



**Creeks, Drainage, and Wastewater Advisory Committee (CDWAC)**

**June 20, 2018 Meeting Notes**

**Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue**

**Room 4901**

**5:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>SPU Staff &amp; Guests</b>	<b>Role</b>
Ben Billick	N	Sheryl Shapiro	CAC Program Manager
Christina Ciampa	N	Michele D’Alessandro	Drainage & Wastewater Executive Assistant
Colum Lang	Y	Madeline Goddard	Drainage & Wastewater Deputy Director
Gary Olson	Y	Judi Gladstone	Division Director, Strategy and Governmental
Mariela White	Y	Dave LaClergue	DWW Focus Area and Planning
Michael Williams	Y	Rachel Garrett	DWW Wastewater System Education and Outreach
Maria McDaniel	N	Sreya Sreenivasan	DWW Wastewater Education and Outreach Intern
Thy Pham	Y		
Andrew Schiffer	Y		

**1. Regular Business**

- Mariela opened the meeting at 5:30 PM and reminded everyone to sign-in.
- Sheryl provided an update on follow-up items as reflected in the May 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting Notes and noted the “Don’t Drip and Drive Campaign.” The Meeting Notes of May 23, 2018 were approved as published.
- Sheryl indicated emergency exits and exit procedures.

**2. CAC Program Updates**

- **Cedar River Watershed Tour Debrief**  
Committee member shared their experience of the Cedar River Watershed Tour of June 13<sup>th</sup>
  - The experience was an eye opener.
  - The size of the area is tremendous and only 5% was toured.
  - Lots of photos were taken and will be sent to Sheryl to share with the group.
  - The pipes/penstocks were noted
  - The historical information was great  
Sheryl said public tours are available and she will send a link for those who have further interest.
- **Summer Schedule:** Sheryl gauged general interest in attendance the for July and August meetings. It appeared members present were available for meetings in July and August. Sheryl said Natasha would confirm upon her return.

**3. Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) in Urban Villages Program**

Dave LaClergue, of DWW Focus Area and Planning, gave a presentation on the Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) in Urban Villages Program. LaClergue said he is excited to be working on the program

and welcomed ideas from the committee about types of projects DWW should consider for the program.

LaClergue said Green Stormwater Infrastructure is described as:

- Nature-based solutions to infrastructure needs
- Use soil, plants or water reuse to hold, filter, and/or infiltrate stormwater runoff, preventing downstream problems
- Mostly aboveground, more visible than traditional drainage infrastructure

Swale on Yale, Venema Drainage Systems, and High Point are examples of GSI.

The reasons for GSI include an attempt to mitigate factors such as

- 75% of contaminants going into Puget Sound comes from stormwater
- Drainage problems all over the City, especially in neighborhoods without formal system
- Single-purpose drainage facilities can't solve the broad and growing challenges we face
- GSI provides multiple system benefits: flow control, water quality, volume reduction

In addition, GSI provides benefits such as community building, improved public health, quality of life, increased system capacity for future flooding, urban heat island mitigation, beneficial wildlife habitat, more equitable access to green jobs, compatibility with gray infrastructure.

LaClergue said Urban Villages are comprised of 30 dense, mixed-use neighborhoods throughout Seattle (including 6 urban centers) that were designated in Seattle's 1994 Comprehensive Plan as the basis of our growth strategy. They are focus areas for growth that inform city services – including proposed increases under the Mandatory Housing Affordability (MHA) rezones. LaClergue said HALA – MHA rezones are doubling down on the urban village strategy, further increasing the projected growth in these neighborhoods. Much of the public pushback on the proposal has been that the City is not making commensurate investments in infrastructure and quality of life improvements. Council wanted to be deliberate about committing resources to these neighborhoods, since it can be challenging to upgrade infrastructure in dense, mixed-use neighborhoods.

The GSI Program has an initial funding commitment of \$35M through SPU's 2018-2023 Strategic Business Plan with a mandate to build multi-functional, multi-benefit GSI within urban villages, in order to Solve drainage and wastewater problems, optimize expanded outcomes (community-centered approach) and have flexibility to test new partnerships and project types. Types of projects include: retrofits and new construction, private property, public facilities, right-of-way, developers, non-profits, community groups, City departments, major institutions, and other public agencies. SPU anticipates 5-7 projects, at approximately \$5M each, but some may be larger or smaller.

S. Cloverdale and Highland Park were cited as early examples. S. Cloverdale piggybacks on a community-led effort to improve pedestrian safety at the interface of industrial edge with South Park residential neighborhoods. The concept was funded by DON, sidewalk funded by SDOT and provided the opportunity to catch a large volume of very dirty runoff in GSI on the north side of the street. Highland Park is one of the largest Parks gaps in the City according to SPR's latest plan, and a high priority for open space acquisition. It overlaps with a combined sewer basin that dumps untreated sewage into Longfellow Creek many times each winter.

LaClergue said For Phase 1, we wanted to focus on UVs with the clearest needs and opportunities and needed to find UVs with clear system problems, a connection to equity and improving racial disparities in public health, alignment with existing density and planned growth, and/or protecting critical habitat. Phase 2 will include a review of technical feasibility, alignment with other SPU efforts, consideration of other departments' priorities and planning including urban village expansions, parks gaps, transit-oriented development, and community planning. The seven UVs are actively being studied but there is an opportunity to partner with others if clear drainage benefits are present.

LaClergue said the committee's input would be beneficial in helping to find great, multi-benefit projects. He asked that the program description not be distributed at this point in time as community engagement will be a part of vetting the project and the project call is for city staff. The evaluation criteria include

- Community needs and priorities
- Site context, land use, proximity to open space
- Partnership potential
- Environmental justice and service equity
- Drainage and wastewater benefits

The following questions and comments were offered by the committee:

- Has discussion occurred with people in those communities? Information conversations have begun but more conversation is expected over the next few months.
- Cost sharing possibilities, such as the Lincoln school redevelopment was suggested. It was confirmed that partnership opportunities, like the Northgate Mall development are being considered.
- The compatibility of Parks and GSI was explored. It was noted that Parks does not allow retrofit and only allows GSI for new development. Referendum 41 puts constraints on GSI that disallows displacement of recreation areas. A committee member requested further information on GSI efforts in light of mandate and Referendum.

LaClergue said next steps include

- City staff will nominate potential projects by June 30th
- SPU will compile and evaluate your suggestions, along with the projects we've already identified
- A commitment to building 1-2 projects by 2020
- Additional projects to be informed by the Integrated System Planning process

LaClergue thanked the committee for their time and said he would return to CDWAC in the fall for a report on the potential project shortlist and any projects already moving forward.

#### **4. Wastewater Outreach & Education Program:**

Rachel Garrett, DWW Wastewater System Education and Outreach, said she had visited the committee on a previous occasion with regard to the Residential Customer Outreach Campaign. Garrett said the purpose of this visit was to conduct concept testing around the problem of oil and grease in drains (FOG). The committee broke into three groups and responded to the following questions:

1. If you received this handout what would be your initial response or reaction?
  - "Finally!" – clear, matches the rest of City of Seattle stuff.
  - Pictures = good, less text is better

2. What do you think these images are trying to tell you?
  - Your pipes will get clogged
  - Super clear – oil down the drain will clog your pipes
  
3. Please review the key messages at the top of the front page of the handout. Do the images on the front illustrate these two sentences in an effective way? Why or why not?
  - Put “Cooking oil and grease clog pipes” on top in orange and “No one wants a sewage backup” underneath (entire group agreed with this suggestion)
  - “Cooking oil and grease clog pipes” should be the main message.
  - What’s up with the building in back? Hard to tell what it is.
  - The current images make you think a little bit.
  - A circle with a line through it in red would be more bold (but not sure how that could fit in).
  
4. Describe your response to the two different images that show sewage backups (two versions of document). Which image do you think is more effective? Why or why not?
  - Washing machine drain is not a common image – people in apartments might not get it. Too subtle.
  - Toilet is not too graphic, but still works to instill fear – this is a good thing.
  - Arrow in drain pipe is too subtle – make it a different color, or superimpose it on the pipe.
  
5. When you read the cooking oil/grease disposal instructions, what pieces are clear? What pieces are confusing? Please explain.
  - “Your address” – why is this needed? Leave off if possible.
  - For recycling used cooking oil, can you use any kind of container, or only plastic?
  - What is a “large amount”? Gallon? Pint?
  
6. Using the instructions as a guide, talk me through what you would do in each of the following scenarios:
  - Small amount of oil or grease in a pot or pan  
Wipe or scrape the grease in a paper towel and then put the towel in the compost/food.
  - Large amount of grease in a pan  
Use a scraper to transfer the grease into a container.
  - Large amount of oil in a pot  
Pour into a container, cover, label and put out next to recycle.

[Following questions are about the entire handout]
  
7. Is there any information on this handout that is new to you?
  - If Yes: please explain
    - Yes, the second item showing disposal of oil.
    - Question: What is small vs. large amount of oil/grease?

8. In your opinion, is there anything important missing from this handout? (images, messages, information, etc.)
- Enlarge house – no need for Space Needle or hotel or office building.
  - Like toilet better than drain.
9. What images, if any, would you suggest we remove? Please explain.
- Washing machine image can be more clear, water blends in with wall.
  - Floor drains may not be present in all basements.
10. Now that you know that sewage back-ups are connected to pouring cooking oil and grease down the drain, how would that change how oil and grease are disposed of in your home?
- Using paper towels
  - Didn't realize we could place oil next to recycle.
11. Is there anyone you would share this information with?
- If Yes: Who and how (email, copy of handout, etc.)?
  - If No: Why not?
  - Yes:
    - Family members
    - Van pool mates
    - Word of mouth
    - Text picture
    - Maybe put up in common kitchen area
    - Facilities?
12. Would you hang this anywhere in your home?
- If Yes: Where? Yes, on the fridge. Maybe over the sink.
  - If No: Why not?

Other Comments:

- Pipe directions don't quite add up.
- This is an improvement over what was presented before!
- Should fat be mentioned alongside grease?

**5. Community Insights, Around the Table**

A CAC member said he was looking forward to the Pride Parade. A Rainwise presentation will be scheduled. A survey for the July 18 and August 15 meetings will be distributed.

**Adjourned at 7:30pm.**