



**Joint Meeting of the Water System Advisory Committee (WSAC) and
Creeks, Drainage & Wastewater Advisory Committee (CDWAC)**

December 12, 2018 Meeting Notes

Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue

Room 4901

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

WSAC Members	Present?	SPU Staff & Guests	Role
Joel Carsley	N	Natasha Walker	CAC Program Coordinator
Steven Cole	Y	Kathy Curry	Water System Policy Liaison
Paul Reed	Y	Alex Chen	Division Director, Water Planning and Program Management
Rodney Schauf	Y	Shery Shapiro	CAC Program Manager, on the phone
Teresa Stern	Y		
Kat Dej-Panah	Y		
Wendy Walker	Y		
Ky Lewis	N	Guests	
Annie Saunders	Y	Nico Onoda-McGuire	Guest
CDWAC Members	Present?	Angella Mickowski	Guest
Colum Lang	Y	Nina Page	Guest
Gary Olson	Y	Isabel Carrera Zamanillo	Guest
Mariela White	Y	Jason Devaney	Guest
Michael Williams	Y	Christina Heinlen	Guest
Maria McDaniel	N	Robert Smith	Guest
Thy Pham	Y	Akemi Smith	Guest
Andrew Schiffer	Y	Noel Miller	Guest, CDWAC Alum, CRP Member
Lisa Mikesell	N	Kiley Zaubi	Guest

1. Regular Business

- WSAC Chair, Rodney Schauf, opened the meeting at 5:42 PM.
- Meeting notes from WSAC’s September meeting were reviewed and approved.
- Natasha Walker indicated emergency exits and exit procedures.

2. Customer Review Panel Update (CRP)

- Noel Miller, Chair of the CRP, provided an update. There have been two CRP meetings so far: one in October and one in December. The CRP will begin meeting quarterly in 2019. The CRP are receiving reports on various aspects of the Strategic Business Plan. Noel noted that they do not necessarily have time to get into the level of details that the Community Advisory Committees

do, so they are looking to dovetail with the work that the CACs are doing. Noel invited CAC members to attend future CRP meetings.

- Thy Pham, a CRP member, added that the CRP is reviewing detailed metrics, such as Combined Sewer Overflows per year. The CRP will be looking at performance against goals.
- Rodney Schauf, also a CRP member, added that the CRP's role is to hold SPU responsible for delivering on actions from the SBP. He also noted that SPU is seeking input on new and interesting ways to seek input on engagement with low-income customers.
 - A CAC Member commented that they would love to hear more about what happens to the conversation about reaching out to underserved communities as it progresses.

3. Water System Seismic Study

Alex Chen, Water Planning & Program Management Division Director, took a show of hands to see how many CAC members present had attended the November WSAC meeting where a detailed overview of the Water System Seismic Study had been provided. About half of members present had attended. Alex summarized the seismic study, before providing an overview of the recent media coverage of the results of the study. Alex asked members if they have any reactions to the messages they heard. Members responded:

- A guest responded that they were surprised by how much more severe the impacts of the Seattle Fault line are.
- A CAC Member responded that a few things stood out to them. In particular, they were drawn to the liquefaction discussion. They were interested to hear more about outreach for those living in those zones.
- A CAC member said they'd be interested to know how the last significant earthquake impacted Seattle's drinking water system. They were also interested in how we evaluated the effectiveness of our past approaches. Staff responded that during the November WSAC meeting, Bill Heubach reviewed how past earthquakes, which were sizably smaller, have been manageable based on what we have been planning for. There was not a large impact on water distribution. However, the Cascadia Subduction or Seattle Fault earthquakes will have much more catastrophic acceleration and ground movement. SPU has looked to Utilities who have experienced those levels of earthquakes and the estimates in the study have grounds in experiences elsewhere.
- A CAC member noted the critical tone in the articles regarding confidentiality of some study sections. Alex provided an overview of the process for protecting and releasing protection on non-confidential chapters of the report.

Alex showed members SPU's seismic planning website, including links to chapters of the report:

<http://www.seattle.gov/util/EnvironmentConservation/Projects/SeismicPlanning/index.htm>

4. WSAC & CDWAC Officer Elections

The elections were held together, with nominee statements read for both WSAC and CDWAC officer elections. Paper ballots were distributed, and electronic / absentee ballots that had been received in advance of the meeting were collected as well.

- For WSAC: The votes were unanimous for Rodney Schauf as Chair and Joel Carsley as Vice-Chair
- For CDWAC: The votes were unanimous for Thy Pham and Colum Lang as Co-Chairs.

5. 2018 Joint Review & Reflection

The group shared, and celebrated work completed in 2018.

Water System Advisory Committee Members:

- “Can’t think of any [topic] I didn’t enjoy or wouldn’t want to do a deeper dive into.”
- “Appreciate the knowledge in the presentations as well as the knowledge at the table among fellow CAC members. It’s been a great experience.”
- “The All-CAC meeting on Risk Resiliency Framework was very memorable and educational. It was refreshing to see that the City is thinking about things that I am not.”
 - “They did a comprehensive and professional job in that assessment process.”
 - “Useful and broadly relevant.”
- “I liked the presentation and Committee work on the Water System Plan. I enjoyed the breakout session where members took turns conducting in-depth reviews; it resulted in deeper conversations. Also enjoyed the presentation to City Council. The whole process allowed us to dig in deeper into the topics.”
 - “It was a good group project.”
 - “City Council members used the bullet points from our letter to guide their discussions.”
- “Enjoyed the Water Quality Report input, as well as our field trips which reinforced the physical process for everything.”
- “The Water Shortage Contingency Plan is fresh in my mind as I read about water shortages across the Nation.”
- “The Flushable wipes presentation was very important and memorable.”
- “Enjoyed the discussions and learning about aging infrastructure in the City; including the CSOs and management of consent decrees. “

Creeks, Drainage & Wastewater Advisory Committee Members:

- “Appreciated the presentation on the Ship Canal Water Quality Project. I hadn’t heard about it before, and yet it has so much funding going towards it. Enjoyed talking about how the Utility is looking at design and how SPU is conducting outreach.”
- “Enjoyed learning about the DWW Outreach & Engagement team’s work. I would encourage us to keep that conversation going. I want [SPU] to get something valuable out of that outreach.” (example: Mitts for Mutts).
- “Enjoyed updates on the water supply, and how that is going to impact us in the future.”
- “Felt that Rachel Garrett’s wastewater outreach provided an opportunity for focused feedback on the flyer being mailed out. Appreciated later seeing the changes made to the poster. It made me feel useful.”
- “Julie Crittenden with the DWW Orientation did an excellent job. She explained things in a way that made a lot of sense to my brain. She discussed topics that a lot of presenters gloss over, and really dug into those topics which I appreciated.”

- “The Cedar River Watershed Tour was fantastic. Helped put so much [of what we do] into context.”
 - “I liked the uniqueness [of the Watershed]; how it was guarded. The field trip really emphasized why we protect [the Watershed].”
- “I was astonished by the size of the cisterns at the church on the RainWise tour; The engineering involved. It really gave a sense of scale.”
- “I was glad to see Race and Social Justice on our agenda in 2018 and am glad to see it on the work plan for 2019. When we looked at the wastewater flyer, we looked at it from an access lens. Conversations where we can integrate equity and social justice into a specific application can be much more useful. It’s an area that [the Committee] cares about, though it needs to be associated with a [SPU] problem.”
 - “I am interested in Apprenticeship Program and the application/nexus with RSJ.”
 - “I want to explore how we involve people [in Utility work] who don’t even have a baseline understanding of Utility jobs and work.” The committee member shared how they were initially exposed to engineering as a career.

Guests:

- A guest asked if CAC members or SPU staff had any takeaways or insights on green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) topics presented in 2018. A CAC member responded that the GSI presentation from SPU’s Dave LaClergue was valuable, especially as it relates to impacts on creek restoration work. **Staff said they will bring back the topic to CDWAC in the future.**
- “Personally, I find earthquakes fascinating, so have enjoyed the last two [WSAC] meetings [where the Water System Seismic Study was discussed].” The RSJ topic stands out on the workplan; Impressed that the Advisory Committees care about reaching out to underserved communities and how diverse the Committee members are geographically. There are lots of insights and different perspectives [represented on the Committees], and they have been very open to having guests speak.”
- “I really enjoyed the RainWise tour because we got to go to a community and see what’s happening in their community.”
- “It would be great to have 15 minutes [at every meeting] to hear about various efforts to conduct outreach in that particular meeting. Guests could bring material to share”
- “I also enjoyed the RainWise tour. It demonstrated how an organization or business can integrate sustainability planning and resiliency into their business while still providing core services. And how they tied their mission to their water system.”
- “I was inspired by Cedar River tour. The vastness, how we protect it, how people live on site around the clock.”
- “I have attended only one other meeting, and it was the All-CAC Meeting on Risk & Resiliency. SPU’s CEO provided a presentation and my takeaway from that was that she was looking for feedback. This is what I understand as the goal of the CACs. I think this is extremely important that the Municipality is providing this outlet; it’s so important. I applaud what this group does.”
- “I am an environmental engineer, and I came into [the meetings] expecting topics presented to be fully baked. The first meeting was about providing comments to City Council. I hadn’t

expected the passion around how SPU's work impacts people; not just the environmental aspects of the work. Really inspiring to see that. Also, inspiring to see everyone's different backgrounds [on the Committees]."

- "I second what everyone else said. I appreciate the existence of these Committees and appreciate being a guest on every single one of them."

5. 2019 Work Planning Introduction

WSAC and CDWAC separated into their two groups to discuss 2019 work planning. Separate documents capture those discussions and can be provided upon request.

7. Community Insights, Around the Table

- **A CAC Member** shared about an event on 12/13: King County Green Tools, at the Bullitt Center. The free event is titled "Water in a Winter Wonderland." It is put on by the Living Future Institute and will cover water systems and how we're connected with our rainwater.
- **A CAC member** shared about an Elliot Bay Book Company event featuring the author of "Eager," about the life of beavers. The book talks about beavers and their impacts on watersheds.
- **A CAC member** shared about their experience volunteering on Green Seattle Day. They also noted and recommended the calendar and map function on the Green Seattle Partnership website. Another CAC member added that as a contractor with Dirt Corps, they run a number of these events. If CAC members are interested in volunteering, look for Dirt Corps events.
- **A CAC member** shared about their experience attending SPU's Development Charges workshop on 12/11. They said it was a valuable meeting because it brought in developers concerned about this issue. The CAC member said it was interesting to hear their point of view.
- **A CAC member** shared about their volunteer work doing E-Coli analysis on Thornton Creek. They are also doing metal analysis on stormwater impacts.
- **A CAC member** shared about an experience at Highland Park Improvement Club where Mayor Durkan, Mami Hara and the heads of other City departments discussed a variety of issues. They said it was a good event.
- **A CAC Member shared about an event on 12/13:** Seattle Art Museum sculpture park is doing winter light show.
- **A guest** shared about an event where they learned about the 520 Bridge construction, and particularly how they manage stormwater on the bridge. They explained that the bridge is swept once per month by a 6-person crew to remove sediments and oil, and the process takes 8 hours. They said there are also large holding tanks to capture stormwater.
- **A guest** shared that on January 11 & January 12. Front and Centered Environmental Justice Summit. Communities of color invited to join. **The guest will email that link to Natasha.**

Adjourned 7:35 PM