

**DRAFT Minutes**  
**Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board**  
**August 13, 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	Byron Murgatroyd	Regina Carpenter	Patty Hale
Diane Pottinger, V. Chair		Al Nelson	Paul Faulds	Ron Straka
Mami Hara		Abdoul Gafour	Arlinda Garcia	John Thompson
Ron Speer, Alt		Mike Martin	Terri Gregg	Ron Ricker
Paula Laschober, Alt		Boyd Benson	Kathy Curry	Steve Pfaff
Lynne Danielson		Roxanne Heller	Karl Stickel	Lauren Imhoff
Ron Little, 7 <sup>th</sup> Member		Eli Zehner	Martha Neuman	Theresa Harrington
		Pam Maloney	Kelly O'Rourke	Ron Straka
			Eugene Mantchev	
			Jennifer Arthur	

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- Alex Chen welcomed everyone to the meeting and covered the protocol now that we have moved to the new WEBEX format for teleconference meetings. Alex then asked Terri Gregg, Acting Wholesale Contracts Manager to go through roll call.

**2. Minutes/Agenda**

- The **July 2, 2020 minutes** were **approved 6-0**.
- The **August 13, 2020 agenda** was **approved 6-0**.

**3. New Business**

**a. OB Business**

Diane Pottinger, Medium category Board member announced Eli Zehner is the new General Manager for Water District 49 and the new Utility Representative to the Board. Diane also announced the Medium category elected a new alternate Byron Murgatroyd, WD 90 who will fill out the remainder of the term for the Medium category.

**b. Tolt Warning System False Alarm**

Alex Chen, Acting Water Line of Business Director gave a presentation on the False Alarm of the Tolt Dam Warning System on July 28, 2020. Alex shared that SPU gave a presentation to the City of Carnation at a community meeting and heard from residence who voiced their confusion and fear during the false alarm. Alex stated that SPU sincerely apologized to the City of Carnation for the false alarm and has taken the event very seriously. He proceeded to cover what SPU believes may have caused the false alarm, how SPU communicated to the public during the event, why the siren sounded for so long and what is being done to avoid another potential false alarm. A few comments ensued.

### **c. Water Conservation Program Update**

Theresa Harrington (North City Water District) and Lauren Imhoff (City of Renton), both co-chairs of the Conservation Technical Forum gave a presentation which covered an update on the current programs, the 3-pronged strategy on education, the technical and financial assistance available and the accomplishments in 2019 and what the CTF is emphasizing in 2020. One of the emphasis in 2020 included improvements to the Saving Water Partnership Website. A few comments and questions ensued:

- **Utility Representative** – *the current plan took three years to develop. Can we somehow put a reminder to start this process in 2025?*
  - **SPU Kelly O'Rourke** – *yes, we will actively involve the OB and give plenty of lead time.*
- **Utility Representative** - *Is there updated education material about how water conservation helps the fish and wildlife and is a part of the community outreach material?*
  - **CTF Co-Chair, Lauren Imhoff**, *yes, there is a map and messages that show the benefit to salmon and the environment. That map will be updated this year and will be provided to all Saving Water Partnership members. Note from Kelly O'Rourke: How water conservation benefits fish and wildlife is also included in the youth education program and on the SWP website.*

### **d. Wholesale Metering Program**

SPU's Eugene Mantchev, PE gave a presentation on the wholesale metering program beginning with a background on the meter testing program, what the focus has been since the last briefing in 2013 and what SPU has experienced since the Utility began installing the electronic AccuMag meters. Eugene shared after subsequent failures of the AccuMag meters, SPU has decided to move toward using the Siemens MAG8000's as its replacement, however; Eugene stated SPU is open to hearing ideas on other types of meter applications from its members. Eugene then went over the remaining meter types in the system (i.e., mechanical meters, Krohne mag meters) and what SPU will continue to do if these meters fail. Eugene then shared if wholesale customers have a Krohne Mag meter SPU will be doing upgrades to the converter (which is no longer made nor supported by Krohne) and a back-up power system. SPU will focus on these upgrades to the Krohne system over this next year.

Eugene asked for feedback from the OB members on wholesale meter applications and Alex Chen asked for members to send thought and ideas back to the Wholesale Contracts Manager. A few comments ensued.

- **Utility Representative** – *commented they have also chosen not to go with AccuMag and have preferred the Siemens Mag meters*
- **Utility Representative** – *commented they thought the AccuMag are suppose handle moisture intrusion.*
  - **Eugene Mantchev** *stated they were marketed that way and moisture intrusion was not supposed to be an issue.*
- **Alex Chen** *mentioned Eugene will be back with a price list on Siemens and AccuMag meters and a recommendation going forward after input from others.*

## **4. Executive Summaries and Other Business**

- **Water Consumption** – Alex Chen shared water demands are where they normally would be for the summer and the trend is still following normal usage patterns.

- **Board member asked what the peak flows are for this year? Alex Chen said we will get that information for you and report back.**
  - **Water Supply Conditions** – Alex Chen shared our water supply is where we expect it to be for this time of year.
  - **Reclaimed Water Update** – Alex Chen commented not much to report and that we are still waiting to hear from King County.
  - **COVID-19** – Alex Chen stated no further updates at this time.
  - **CIP Updates** – None.
5. **Future Meetings**
- September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020
  - October 1, 2020
6. **Good of the Order**
7. Utility Representative asked if SPU could share what Customer Assistance Programs SPU is doing for retail customers. **Mami Hara** said yes, we would bring a presentation back to the Board on the programs SPU has in place.
8. **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