



**CREEKS, DRAINAGE AND WASTEWATER  
CUSTOMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING Summary**

**SMT 5965  
March 9, 2011  
5:00 – 7:00PM**

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**Administration:**

- Members Present: Rick Bechtel, Chris Hoffer, Cheryl Klinker, Natasya Gray, Brianne Cohen, Michael Gentile
- SPU Staff Present: Bruce Bachen, Trish Rhay, Sheryl Shapiro, Sherell Ehlers, Susan Harper, Sue Morrison
- Visitors Present: Mark Early (Ballard RORE citizen group)

Meeting called to order at 5:00PM

**AGENDA TOPICS:**

**CDWAC Business**

**Sheryl Shapiro,  
Cheryl Klinker**

Cheryl Klinker reminded all members to submit their bios.

Sheryl Shapiro announced the schedule for the annual meeting which will be a combined meeting of all three advisory committees. Ray Hoffman and Nancy Ahern as well as a legislative liaison and hopefully Councilmember O'Brien (council person for Utilities) will speak at the meeting. Each committee chair will have the opportunity to provide a quick "pulse" on the committee's primary concerns. The meeting will be held Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 3:00-5:00PM.

Sheryl Shapiro reported that the orientation meeting will be held for 13 new CAC members at the end of March. Members were asked to email Sheryl with suggested topics for the meeting.

February, 2011 CDWAC meeting notes were accepted as written.

**DWW Division Overview and Updates**

**Bruce Bachen,  
Trish Rhay**

Bruce and Trish discussed highlights of DWW projects in which SPU is currently involved. Bruce is working to meet a March 31<sup>st</sup> report deadline to submit the annual report required under the NPDES stormwater permit. 2010 was the first year of full implementation of the City's stormwater code, including new requirements for Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI). Last year, DPD reviewed 760 site plan applications – 596 were issued for construction. DPD conducted 893 inspections and took 41 enforcement actions. The City is required to have a structural stormwater control program. Projects currently underway are Norfolk Water Quality Project, Midvale & 107<sup>th</sup> Project, Capitol Hill Water



Quality Project, South Park Water Quality Project, Thornton Creek Confluence Project, and Street Sweeping for water quality. A big part of SPU's work is source control. Inspectors are out contacting and inspecting businesses. 952 inspections were done in 2010 and resulted in 151 corrective action letters, 25 notices of violation and 4 voluntary compliance agreements. SPU received 454 calls (684-7587) to the water quality hotline. SPU tracks the time spent to get to the call and follows up back to the original caller. SPU is actively looking for illicit connections where sewers are being discharged to storm drains. The Seattle Housing Authority is resolving issues identified last year in New Holly. SPU is working on compliance for catch basins requirements. Education and outreach was performed and 81,000 pet waste bags were provided to the public to eliminate contamination. SPU is working with a regional committee network called STORM to collaborate on building storm water awareness around the region. SPU partnered with Brown Bear Carwash. SPU will also be expanding and reaching out in a program related to cars and vehicle maintenance. SPU is working in partnership with WSU involving research to evaluate soil mixes used in Infiltration cells. WSU has modified their Puyallup facility to focus on stormwater research.

Trish reported that the CSO program is focusing on meeting regulatory requirements of 1 overflow per outfall per year by 2025. SPU needs to plan out what will be built between 2016 and 2025 in order to be able to meet the deadline. Sounding Board meetings were held and SPU went into neighborhoods to look at what strategy should be used and define objectives. Committee input is needed regarding who the stakeholders should be going forward. Strategies include retrofits, control with GSI (transfer to King County or creation of storage). The EPA has SPU under consent decree to meet objectives of administrative order by 2025. The EPA needs to have confidence that when SPU says it can do something, it will be done. Trish would like to bring the prioritization list and process to committee for comment at the next meeting. SPU's rain gauge network (19 across the city): If SPU could find a way to predict localized rainfall, data could be fed into a model and adjustments to the system could be done. For example, if SPU could see a storm coming, pumps could be turned on to draw down water in storage facilities.

## **Green Stormwater Infrastructure**

**Sherell Ehlers**

Sherell Ehlers is new stormwater policy advisor at SPU. She came to SPU from DPD (Dept. of Planning and Development). Sherell discussed green storm water infrastructure (GSI) and how it relates to storm water code. The new storm water code was effective November, 2009. The Code specifies requirements that are triggered by ground-disturbing activity and changes in impervious surface. The code requires that green storm water infrastructure must be implemented to the maximum extent feasible. Dispersion (taking roof runoff and dispersing to vegetation) is a component of GSI, as well as rainwater harvesting, permeable pavement, bio retention cells, and detention cisterns. Next in terms of GSI are: GSI to MEF (Maximum Extent Feasible) Directors Rule, GSI Audit, Ecology LID (Low Impact Development) Requirements, NPDES Permit Update. SPU and DPD are the regulatory agencies that review plans.

## **Review Draft Work plan Topics**

**All**

Cheryl Klinker thanked members for their input and asked if the work plan contained everything that the committee would like to cover in 2011. Trish offered that next month the strategy from the Systems Operations and Planning group which wrapped up last night could be presented. Also, the survey that Susan Stoltzfus mentioned at last month's meeting could be discussed. It was requested that SDOT (Seattle Dept. of Transportation) and DPD be invited to speak at a meeting. Bruce would like present



an example of where sidewalks and GSI are brought into a neighborhood. Sheryl spoke with Dave Schuchardt to discuss what's going on in the Duwamish sediment cleanup. He will likely come to the May CDWAC meeting.

## **Wrap Up**

- Chris Hoffer announced that a symposium sponsored by the UW Program on the Environment is scheduled for this Friday. A group will present results of work done on a study on Whidbey Island stormwater and bioremediation cells.
- Sheryl reminded members of activities related to World Water Day at Bertha Knight Landes Hall and World Water Week at Chief Sealth High School in West Seattle
- Next meeting is Wednesday, April 13th
- Meeting adjourned at 6:55PM