

Administration:

- Members Present: Frank Metheny, Alice Lanczos, Rachel Cardone, Laura Markley, Tom Grant, Valerie Cholvin
- SPU Staff Present: Julie Burman, Cyndy Holtz, Sue Morrison
- Visitors Present: Rick Bechtel

September meeting notes accepted as written.

AGENDA TOPICS:

**Background briefing: SPU Watersheds and Cedar River
Habitat Conservation Plan**

**Cyndy Holtz,
Watershed
Business Area
Manager**

Cyndy provided an overview of the Tolt and Cedar River watersheds. The Cedar River watershed is to the south, covers 92,000 acres, provides 2/3 of drinking water and has no filtration. The Tolt watershed is to the north, covers 8300 acres, and provides 1/3 of the drinking water. There are three objectives in the watersheds: 1) Restoring roads, 2) Restoring streams, and 3) Restoring forest land. The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) is a 50 year agreement including over 80 projects in 3 areas: Watershed protection, in-stream flow management, Landsburg fish passage. There are 83 different fish and wildlife in the watershed. The HCP commits the City to pay 100 million dollars over a 50 year period, with most of the dollars being spent in the first 10 years. Accomplishments over the first 10 years include road decommissioning, improvements to roads that will be kept, the Landsburg fish passage constructed in 2003 which opened 21 miles of habitat above the dam, increased Chinook spawning, and finally the Cedar River Sockeye Hatchery which is under development and will be operational summer of 2011. The City manages flow based on the HCP. Upland forest restoration is being done to accelerate old growth. There are about 14,000 acres of old growth. Forest ecologists are using specific scientific prescriptions to restore old growth forests. One of the most important actions is that no commercial timber harvest can be done. For downstream habitat, the City has committed to 5.5 million dollars on the Cedar River, and there is also 3.1 million in grant funding. Money has gone to habitat land acquisition. When property is purchased, a stewardship plan is developed. Properties in the lower Cedar River are full of invasive species. SPU recently received a \$903,000 EPA grant to restore the lower Cedar River. As part of the grant, there is a 4-way partnership between SPU, Cascade Land Conservancy, Friends of the Cedar River, and King County. Friends of the Cedar River volunteers will be going door to door along the river and offering assistance to property owners in removing invasive species. This is a four year program. The HCP is in down ramping for the next 40 years. The first 10 years were spent improving habitat that will have long term affects.

Cedar River Float for Salmon Fieldtrip Report

Frank Metheny

Frank Metheny provided an overview of the float trip and showcased a number of photos taken on the river. Members were able to view spawning salmon, and different species of salmon. The weather cooperated and made viewing conditions ideal. Rand Little of SPU and the river guide were exceptional in providing information to members.

WSAC 2011

**Julie Burman,
SPU**

Julie overviewed the work of the committee during 2010, where SPU is going in 2011 and where the committee could be helpful. Member recruitment plans were also discussed. Accomplishments from the 2010 work plan were reviewed as well as items that were put on hold.

Three themes have emerged for 2011: Bills and rates, planning for the water system, and communications with customers. For bills and rates, the demand forecast that will go out through 2060 will be used as well as new census data and climate change data. Demand and supply will be covered in the 6 year water plan. SPU plans around a 6 year water conservation goal. SPU will need input on the bigger picture policy issues. Issues such as what investments should SPU be considering (e.g. should a filtration plant be put on the Cedar). The third theme is what should SPU be talking to customers about? (E.g. should we be having community meetings? Should we talk to the media?). Julie asked if WSAC would be willing to meet more often in the first half of 2011, perhaps as subcommittees, and resume monthly meetings later in the year.

Sheryl Shapiro will be sending an email regarding members returning for 2011. Julie asked what the committee felt were the important facts to educate and provide to new members. Ideas that were offered included: SPU Administrative structure, SPU's three lines of business, types of projects (O&M vs. CIP), vocabulary and acronyms such as HCP, LOB, CIP, purpose of the committee, wholesale customers, explanation of how water runs between SPU and wholesale customers, description of authority/impact of wholesale customers, review of the charter, teasers about the water system, description of other things SPU does such as green buildings, reuse, etc..., some of SPU's conflicts, facts about SPU that we are proud of and want new members to know.

Committee Business

**Rachel Cardone,
Chair**

Unanimous decision to forgo the December meeting

Next meeting – January 19, 2011

Meeting adjourned at 6:00PM.