



**Joint Meeting of Water System Advisory Committee (WSAC)  
and Creeks, Drainage, and Wastewater Advisory Committee (CDWAC)**

**January 13, 2016 Meeting Notes**

**Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue**

**Room 4901**

**5:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

Committee Members & CAC Staff	Present?	SPU Staff & Guests	Role
<b>WSAC</b>		Alex Chen	SPU Water Planning and Program Manager
Tom Grant	N	Madeline Goddard	SPU Drainage and Wastewater Deputy Director
Chelsea Jefferson	Y	Melissa Levo	Guest
Kelly McCaffrey	Y, by telephone	Teresa Stern	Guest
Kyle Stetler	Y	Jerry Joyce	Guest
Rodney Schauf	Y	Thomas Kiehne	Guest
		Gary Olson	Guest
<b>CDWAC</b>			
Kendra Aguilar	N		
Marilyn Baylor	N		
Suzie Burke	Y		
Chris Clark	Y		
C’Ardiss Gardner Gleser	N		
Schyler Hect	Y		
Patrick Jablonski	N		
Kaifu Lam	Y		
Seth McKinney	N		
Noel Miller	Y		
Devin O’Reilly	Y		
Evan Osborne	Y		
<b>CAC Staff</b>			
Heidi Fischer, CAC Program Support	Y		
Julie Burman, WSAC Policy Liaison	Y, by telephone		
Sheryl Shapiro, CDWAC Policy Liaison and CAC Program Manager	Y		

## Regular Business

- Committee Members, SPU staff, and guests introduced themselves.
- CDWAC/WSAC November and December meeting notes are approved.

## Water Planning & Program Management: Highlights of Upcoming Year, Alex Chen, SPU Water Planning and Program Manager

- Alex referred to a power point presentation and explained that the Water Line of Business (LOB) creates a detailed workplan.
- Today he will give some highlights from that plan of system planning and policy work, and briefly discuss major bricks and mortar projects to assist WSAC with creation of their own workplan.
- Some topics will be presented to WSAC for their information only, and some to invite the Committee's feedback.
- Planning/Policy Highlights
  - Development Services Office (SPU-wide)
    - We will be refining some of this office's policies by the end of the year.
  - Customer policies
    - For now, this topic would be WSAC's information only.
    - In the past there have been opportunities for input regarding policies for bill adjustments for water leaks and providing new water meters.
  - Drought / curtailment planning
    - This is a topic on which we would like to get WSAC's input.
  - Water conservation goal setting (early discussion?)
    - We may begin review of our conservation history and current goals to begin planning for the next 6 years.
  - Water rate design study
    - We did a lot of work on this last year. The City Council has requested that we get more customer input, and we are beginning a new rate design study now, with the work intensifying midyear.
  - 3-County resiliency study (drought, climate change, seismic, water quality)
    - This study is analyzing events such as earthquakes that could negatively affect the ability to provide water.
    - The study includes Seattle, Everett, and Tacoma.
    - We are in the middle of Phase 1 now and will have information for the Committees later this year.
    - A Committee Member asked whether the study will be internal or for the public.
      - Alex responded that in general it will be more internal, and some of the information will be security sensitive.
  - Seismic study
    - Alex showed a slide that displays SPU transmission and distribution area seismic hazards.

- We would like the Committees' feedback midyear about post-earthquake water system performance goals.
  - Climate change analysis
    - We should be ready towards the end of the year to engage the Committees in a discussion about the results of this complex analysis.
  - Watershed wildfire risk assessment
    - We are considering how to improve our current practices.
    - This topic will be for the Committees' information only.
  - Corrosion control
  - Annual water quality report
    - We will ask the Committees for feedback on this report before finalizing it as we've done in the past.
- Project Highlights (Most of these will be for the Committees' information only.)
  - Watersheds
    - Morse Lake Pump Plant
      - Will finish construction this year.
    - Dam safety projects
      - We are modernizing the overflow gate on the Tolt Reservoir.
        - This project, the Tolt Ring Gate, has a great tour.
    - Sockeye broodstock weir replacement
      - We are replacing the fish catching weir on the Cedar River for sockeye salmon because the current one does not function as intended.
      - Some alternatives might include public access.
      - We may seek some feedback from the Committees on this project.
  - Water Quality & Treatment
    - Water quality in the distribution system (including main breaks)
      - This topic addresses the steps necessary to protect public health in the event of a loss of pressure in the water system. For example, when to boil water and to what extent, and when to close businesses.
      - The regulations in this area are currently rather general, and we are working with Public Health to develop more specific guidelines. We will be seeking feedback from the Committees on this topic.
  - Transmission
    - Tolt pipeline slope instability
      - The pipelines in one area are moving, and we are studying the problem to understand the rate of movement and how it might be affected by an earthquake.
    - 430 zone pipe
      - This is a pipeline that runs through parts of the City. There's some corrosion in the line from the way the metal was put together, and we are working on the problem.

- Distribution
  - 3rd Ave W pipeline
    - Here, we are separating the sewer line from the water line.
  - Reservoir seismic retrofits
    - Seismic retrofits are needed for 4 of our reservoirs. 3 are completed.
  - Transportation projects
    - The Move Seattle levy passed. No utility funding was included, but we want to take advantage of streets that will be opened up as part of Move Seattle to get necessary SPU projects done at less expense.
    - We will be sharing our ideas about this with the Committee.
- ❖ Committee Member Question: Seattle's population is increasing at a significant rate. Will we need more water in the future, and if so, what's the plan?
- Answer: Our current thinking is that because of conservation and building codes, we won't need to identify new supply sources for 40 or 50 years. Later this year, we will be revisiting the demand forecast for the next couple of decades, but we do not expect a big change in our projections.

Water use has decreased a lot. In the 1970s and 80s, summertime water use topped out at 325-350 million gallons per day. In 2015, water use topped out at 211 million gallons per day, even though Seattle's population has significantly increased. We continue to actively promote conservation.

- Next Steps
  - Review draft WSAC workplan
  - Discuss any changes based on today's information

**2016 Workplan Activity and Discussion, Sheryl Shapiro, CAC Program Manager and CDWAC Liaison, Kyle Stetler, WSAC Chair, Noel Miller and Devin O'Reilly, CDWAC Co-Chairs**

- Sheryl explained that the discussion would be an opportunity for more in depth consideration of possible topics for each Committee's Workplan, using the two discussion outlines as a guide. Committees should also discuss the best way to be engaged on each topic, whether through live presentations, field trips, readings, or doing research.
- The group took 30 minutes in their separate Committees (CDWAC and WSAC) for discussion.

**2016 Public Engagement/Outreach Plan Discussion, Sheryl Shapiro, CAC Program Manager and CDWAC Liaison**

- Sheryl explained that Committee Members should be connected with their communities so that they can both share SPU information to and bring input from their communities to Committee discussions.

- To start the process of creating a public engagement/ outreach plan that connects the Committees to Seattle’s diverse communities, she asked Members to report their current connections with their neighborhoods, community and professional organizations and events.
  - The solid waste Committee began to create a member connection matrix last year and is expanding it.
- Sheryl can also bring a list of upcoming outreach events to Committee meetings. If Members attend any outreach events, they can share information about their experience at the next Committee meeting.
  - The Solid Waste Community Advisory Committee (SWAC) began an outreach plan using this approach and has been using it successfully for the last 4 – 5 months.
- The Committee Members took a few minutes on their own to write down their community connections and then reported them to Sheryl by area:
  - South End
    - Kyle: Rainier Beach, Columbia City, Hillman City. Rainier Beach Pool events, Parks and Recreation, Henderson Square and Rainier events, Columbia City Farmers Market, PCC
    - Devin: Othello Summer Festival and Farmers Market, East Duwamish Greenbelt Forest Restoration events, MLK events
    - Kelly: Nextdoor.com, Highpoint Community Center events
    - Melissa: Seattle Housing Authority communities: Rainier Vista and New Holly Residence Councils; Neighborhood service centers
    - Suzie: City Council District outreach offices
  - Central
    - Melissa: Seattle Housing Authority community: Yesler Terrace
    - Rodney: Seattle 2030, Puget Sound Hotels Association (broad)
    - Suzie: Seattle Chamber of Commerce
    - Teresa: Town Hall events (broad), Sustainable Seattle in Pioneer Square, Resilience Summit in the fall, usually at the UW (broad)
    - Chris: Green Infrastructure Partnership
    - Kelly: Fautleroy Festival
  - North End
    - Kaifu: University Fair, Roosevelt Neighborhood, Farmers Market
    - Suzie: North Seattle Industrial Association, Chambers of Commerce in Fremont, Wallingford, and Ballard (Expo in April), Lake Union District Council, all Chambers and neighborhood councils around Lake Union, FremontCentrists.com.
    - Schyler: American Society of Civil Engineers (general)
    - Evan: Fly Fishing Community Board, other community and environmental meetups
    - Chelsea: UW Earth and Space Sciences, Burke Museum, American Water Resources Association (broad) , Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (broad)

- Noel: Phinney Neighborhood Association Farmers Market, American Public Works Association Conferences (broad)
    - Teresa: Ballard Community Center Summer Barbeque, Seafood Festival, Groundswell, Sustainable Ballard Festival, Ballard Farmers Market
  - West
    - Kelly: High point neighborhood; Fauntleroy Festival
    - Devin: East Duwamish Greenbelt
- One Committee Member asked Sheryl to clarify the goal of the outreach.
  - Sheryl responded that it was to share information about SPU's programs (like the compost requirement and the Utility Discount Program; more guidance on important SPU messages to share will be coming), and listen for questions, concerns, and compliments. Outreach can also help to recruit new members for the Committees.
- Sheryl explained that the Committees can use this information to start creating a matrix of Committee connections with Seattle's diverse communities and interests.
- SPU has some good mapping tools to show us City-wide demographics on a neighborhood scale which can help guide us for enjoyment and potential recruitment where we may need more representation on the Committees.

#### **2016 Officer Elections Process, Sheryl Shapiro, CAC Program Manager and CDWAC Liaison**

- A few Members have already sent in nominations.
- Sheryl sent around some blank sheets of paper for more nominations.
  - Members may self-nominate, current officers may serve again, and new Members are also eligible.
- Additional nominations can be sent to Sheryl by email.
- Sheryl will contact the CDWAC nominees before the election to determine whether they wish to run for the nominated office.
- CDWAC will elect two co-chairs.
- WSAC will have a discussion over email about whether to use the chair/vice-chair model, or the two co-chairs model.
- WSAC will send nominations to Julie.

#### **Around the Table**

- Sheryl will email Members a list of Rainwise Program outreach activities.
- Sheryl passed out information about an upcoming "Salmon in the City" presentation and wine tasting.
- Rodney reported that he recently read a good Seattle Times article about SPU's makeover of Thornton Creek.
  - Another Member noted that last year CDWAC visited the Thornton Creek sites mentioned in the article.
- Devin reported that SPU has created some difficulties in his neighborhood lately. SPU is jetting lines on the street, and some of his neighbors' toilets backed up as a result. SPU had to open up

some ground to address an emergency at 39th and Beacon and left quite a bit of water on the street for 4-5 days when it was only 29 degrees. Ice was the result, and the site, located between two schools, is still a muddy mess.

- Noel reported that he was pleased to see an article in the Seattle Times in October giving basic information about storm water.

Meeting adjourned, 7:29pm.