

FINAL Minutes
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board
March 31, 2022
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

WEBEX VIDEO CONFERENCE MEETING

Board Members

Alex Chen, Chair
Matt Everett, V. Chair
Diane Pottinger
Shane Young
Paula Laschober
Andrew Lee
Ron Little, 7th Member

Utility Representatives

Mike Amburgey
Tony DePiano
Pete Eberle
Abdoul Gafour
Steve Leniszewski
Michael Martin
Suzi O'Byrne
Terry Olson
Patrick Sorenson
Ron Speer

SPU Attendees

Regina Carpenter
Kathy Curry
Elizabeth Garcia
Amy LaBarge
Jonelle Mogi
Martha Neuman
Maura Patterson
Kelly O'Rourke
Eugene Mantchev

Other Attendees

Jamie Crookston
Bob Danson
Charlotte Haines
Patty Hale
Roxanne Heller
Pam Maloney
Katie Nolan
Darcey Peterson
Kathleen Quong-Verneire
Ron Ricker
Robert Russell
Ron Straka
Laurie Tish
Logan Wallace

1. Welcome, Introductions & Announcements:

Alex Chen, Operating Board Chair and Deputy Director of Seattle Public Utilities' (SPU's) Water Line of Business and Shared Services Branch, welcomed attendees to the meeting. Kathy Curry, SPU Wholesale Water Contracts Manager, confirmed Board Member attendance. Logan Wallace, new commission with Soos Creek Water & Sewer District, and Tony DiPiano, the new General Manager with King County Water District 49, were introduced.

2. Agenda/Minutes

- a) The **March 3, 2021**, minutes were **approved 6-0**.
- b) The **March 31, 2022**, agenda was **approved 6-0**.

3. Old Business

a) **2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan**

Maura Patterson, SPU Drinking Water Planning and Policy Advisor, gave a presentation on the 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and next steps in the Operating Board's annual CIP review process. Questions from members are due to SPU by April 12th in readiness for the April 27th CIP workshop.

4. New Business

a) **South Fork Tolt Relicensing Project**

Maura Patterson, SPU Drinking Water Planning and Policy Advisor, provided early information on the South Fork Tolt Relicensing project. A discussion ensued around the potential outcomes if the dam is not relicensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

b) **Wholesale Annual True Up Procedures**

Laurie Tish from Moss Adams, along with Regina Carpenter, SPU Principal Economist, highlighted some of the procedures to be performed, asked if the Board has any changes to these procedures, and requested

approval to proceed. There was one request to include Seattle’s portion of subregional flows to the procedures to better understand subregional costs.

A motion was made and approved by the Board 6-0 on the procedures with inclusion of Seattle’s subregional flows.

c) Future Water Supply Review

Elizabeth Garcia, SPU Water Resources Hydrologist shared an overview of the future water supply review that SPU is embarking on. There was a question on the Snoqualmie Aquifer project and about data sharing with SPU’s project partner, East King County Regional Water Association.

4. Executive Summaries & Other Business

- **Water Consumption from Watersheds vs. Rate Studies** – Alex Chen went over Att. 5a.
- **Water Supply Update** – Alex Chen asked Elizabeth Garcia to go over Att. 5b including the March 21 water system synopsis found here: <http://www.seattle.gov/util/MyServices/Water/WaterSupply/index.htm>

5. Future Meetings & Workshops

Alex Chen provided reminders for the following upcoming meetings:

- May 5, 2022 – all-day Operating Board meeting and field trip at the Cedar River Watershed Education Center. Kathy Curry shared highlights of the activities planned for the May 5 meeting, lunch and afternoon tour, and also talked about plans to share retirement well-wishes with long-time regional partners, Ron Speer and Matt Everett.
- June 2, 2022 - regular monthly Operating Board meeting
- July 7, 2022 – regular monthly Operating Board meeting

Upcoming CIP Workshop Dates: April 27, 2022, 2-3:30pm and May 26, 2022, 2-3:30pm

6. Good of the Order


Westwater Case – Alex Chen mentioned the L&I ruling that workers on ductile iron pipe should be qualified as plumbers was upheld. Alex asked attendees to raise awareness about the cost impacts to utility projects.

Status of in-person Operating Board meetings – Kathy relayed that for 2022, there will only be two in-person meetings (May and September), and that other monthly Operating Board meetings would continue to be held remotely. Kathy explained, that while some attendees want to return to meeting in-person for the monthly meetings, that there are many attendees that prefer the remote meetings. Kathy said that she will continue to talk with Operating Board Members and Utility Representatives to determine the best arrangement for the majority of participants.

Update on Sound Transit expansion downtown – open in 2023 but not ready for ridership until 2024.

Board meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Approved by:


Alex Chen (May 9, 2022 08:12 PDT)

Chair, Alex Chen
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

05/09/2022

Date