



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

**April 15, 2015 Meeting Notes
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue
Room 5965
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

Committee Members & CAC Staff	Present?	SPU Staff & Guests	Role
WSAC		Cornell Amaya	SPU Communications
Tom Grant	N	Rachel Garrett	SPU Communications
Jessy Hardy	N	Jeanne Muir	SPU Communications
Chelsea Jefferson	N	Wylie Harper	SPU, Drinking Water Quality
Kelly McCaffrey	N	Julie Crittenden	SPU, Drainage & Wastewater
Kyle Stetler	Y	Matt MacDonald	Guest
Chris Thompson	N	Sanjay Kumar	Guest
		Evan Osborne	Guest
CDWAC		Marcia Crowell	Guest
Kendra Aguilar	N	Yolanda Quiroga	Guest
Jeremy Andrews	N		
Marilyn Baylor	Y		
Suzie Burke	Y		
C’Ardiss Gardner Gleser	Y		
Schyler Hect	N		
Kaifu Lam	Y, phone		
Seth McKinney	Y		
Noel Miller	Y		
Devin O’Reilly	Y		
Heidi Fischer, CAC Program Support	Y		
Julie Burman, WSAC Policy Liaison	Y		
Sheryl Shapiro, CDWAC Policy Liaison and CAC Program Manager	Y		

PLEASE NOTE ACTION ITEMS ARE V MARKED AND HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW

Regular Business

- Committee Members, SPU staff, and guests introduced themselves.
- WSAC March notes are approved.

- CDWAC March notes are approved.

Drinking Water Quality Annual Report 2014 – Fine Tuning the Draft, Cornell Amaya, SPU Communications

- Every year SPU produces the Drinking Water Quality Report and comes to WSAC for input and feedback before going to print. This year CDWAC is also participating.
- The Washington State Department of Health requires all water utilities to prepare a report of contaminants detected in the drinking water.
 - The last two pages of SPU’s report that show the table listing the EPA’s allowable limits of contaminants alongside those detected in the drinking water from the Cedar and Tolt Rivers is the part that’s required by the Health Department.
 - Wylie Harper noted that the data reported regarding contaminants is a tiny snapshot of all the data that SPU collects. We collect 150,000 test results annually related to our drinking water.
 - SPU sees this requirement as a good opportunity to reach out to all of our customers, and has added to the report to make it more engaging and informative.
 - Each year the report has a different focus.
 - Last year, we emphasized where rate dollars were going.
 - This year, it’s the source of our drinking water: two protected mountain watersheds owned by SPU.
 - We produce about 350,000 of the reports, which reduces the cost per unit.
 - The reports cost about 37 cents each to create and mail to each SPU customer.
- Cornell passed out copies of the draft report. Committee Members took a few minutes to read it and then provided some input:
 - Comment: It’s so important to communicate with customers in a positive way, like sharing this report.
 - Comment: I like the information on the watershed tour.
 - Question: What about including a map that shows the watersheds in relation to Seattle?
 - Answer: We’ve done that in the past, and that information is available in numerous places.
 - Comment: I suggest adding the map back in, maybe for next year.
 - Comment: I like the information about the water supply being fine despite low snowpack.
 - Comment: On Pages 3- 4, I suggest having the text on top of the shower stream graphic so it’s easier to read.
 - Another Committee Member agreed, and Cornell noted that this would be corrected in the final version.
 - Cornell asked whether the report’s beige background was effective.
 - One Member commented that the beige background is pretty.
- The first week of May is National Drinking Water week. In the past we have mailed the report during this timeframe, but this year it will begin to hit mailboxes in mid-May.
 - ✓ Heidi will send out the electronic version of the draft report to Committee Members, and further comments can be sent to her until Friday, April 17 at 4:30pm.
- Past reports are on the SPU website if Members would like to review them.

Drainage and Wastewater Public Education Video

- Cornell showed a new SPU video that provides an overview of what the Drainage and Wastewater line of business does, and highlights the upcoming Ship Canal Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project.
 - The other two lines of business (LOBs), solid waste and drinking water, are more visible, but people sometimes are not as familiar with what happens to water after it goes down the drain.
 - The video will be shown on a Seattle channel and on SPU's You Tube channel, as well as used for general internal and external outreach.
 - Cornell asked for comments to help fine tune the video, and group provided the following:
 - Maybe include an explanation of what will happen to the water that will be stored in the new tanks (in the Ship Canal CSO Project)?
 - Cornell explained that it will get fed slowly back into the drainage and treatment system after the flooding event has passed.
 - Question: Who is the intended audience?
 - Answer: Most of our customers, especially people attending a community meeting.
 - Comment: It could be useful in stimulating discussion between elected officials and community members.
 - Comment: Maybe say in the beginning that the video highlights some of SPU's projects but doesn't include them all, so that people know that SPU is working on many things, some of which may be in their neighborhood.
 - Comment: Good job.

Ship Canal CSO Project – Guiding Community Outreach, Rachel Garrett and Jeanne Muir, SPU Communications

- Kevin Buckley made a presentation to CDWAC in February that described SPU's recommended alternative for addressing sewer overflows, also known as the Integrated Plan.
- Rachel and Jeanne are here to provide more information about the Integrated Plan, and also to ask for feedback from the Committees about the public engagement approach for implementation of the Shared West Ship Canal Tunnel Project.
- Background
 - About two-thirds of sanitary sewer systems in the City are part of a combined sewer system.
 - In heavy rains, the amount of stormwater combined with sewer waste that enters these combined systems may sometimes be more than they can handle.
 - During storms, excess flows are released at outfall points without treatment into the City's waterways.
 - Each year, on average, more than 300 sewage overflows send millions of gallons of raw sewage and stormwater into Seattle's creeks, lakes, the Ship Canal, the Duwamish River, and Elliott Bay.
 - These combined sewage overflows (CSOs) create significant health and environmental risks.
 - SPU has invested \$130 million dollars in combined sewer overflow reduction since 2010. We are working to store the overflows until the flooding event has passed and they can be fed slowly back into the system for treatment.

- Now we are considering how best to proceed to protect our waterways.
 - We can do more projects to reduce combined sewer overflows (known as the Long Term Control Plan), or we can couple those CSO reduction projects with projects to manage stormwater (known as the Integrated Plan).
 - SPU recommends the Integrated Plan, because it will result in cleaner water, faster.
 - The Integrated Plan allows us to defer some of the more costly CSO projects and adds the benefit of simultaneously decreasing stormwater pollution.
 - This plan will allow us to treat an additional 100 million gallons of polluted runoff each year.
 - The Integrated Plan includes sewer system improvements, the Shared West Ship Canal Tunnel Project (a joint project with King County), 10 storage projects, and 3 stormwater projects (which include street sweeping arterials, South Park Water Quality Facility, and natural drainage system projects).
 - Stormwater projects are also more cost effective than the deferred CSO projects.
 - Sewer system improvements could eliminate the need for some of the deferred CSO projects.

- Question: Will the enhanced street sweeping increase the number of streets that are swept, or just increase the amount of sweeping on currently swept streets?
- ❖ Answer: Enhanced street sweeping increases the frequency of sweeping to every other week, and also expands the amount of the calendar year we are doing sweeping.

- Comment: Sweeping along the Ship Canal and Lake Union is also very important. That's an industrial area, and is not considered an arterial, but parking shouldn't be an issue.

- The largest CSO project is the Shared West Ship Canal Tunnel.
 - It combines four separate projects into one project shared with King County. We hope that by combining these projects, we will reduce above ground construction.
 - It will have less open trench construction, since it is one facility.
 - We may be able to transport construction materials by barge or rail, resulting in fewer truck trips and less congestion.
 - It will be a 2.7 mile underground tunnel between Ballard and Wallingford, and will have more than 15 million gallons of storage capacity.
 - It will prevent an average of 130 sewer overflows each year (more than 50 million gallons on average).
 - Construction will likely begin in 2018.
 - The total project cost will be about \$375 million (a 2014 cost estimate, which does not take into account escalated costs).

- Question: Since this is a joint project with King County, will it help to relieve the Thompson sewer as a holding tank? This would be helpful because the Thompson sewer leaches, and it's currently being used by the West Point wastewater Plant for backup. If so, this might be a good talking point for King County.
- ✓ Answer: Rachel will find more information and get back to the Committees with an answer.
 - The tunnel boring machine that we will use will be 16 times smaller (by volume) than the Highway 99 tunnel machine.
 - We've successfully built tunnels of this size before.
 - We will have to tunnel underground to build it, about 130 feet below the surface on average.
 - There's a constant slope, allowing the water to be fed passively, though we will have to pump it at the west end.
 - This project will reduce combined sewer overflows by about 95%. It's been supported by our regulators. We've been working with a stakeholder group and they've also been supportive.
- Question: Where does the remaining 5% of CSOs come from?
- ❖ Answer: From the kind of extreme weather for which we can't plan.
- We will facilitate input from the public about the Shared West Ship Canal Project in a number of ways, starting with early stakeholder interviews, representing Ballard, Fremont, Wallingford, and Queen Anne, and a range of sectors, including industrial, retail, neighborhoods, bikes and parks.
 - About a dozen key stakeholders have been identified for these interviews from neighborhoods, chambers of commerce, and industrial groups.
 - Through these interviews, we hope to identify risks and issues we might not otherwise know.
 - Suzie Burke of Fremont (a CDWAC Member who is present tonight) was the first to be interviewed, and she brought 5-6 key items to Jeanne's attention.
 - Some other key stakeholders are:
 - For Ballard: Warren Aakervik, Mike Stewart, Catherine Weatbrook
 - For Fremont: Toby Thaler and Jessica Vets
 - For Wallingford: Robin Daly, Bryce Phillips and Unico Properties, Steve Rudens
 - Seattle Pacific University's facilities manager
 - ✓ CDWAC and WSAC should let Jeanne know if they would like to suggest additions to the list, or have feedback about the existing list.
- Question: Will you be speaking with people from the fisheries industry?
- ❖ Answer: Yes, we will be contacting marine businesses, including those at Fisherman's Terminal, as well as the Muckleshoot Tribe.
 - Jeanne will be asking these key stakeholders some general questions:
 - Where do people get information about things that matter to your community?
 - What is the best way to communicate with members of your community?
 - What should we keep in mind when reaching out to this community?

- Some of the key stakeholders will be on the front lines of the new facility, so Jeanne will also be asking them some questions specific to the project:
 - What are your key personal concerns?
 - What are the larger community concerns?
 - What are the potential risks?
 - Who else should be involved?
 - What do you want to know more about?
 - What are the best ways to engage you going forward?
 - What are your near term concerns?
 - What haven't we asked that we should?
- Jeanne asked CDWAC and WSAC for input about outreach for the Shared West Ship Canal Project.
 - One Member suggested that Committee Members should imagine how they would want SPU to communicate with their community if a similar project was being constructed in a nearby right-of-way.
 - One Member suggested that outreach materials should include a map of the project so that people will know whether they will be impacted.
 - Another Member reported that she gets information like this from flyers, websites, and meetings. SDOT uses posters on telephone poles to inform the public about new projects, and perhaps something similar would work for the Shared West Ship Canal Project. SPU could also consider posters in or near the public right of ways, a place where people do not have to go out of their way to see it. If the posters go up early enough, people have time to respond and provide input.
 - Another Member suggested that the Burke-Gilman Trail might also be a good place to post notices.
- SPU will also be conducting a community survey, which will be sent to approximately 10,000 residents within the project area. The first page of the survey provides background information about the project. Jeanne and Rachel asked for CDWAC and WSAC's feedback about the survey's design.
 - One Member suggested adding two East African languages to the possible responses to Question 26: "What is the primary language spoken at your home?" She noted that there's been a rise in East African people in the area, and adding the languages would make the survey more inclusive.
 - Another Member suggested that a map of the project's location should be included with the survey.
 - Another Member suggested that the survey be directed to people that live or work or recreate in the area, not just residents.
 - Another Member suggested including an infographic that describes what a combined sewer overflow (CSO) is.
 - Another Member suggested including a project fact sheet with the survey.
 - Julie Crittenden suggested adding pedestrian access to the list of construction impacts.
 - Another Member suggested adding an agreement to the project's contract about where construction people will park. She added that people in Ballard have been quite happy with the way Metro has handled a recent tricky construction project.

- Another Member suggested letting people know how long the project is expected to take to complete.
- Another Member suggested letting the survey participants know what the project will look like on the surface when it's complete.

✓ CDWAC and WSAC Members can email Rachel if they have additional input.

Presenter Feedback Forms

Committee Members and guests took a few minutes to fill out feedback forms for both presentations.

Around the Table

- One Member reported that there's a naming contest for the topiary dinosaurs in Fremont.
- Another Member reported that he's in a concert for Earth Day the last weekend in April. SPU will have information about their Rain Garden program there, and there will also be information about recycling and solar panels. He noted that if anyone wanted to work a table at the concert, he would get them a ticket.
- Wylie Harper reported that the Pacific Northwest America Waterworks Association is having a conference in Bellevue. SPU staff will be attending, and SPU's Alex Chen and Jim Nilson will be presenting. The conference information is as follows:
 - 2015 PNWS-AWWA Section Conference
 - Apr 29, 2015 - May 1, 2015
 - The largest conference for drinking water professionals in the Northwest!
 - Bellevue, Washington
- A guest reported that she is interested in doing environmental outreach work to the young Spanish community.
- Another guest reported that he is a recent college graduate in chemistry, with some specialized training in ground water, and is hoping to gain experience in the field of water.
- A Member reported that she recently visited Venema Creek, where SPU is doing some projects, and suggested it might be nice to note on the project signage that SPU is partnering with SDOT.
- Another Member reported that he had recently chaperoned some high school students on a visit to the Seattle Aquarium for beach naturalist training, and that SPU might be able to find some outreach opportunities at the Aquarium. He suggested having the Drinking Water Quality Report available there. He also noted that there's a big infographic at the Aquarium on reducing waste, and perhaps SPU could be named as one of the organizations working to achieve that.
 - A guest reported that he's a beach naturalist for the Seattle Aquarium, and that lots of outreach is done for that program.
 - Another Member suggested that SPU's Drainage and Wastewater Public Education video could be shown at the Aquarium.
 - A guest noted that videos are a great way to communicate.
- A guest described a program he's involved in to research studying the impact of placing floating wetlands in the Seattle area. The idea is that the urban environment has lost traditional wetlands, which function like the kidneys of the earth. Floating wetlands may be able to provide some of the

same benefits as traditional wetlands and are easier to put into place than restoring the hard shoreline. The most common potential problem with them is negative effects on salmon habitat. The life cycle for a floating wetland can be 25 years according to some vendors, but they can also be destroyed in days by beavers.

✓ The Program Manager will send out the link to this program.

- The Program Manager reminded Committee Members about the Joint CAC meeting on April 29.
- She also noted that CDWAC and WSAC will have a combine meeting in May on the 20th.
- She also reported that on April 28th, SPU will be giving a presentation to the Seattle Public Utilities and Neighborhoods Committee of the City Council, and Noel Miller, CDWAC's Co-Chair, will be attending and offering comments.

7:33pm, meeting adjourned.