

DRAFT Minutes
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board
September 3, 2020
1 PM to 3:00 PM
WEBEX Teleconference

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Board Alternates</u>	<u>Utility Representatives</u>	<u>SPU Attendees</u>	<u>Other Attendees</u>
Alex Chen, Chair	Shane Young	Al Nelson	Regina Carpenter	Patty Hale
Diane Pottinger, V. Chair	Ron Speer	Abdoul Gafour	Paul Faulds	John Thompson
Mami Hara	Byron Murgatroyd	Mike Martin	Arlinda Garcia	Steve Pfaff
Matt Everett		Boyd Benson	Terri Gregg	Darcey Peterson
Paula Laschober, Alt		Eli Zehner	Martha Neuman	Charlotte Haines
Lynne Danielson		Pam Maloney	Kelly O'Rourke	Roxanne Haines
Ron Little, 7 th Member		Steve Leniszewski	Jennifer Arthur	Kathleen Quong-Vermeire
		Patrick Sorenson	Kahreen Tebeau	
		Jason Kintner	Alan Chinn	
		Mike Amburgey	Jesse Narog	
		Terry Olson	Amy LaBarge	
			Paul Hanna	

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Alex Chen welcomed everyone to the meeting and then covered the protocol while on a WEBEX teleconference meeting. Alex then shared that Rick Scott and Kathy Curry are still on medical leave and we continue to wish them well. Alex then asked Terri Gregg, Acting Wholesale Contracts Manager to go through who was on the call, which she did.

2. Minutes/Agenda

- The **August 13, 2020 minutes** were **approved 6-0**.
- The **September 3, 2020 agenda** was **approved 6-0**.

3. Old Business

a. 2021-2026 Capital Facilities Plan

Alex Chen, OB Chair did a brief review of various presentations and questions and answers this year on the Capital Facility Plan (CFP). Alex then asked if there were any further questions and if the Board was ready to vote on whether to send a letter to SPU or City Council. Diane Pottinger, Board member thanked SPU for taking the time to help the members understand the CFP and address their questions and concerns this past year. Diane then asked if the Board could convene a CFP sub-committee going forward to address all future CFP questions from the OB members. After some discussion, the following occurred:

- *Alex Chen, OB chair asked Terri Gregg, Acting Wholesale Contracts Manager to reach out to all Board members and Utility Representatives to see who would like to participate in the development of a new CFP sub-committee and meet before the end of this year.*

Alex Chen, Chair then again asked for a vote on this year's CFP and following ensued:

- *Lynne Danielson, Board member recommended not sending a letter to Seattle*
- *Matt Everett, Board member was in support of not sending a letter*
- *Diane Pottinger, Board member asked for more time to bring this question back to her Medium category members since she had not had time to ask for their input.*
- *A Utility Representative recommended sending a letter to Seattle City Council in approval of this year's CFP.*

Alex Chen, Chair recommended the Board wait until they heard back from Medium Category and then vote on this topic at the October meeting.

4. New Business

a. The 2000-era Climate Change Scenario

Alan Chinn, SPU Water Resource Engineer, gave a presentation on the 2000-era climate change scenario and how it played out 20 years later. Alan began by explaining that the intent of the scenario was to create storylines based on the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (UN IPCC) Third Assessment Report published in 2001. These UN IPCC storylines were based on Global Climate Model (GCM) computer models and by their own definition are not predictions and that these storylines cannot be assigned actual probabilities of occurring. SPU turned to University of Washington Climate Impacts Group to explore how to create these “what if” scenarios and to look at global climate change and its potential effects on Seattle’s water supply. Using a sequence of complex computer models to create the scenario, we learned that there is great uncertainty translating global climate change scenarios down to the local watershed level of interest. Alan then compared the climate change scenario projections to what actually happened during the years 2000 to 2020 by showing the observational data collected by the National Weather Service (air temperature, precipitation), Natural Resources Conservation Service (snow pack), and US Geological Survey (hydrology and reservoir inflow). The results are interesting and are summarized in the presentation document distributed to the Water Operating Board members. At the closing of his presentation, Alan reinforced his message that SPU is committed to continually adapting and managing Seattle’s water supply reservoirs in step with a changing climate. A good adaption example, is our use of a dynamic reservoir rule curve approach rather than using the fixed reservoir rule curve as the city had done prior to 2000 (refer to the informational Water Operating Board July 2, 2020 presentation on “Water Supply – Operational Changes”). Some conversation ensued.

b. Taylor Creek and Trestle Project

Jesse Narog, SPU Watershed Operations Manager, gave a presentation on the history of the Taylor Creek project, the project scope, status (under construction), budget and the risks associated with the project. Jesse shared multiple pictures of the project and wrapped up the presentation with a look at the budget. A couple of questions ensued.

c. Seattle Customer Assistance Programs

SPU’s Kahreen Tebeau, Sr. Policy Advisor, began her presentation by going over the current Utility Customer Relief Policies in response to COVID-19. Kahreen detailed that SPU has suspended shut-off’s for all customers, allowed for more flexible payment plans, has fast-tracked enrollment into the Utility Discount programs, done outreach to small businesses for payment plans when applicable and has waived late fees on delinquent balances. She then shared information regarding SPU’s Emergency Assistance Program and how a new SPU donation fund could assist those customers who may need more emergency relief. Kahreen then wrapped up the presentation showing the current percentage of delinquency of residential, commercial, and key accounts. Some conversation and questions ensued:

- **Board member** – Do the emergency assistance program donation funds cover combined utilities (water, wastewater, and solid waste)? Kahreen Tebeau, Yes, it covers all three.
- **Utility Representative** – What does Seattle’s outreach to customers consist of? Kahreen Tebeau– We have relied on the Mayor’s press releases, Seattle’s Human Services Department providers and we are working on developing a media plan.
- **Utility Representative** – What type of payment plans are in place? 120 days or years? Will these new programs be sunset? How many customers are enrolled? Kahreen Tebeau– We do both short-term payment “plans” up to 120 days, and long- term payment “arrangements” for unusually large balances that go up to several years. All new programs have an end date, but the Seattle Mayor has currently been extending them. Around 8,000 new customers have enrolled in the UDP since COVID hit, and we expect to see 10K by the end of this year.
- **Board member** – mentioned they have used Next Door as a mechanism to get their District messages out including payment plans and have found 60% of their customers have read and use this type of platform.

4. Executive Summaries and Other Business

- **Water Consumption** – Alex Chen shared that water demands were down in early summer because of the wet weather but picked up in August and are now slightly above normal.
- **Water Supply Conditions** – Alex Chen shared that our water supply is where we expect it to be for this time of year as we await the return of the fall rains.
- **Reclaimed Water Update** – Alex Chen commented no news, we are awaiting a legal opinion from King County in various areas to include Utilities being compensation loss revenue from reclaimed water and updates on water quality sampling data for reclaimed water.
- **COVID-19** – Alex Chen stated we are supplying staff with the appropriate PPE and conducting temperature checks. Our new challenge is supporting employees with children who are remotely going back to school especially those with young children and how to balance work and school while teleworking from home. Some tough situations.
- **CIP Updates** – None.

5. Future Meetings

- October 1, 2020
- November 5, 2020

6. Good of the Order

- None

7. Public Comment Period

- None

8. Material presented at Meeting: Electronic copies of the information described on the agenda were provided in advance of the meeting.

9. Board meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:54 p.m.

Approved by:

Chair, Alex Chen
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

Date