projects often have to be constructed so that drainage gets below the till soil, using underground injection control.
- Question: What does OSE stand for?
 - OSE stands for the Office of Sustainability and the Environment.
- Question: (Regarding one of the presentation slides of a document cover) Are all of those people white?
 - Yes

Transportation Issues and GSI

- Question: Could there be GSI bioretention cells/rain gardens near 33rd street and Lake City Way?
 - Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) deals with many competing issues with regard to GSI, and may not be able to construct either open or covered GSI near 33rd Street and Lake City Way.
 - A Committee member who lives nearby reported that the Capitol Hill GSI project partnered with the developers to address right of way issues.
- Question: Where is the Barton Basin project?
 - Near White Center, close to Home Depot, by 16th Ave SW.
- Question: Will stop signs still be used along 17th near the Delridge Project?
 - Yes, stop signs are part of coming improvements to protect the safety of pedestrians and bicycles. Stop signs are to be placed alongside streets intersecting 17th by SDOT's neighborhood Greenway project.
- Question: Are the types of trees planted in GSI important?
 - Yes, the type of trees planted in greenways in GSI projects is important to prevent roots growing into and damaging pipes.

GSI Function

- Question: Will the GSI be effective in the winter when plants are dormant?

- Yes. Even in winter when plants are dormant and not absorbing as much water, the GSI will still function because the plant roots will still keep the soil loose so that it can absorb water.
- Question: Are the GSI projects taking water out of the sewer system or just delaying its entry?
 - Shallow infiltration of water means that the soil absorbs it; if the water overflows the soil, then it goes into the sewer. GSI projects are taking water out of the sewer system by having it absorbed by soil.
 - If the project includes an under drain, water is wicked away to an infiltration drain, drilled drain or other infiltration technology.
 - When water passes through the raingardens, part of their function includes water quality treatment, i.e., removal of roadway runoff pollutants. The plants and bioretention soil provide this function.
- Question: How does the soil in Ballard affect sewer overflow issues?
 - Ballard has had a lot of problems with combined sewer overflows, and SPU has observed setback requirements and done lots of geotechnical evaluation with regard to identifying the outwash areas (with well-draining soils) in the GSI project area.
- Question: What does AAV stand for?
 - “AAV” is an acronym for “average annual volume.”
- Question: How will GSI affect low-impact development?
 - SPU is working to ensure that the GSI projects do not restrict Low Impact Development (LID) approaches to building.

Cost and Timing

- Question: What is the timing for the creek basin projects?
 - SPU is still deciding how the creek basin projects will be sequenced. They will be considering where people want it, and where the community can get the most benefit.
 - The Planning Manager noted that the EPA still needs to approve the GSI plans, but that SPU believes that will occur.
 - The presenters explained that due to NPDES permit regulations the Delridge project must break ground by October 2015.
- Question: Will the owners of private property adjacent to the GSI projects be asked to pay a portion of the cost?
 - No. The owners of property adjacent to the project sites will not be asked to pay a portion for a portion of the cost; the City is funding these projects to for the public benefit.
- Question: How financially sustainable are the GSI projects?
 - The cost of operations and maintenance is built into the feasibility of the project, but the cost of maintenance is not insignificant.
 - The EPA is allowing states to defer improvements on combined sewer overflows (CSOs) that are not very far out of compliance and divert funds instead to stormwater quality projects.

Community Outreach for the GSI Projects

- The presenters explained that when the community ambassadors (people who live in the Delridge project area) went door to door, they were inviting people to meetings and giving them some technical information about the project. Translators also went door to door earlier in the process when the project was still considering design options.

- In response to questions from several members, the presenters explained more about outreach about the projects in languages other than English.
 - Translators for Spanish, Vietnamese, and Somali were all present at early meetings about the Delridge project
 - For the Delridge NDS Project, SPU found that only Spanish translators were necessary and so discontinued the presence of Somali and Vietnamese translators for most active outreach. Language translation services are still available, as needed.
 - Written translations of outreach material continue to be available upon request in all three languages.
 - The notices posted about community meetings are in English, but the phrase “for more information” is in all three languages with a telephone number.
 - Some committee members expressed concern that this approach may not have been sufficient to engage the Somali, Vietnamese, and Spanish speaking communities in the discussion about the project.
 - ✓ The committee would like to receive more information about the kind of outreach done in the Delridge project area, especially to the Somali and Vietnamese communities. The presenters will follow up and Heidi will send the information by email.

3) Presentation: Overview of Drainage and Wastewater Master Planning Program; Julie Crittenden, SPU.

See the power point for more information.

- As part of SPU’s Strategic Action Plan, there is a specific Action Plan, “Drainage and Wastewater Planning and Policies.”
 - The goal is to develop 4-6 master plans by 2020.
 - We plan so we can anticipate growth and climate change.
 - We are trying to coordinate with other City efforts and projects so that we can leverage resources collectively, minimize community disturbance, and reduce costs.
 - We also want to work with the community to ensure our DWW plans are consistent with community plans.
- Some foundational principles in Drainage and Wastewater system planning are:
 - Do targeted outreach(especially to ensure equitable delivery of services).
 - Incorporate policy changes and changes to Stormwater Code.
 - Plan for implementation all along.
- There are 10 planning areas.
 - The first area for master planning is Greenlake/Aurora/Roosevelt.
 - There is anticipated population growth along the Aurora corridor.
 - SDOT will be rebuilding parts of Aurora Avenue.
 - A new North Precinct police station will be located there.
 - SPU is planning for a large CSO tunnel in the area.
 - SPU will be conducting “triage” planning in South Park.
 - The basin there doesn’t have a full drainage system. We will be building a pump station to allow stormwater to drain from the area during high tides, however, there is a gap in the infrastructure to move stormwater effectively to the pump station. The planning will be focused on designing the drainage system leading to the pump station.
 - We recently completed a “triage” planning effort near the Northgate Park and Ride area, in preparation for Sound Transit’s link light rail work.

- From that planning work, we found that the main drainage line under 100th was over 50% clogged. Some of the debris included construction materials that appears to be related to the construction of I-5. Our planning work lead to cleaning of that drainage line to ensure full capacity and protect against flooding risk. We also we be able to hold Sound Transit responsible for any drainage system cleaning that may need to occur after their construction wraps up 8-10 years from now.
 - Possibilities for the next master planning efforts are the Duwamish and the Magnolia/Queen Anne/Downtown areas.
 - There are lots of things going on in the Duwamish right now, including efforts directed at pollutant source control, Superfund Cleanup, South Park drainage improvements, and salmon recovery. The question is whether drainage and wastewater planning should be done now or later when a number of actions have been completed.

Questions, Comments, and Discussion about the Planning Program Presentation

Greenlake

- Question: Will planning address the water quality issues at Greenlake?
 - ✓ Unknown. The toxic algal blooms at the lake are related to some ecological processes internal to the lake ecosystem and we have yet to think though how SPU's drainage system plays into that. The issue is on our radar and we will be assessing to what extent we can influence the lake conditions through changes in the drainage system. Whether the plan includes specific actions to address Green Lake water quality will be determined through the plan develop and conversations with Parks. **The presenter added that she would provide a link to information about Green Lake in the State of the Waters Report.**
- Question: Is there a stream going into Greenlake?
 - There was in the past.
- Question: Is runoff from lawn fertilizers contributing to the pollution problem at Greenlake?
 - I'm not sure to what extent that plays a role in the algal blooms. There are also pollutants introduced from road runoff. SPU has a public education program about yard care practices and products through its Natural Yard Care Program. That program could possibly focus on this basin if warranted.

Duwamish

- Committee members commented that the work being done in the Duwamish area is helpful, but concern remains about upstream area contamination, especially from agriculture.
- Another member commented that salmon recovery is a big part of the efforts in the Duwamish.
 - The presenter added that water quality was not a large focus of the salmon recovery efforts of the past. The work was very focused on habitat restoration work.
- Question: What agency regulates water quality?
 - The WA State Department of Ecology is the organization responsible for protecting water quality.
- ✓ **The CAC Program Manager will locate the most current handout, "Just the Facts" handout and distribute to members.**

4) Wrap Up

- The CAC Program Manager passed around information about SPU's upcoming residential Rainwise workshopsto learn about the program and customer eligibility for rain gardens that will be held in different parts of the city.
- One creative outreach approach is happening in the Montlake neighborhood next Wednesday at the Travelers Pub; there will then BE A FOLLOW UP Rainwise presentation at the Montlake Library.
- The Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) will take a field trip to Cedar Grove Composting and then to Waste Management on October 22, ending at the wineries in Woodinville, and CDWAC members are welcome to join them.
 - Please email Heather Levy if interested - heatherelevy@gmail.com.
- There will be a program to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day at City Hall on Monday, October 13, 12-1pm.
- Wiley Harper, the Director of SPU's Water Quality Lab, will be the guest speaker at the Water System Advisory Committee (WSAC) on October 15th, 5:30-7:30pm.
 - Please let Sheryl Shapiro know if CDWAC members would like to attend.
- The meeting of the Cross Advisory Committee group for the tap water campaign is postponed while awaiting further organizational support. Members are thanked for their patience.
- The CAC Program Manager will be attending a conference on dialog and deliberation and will be bringing some tools and insights back to share with the Committee.

Meeting adjourned 7:30pm.