

**CREEKS, DRAINAGE AND WASTEWATER
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING Summary
SMT 5965
December 14, 2011
5:00 – 7:00PM**

Administration:

- Members Present: Rick Bechtel, Suzie Burke, Mike Gentile, Chris Hoffer, Douglas Mora, Brianne Cohen Zorn
- SPU Staff Present: Bruce Bachen, Sheryl Shapiro, Linda Rogers
- Visitors Present: Mike Osberg, Noel Miller, Kyle Stetler

Meeting called to order at 5:10PM

October and November meeting notes approved.

AGENDA TOPICS:

CDWAC Business

Sheryl Shapiro

- **Membership** – Sheryl reviewed membership status; four terms are up in March; all have the opportunity to re-apply.
- **Recruitment** – on-going for all three CACs; always looking for applicants interested in membership.
- **Staffing** – SPU has advertised for a part-time position which will be housed in USM's Planning and Portfolio Management unit. The position will support all Community Advisory Committees as well as other work in the unit; this posting closed Dec 6th; now in the resume screening phase.

Director Updates

Bruce Bachen

CSO Discussion with EPA

Intent of on-going discussion is to develop long term control plan (LTCP) to control CSO's and a CMOM program to minimize sanitary sewer overflows (SSO's). SPU and EPA have reached agreement on the LTCP. The remaining discussions are on the different approaches SPU should implement to maintain its system to minimize separated sewer overflows.

- Goal = 2 SSO's /100 miles of pipe/year
- Survey utilities across the country – we are one of the best performing
- Look at where problems have been
- Create approach based on experience; Compared with Los Angeles – similar level; both had approximately same level of overflows; each had different approach, reaching same result, with SPU expending only about 10% of cost

- Briefed EPA and SPU was encouraged to submit formal proposal regarding system maintenance
- SPU could be a national example for how to successfully reach reduced levels

Proposed draft language for Stormwater permit

Currently out for public comment until February 3rd

- Focused on LID and monitoring requirements
 - Development/redevelopment on site basis
 - Review local codes to remove barriers to local impacts
 - Defining maximum extent feasible level
 - Seattle's approach differs from that described in the proposed permit language
 - Seattle: Require GSI to the maximum extent feasible. Define feasibility based on constraints:
 - Engineering
 - Site
 - Cost: Tailor requirements based on benefits to receiving waters
 - State – site performance standard or mandatory list
 - Seattle would have option of seeking an equivalency determination from DOE for its approach
- Schedule committee briefing in January

Budget process

- Currently operating on 2-year rate cycle which ends 2012
- 2013-15 rates need to be developed over next 12 months
- Given current conditions, expect careful review of budget and rate proposal
- Look closely at CIP and O&M
- Prioritization of programs and projects within business areas, including:
 - Systems –
 - Separate systems
 - Combined systems
 - Asset management (hard assets)
 - Systems operations, planning and analysis
 - Water Quality –
 - Restore Our Waters (ROW) – education and outreach
 - Source Control
 - Restore Our Waters
 - Water quality
 - Portfolio management – more judgment based
 - Priority in each business area
 - Be able to explain need
 - Set up proposals for rates

- Feeling way in process within timelines
 - What role can SPU reasonably expect CDWAC to take
- Timeframes (tentative) – for DWW budget and rate process
 - Now to end of March 2012 – develop proposal; complete prioritization process for business areas by end of January
 - Portfolio management: Integrating business areas
 - February – March: discuss results of prioritization work
 - Schedule 3 or 4 meetings for CDWAC or subcommittee in February and March
 - Review results of process with CDWAC
 - Consider CDWAC input in the development of the final proposal
 - Goals for CDWAC
 - Know more about what is being proposed
 - Provide opportunity to ask questions and to provide input
 - CDWAC members interested in what activities can citizens do to help to reduce utility costs
 - Engage in discussion – end of January – February meeting
 - Identify areas of interest to CDWAC – send to Sheryl
 - Would like to see information presented at level of detail that would be given to public about the budget
 - Future possibilities for public input suggested by CDWAC
 - Develop an on-line tool for very wide public feedback regarding budget choices (e.g. State’s exercise to identify budget priorities)
 - Adapt model of Countywide forums to get feedback from citizens
 - Dick’s Drive-in sponsors this at County level
- 2012 new City Council Committee for SPU : Library, Utilities and Seattle Center; Chair is Jean Godden; Richard Conlin and Sally Bagshaw are also on the committee

Recap of 2011 CDWAC Work

All

- Urban watershed strategy
- Urban flood prevention plans
- GSL – orientation to work and code
- Work on Ballard and lessons learned
- Work on CSO long-term control plan
- Updates on street sweep for Water Quality Plan
- Watershed forum
- Briefing on various capital projects
- Recruiting with diverse perspectives
- Field trips – Madison Valley, Ballard

2012 Work Plan Review

All

Review of November discussion was held, with additional comments to suggestions for CDWAC's 2012 Work Plan. Additional information to ideas included in **bold**:

- Briefings to build foundations for advisory role – **on-going**
- Finance information relating to rates
- Tribal consultation policies – **SPU role**
- Race and Social Justice Initiative Cultural Competency/Equity Toolkit
- NPDES for stormwater – new regulations coming out
- **CSO LTCP updates**
- Legislative updates
- June – how rainy season was handled
 - Forecasting and response = now-casting, etc – **Rain Watch**
- Problems SPU has identified/anticipates before becomes “issue”
 - Advance notice of “First negative report regarding xxx”
- SPU's public involvement/communications – what it really looks like
 - Big picture how SPU communicates with people – outreach
 - Inclusive outreach and public engagement – **how do we do this**
- Review printed communications
- Additions to work plan suggestions included
 - Outreach – what can we do to help keep costs down?
 - Rotaries
 - Seattle Chamber
 - District Councils
 - Small businesses want to be “good corporate partners”
 - Get lists
 - Discuss incentives/recognition
 - Business leaders – objectives and goals – towards some point of fruition
 - Education and outreach – Science Center has educational outreach; work with them via subcommittee to train volunteers on SPU issues; incorporate in their kits/carts
 - Washington Green Schools – find out what the criteria is towards being certified
- **Action item:** Send additional recommendations to Sheryl Shapiro

Around The Table

Members briefly discussed various events and things heard relating to various applicable environmental issues.

All

Wrap-up

- Requested update on CSO – where are we – status report later in year
- **Next Meeting: January 11, 2012**
- Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

All