



Creeks, Drainage, and Wastewater Advisory Committee (CDWAC)

March 11, 2015 Meeting notes
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue
Room 5965
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Co- Chairs: Kendra Aguilar & Noel Miller

| Committee Members & CAC Staff | Present? | SPU Staff & Guests | Role |
|--|----------|--------------------|----------------|
| Kendra Aguilar | N | Katherine Lynch | SPU Tour Guide |
| Jeremy Andrews | Y | Marcia Crowell | Guest |
| Marilyn Baylor | Y | | |
| Suzie Burke | Y | | |
| C'Ardiss Gardner Gleser | N | | |
| Schyler Hect | Y | | |
| Kaifu Lam | Y | | |
| Seth McKinney | Y | | |
| Noel Miller | Y | | |
| Devin O'Reilly | Y | | |
| | | | |
| Heidi Fischer, Program Support | Y | | |
| Sheryl Shapiro, DWW Policy Liaison CAC Program Manager | Y | | |

PLEASE NOTE ACTION ITEMS ARE ✓ MARKED AND HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW

Thornton Creek Field Trip

- CDWAC's March meeting was a field trip to visit the recently completed Thornton Creek Confluence and Meadowbrook Pond Project, including the Knickerbocker Floodplain.
 - The objectives of the floodplain projects are to improve the Thornton Creek Confluence by reducing upstream flooding and downstream flows, and helping to restore water quality, improve fish and wildlife habitat, reduce local flooding, and prepare for other flood reduction projects in the future.

- The Committee started at the Knickerbocker Floodplain, a section of the South Branch of Thornton Creek in Northeast Seattle.
 - Here, SPU relocated several hundred feet of the creek, created a 1.5 acre vegetated floodplain, and built a new pedestrian bridge over the creek.
- The Committee then visited the Thornton Creek Confluence by Meadowbrook Pond, where SPU built a new culvert under 35th Ave NE, removed invasive plants, and improved the stream bank and wildlife habitat with native riparian plantings.
 - SPU's Katherine Lynch, CDWAC's tour guide, explained that SPU is monitoring both sites to evaluate how well the projects perform in meeting the objectives.
 - Recharging the hyporheic zone (the region beneath and alongside a stream bed where shallow ground water and surface water mix) with beneficial organisms is an example of how SPU is now trying to jumpstart natural processes, which is different from past approaches.
 - SPU is also encouraging students to do more research.
- The Committee then met at the Meadowbrook Community Center to discuss the creation of educational materials for the newly completed projects, which could be used by neighbors and schools, as well as the general public.
 - Katherine explained that the materials might focus on pictures, and she brought out location materials, including design schematics, photographs, maps, and other images concerning the projects.
 - She would like the group's input on creating a two-sided 11x17 sign for each project.
 - One Member suggested that a storyboard may be effective at distilling the main concepts and answering people's questions, perhaps similar to kiosks in Fremont.
 - Another Member suggested that signage could be posted as a series.
 - The Program Manager suggested that the group identify the key concepts for signage, and decide on the forms later. The group agreed.
- The group did a brainstorming session to identify key messages about each project.
 - Key concepts included:
 - Explaining what the hyporheic zone is and why it's important, and relating it to probiotics
 - Explaining what is meant by "monitoring" the sites and what will be learned from it
 - Explaining the purpose of the projects, and why they are located in these specific places
 - Explaining what a floodplain is, and why it's important
 - Explaining what a watershed is, and why a healthy one is important
 - Reporting the costs and savings for these projects (and where the money came from to pay for them), and any other expected benefits

- Explaining the difference between invasive plants and noninvasive plants
- Using maps to show the location of the projects, but explaining that guided access is preferred
- Explaining how the projects are important to wetlands and habitats (who lives in these waters and the nearby streams)
- Using pictures to show past flooding problems and how the projects will mitigate those problems
- Using graphics to show how temperatures can change and explaining why that's beneficial
- Using pictures to show changes in the slope and channel at Kingfisher Natural Area (Knickerbocker)
- Noting that additional research opportunities are available to students at the sites

✓ Seth, Jeremy, and Kaifu are interested in continuing to discuss the public brochures and signage for these projects.

CDWAC Regular Business

- Notes from the February meeting are approved.
- Next Joint CAC meeting will be on April 29th.
- On Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 5:30pm – 8:30pm will be:
 - Protect Our Waters Forum: Decentralized Systems – How Do They Fit?
 - Arrive at 5:30 for networking and a light meal. Program starts at 6pm.
 - New Holly Gathering Hall, 7054 32nd Ave S., Seattle 98118
- The Program Manager reminded Members to keep the last Wednesday of each month available for additional CAC meetings.
 - She added that CDAWC's meeting schedule will be different in April and May.
 - The regular meeting date of April 8 will be changed, and she asked the group to consider April 15 (CDWAC and WSAC would combine their April meetings) or April 22.
 - In May, the regular meeting date of May 13 will be changed, and will be on either May 20 if CDWAC and WSAC combine their May meetings, or on May 27 if CDWAC and WSAC have individual May meetings.

✓ She will be sending out a Doodle poll to members to help choose the April and May meeting dates.
- WSAC is having a presentation On March 18 about knotweed, an invasive plant, and how SPU is fighting it in the Cedar River Watershed with an herbicide. CDWAC Members are welcome to attend.

Meeting adjourned, 7:30pm.