



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

May 11, 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
WSAC		Craig Omoto	SPU Rates & Financial Planning Manager
Tom Grant	Y	Paul Hanna	SPU, Sr. Economist
Chelsea Jefferson	N	Madeline Goddard	SPU Drainage and Wastewater Deputy Director
Melissa Levo	Y	Vaughn Bell	SPU Artist in Residence
Kelly McCaffrey	Y	Paul Reed	Guest
Teresa Stern	N	Mariella White	Guest
Kyle Stetler	N	Jeff Upton	Guest
Rodney Schauf	Y		
CDWAC			
C'Ardiss Gardner Gleser	N		
Schyler Hect	Y		
Patrick Jablonski	Y		
Seth McKinney	N		
Noel Miller	Y		
Devin O'Reilly	Y		
Gary Olson	Y		
Evan Osborne	Y		
CAC Staff			
Linda Rogers, CAC Program Support	Y		
Julie Burman, WSAC Policy Liaison	Y		
Sheryl Shapiro, CDWAC Policy Liaison and CAC Program Manager	Y		

Call To Order: 5:33 pm

Action Items:

- Request data on summer sewer rate differences between residential and commercial
- Request information on possible options for customer to average use so don't have peaking bills.
- Further questions on Water Quality can be sent to Sheryl Shapiro or Julie Burman.

1. Regular Business

- Committee Members, SPU staff, and guests introduced themselves.
- CDWAC/WSAC March and April meeting notes both approved.

2. Overview of Upcoming SPU Rate Design Study: Craig Omoto, SPU Rates Manager

For further information, please refer to PowerPoint, "SPU Rate Design"

- Rate Design Study Group participants from CDWAC and WSAC: Tom Grant, Melissa Levo, Noel Miller, Rodney Shauf, Gary Olson
- The Finance unit handles rates and financial planning for all SPU Lines of Business
- Regulatory framework for rate design – RCW 35.92.010
 - Question: Does that mean for lower income customers, does this mean can't have rate reduction?
 - Response: The City has a Utility Discount Program that is allowed for in the RCW.
- Typical residential monthly bill
- Reviewed both water and sewer; identified how comes up with the total bill charges
- Seattle on lower end compared to many areas around the area
 - Question: How is meter size determined?
 - Answer: By water needs at the residence; based on # of toilet, sinks this will approximate demand
 - Question: How can a customer compare their usage to the rest of the community?
 - Answer: Seattle City Light does something like this, but don't know if this could be done for SPU
 - Question: Do you have anything in the system that flags when there is a big difference from previous year's usage? Any message that will come up that could indicate to the customer that there might have a leak and also information on how to fix it?
 - We usually include information to identify opportunities for conserving, incentives etc.
- Rate design project:
 - Couple years ago had team
 - Looked at water rate design
 - 2018-20 water rate study – 3 years
 - To be submitted in 2017 – subsequent to SBP update
 - SPU contracted with HDR (consulting firm) to review previous work of Water Rate Design Team
 - HDR's work to include review of sewer rates – working over past couple months
 - Question: Are the taking a national look?
 - Answer: Yes, looking at both national and regional levels.

- Question: What the rationale for not differentiating commercial and residential side?
Residential vs commercial – sewer – is there a big difference between two groups during the summer? Craig will get some data; sewer doesn't have the peaks like water does
- Question: Has SPU looked at separating out multifamily from commercial? Seems like a different use pattern than other commercial?
- Answer: This is something that can be looked at; it is a concern of Mayor's Office.
- Question: Is cost of operating system entirely fixed or is there a variable portion?
- Answer: A large portion of costs are fixed; current rate structure has evolved from having a single rate to what we have today. Cost of service is based on actual operating results
- Question: Seems like rates are based on revenue requirement. Is the reason for study to help insure that all are receiving a fair bill? What are other factors or values are being looked at?
- Answer: Many of the things referenced were considered in the previous design team. Looked at what was important, and how other options contribute to overall result. Example: conservation is important, but is it as important as 10 years ago?
- Request data on summer sewer rate differences between residential and commercial
- Request information on possible options for customer to average use so don't have peaking bills.
- Residential vs commercial – sewer – is there a big difference between two groups during the summer? Craig will get some data; sewer doesn't have the peaks like water does

3. Update on Drinking Water Quality: Alex Chen, Division Director

- Why we do corrosion control? Reviewed Wylie Harper's March presentation
 - In place since 1980s; continuous monitoring of specific factors
- Where do we sample?
 - Galvanized steel – lead connectors (also referred to as "goosenecks" based on their shape) were sometimes used for differential sediment.
 - Service lines installed before about 1930.
 - Revisit inventory; go forward with sampling plan
 - 195K water services; about 9K are galvanized
 - Lime being used to control lead coming out of pipes. Does that mean the lime is not sufficient to solve problem? Answer: corrosion control has resulted in good compliance with the Lead and Copper Rule. We are doing additional sampling not required by regulations to confirm that corrosion control strategy is protecting customers, including those with goosenecks.
 - What caused high lead level? Unknown. This was testing done by Tacoma, not Seattle. Trying to find out the details.
 - For Lead and Copper Rule compliance, Testing done every 3 years; are testing done in homes with the goosenecks? Part of what we want to look at; find houses with galvanized pipes and goosenecks and test water from house back to mains. 10-15 liters, looking at each liter to see if there is elevated lead, where it comes from.

- Trying to design something well beyond regulatory requirements to get at the questions
 - Is there being any testing done on the multi-family (MF) homes? Gooseneck connections were used primarily on smaller residential units; that's by far the majority of the small diameter size services that might have goosenecks.
 - What can customers do?
 - Corrosion control program is in place; is doing its job protecting customers from lead
Follow recommendations on SPU's website about lead:
http://www.seattle.gov/util/MyServices/Water/Water_Quality/WaterSourcesContaminants/Lead/index.htm
- Question: 2nd set of samples more likely to have goosenecks? Answer: Refer to SPU website.
- Question: Did Tacoma let water sit for hours?
- Answer: Had to determine if issue was sample or sampling protocol. Working through this.
- Tacoma will come out with own announcement as to their findings.
 - Further questions can be sent to Julie or Sheryl
- Recommendations for additional changes to Water Quality Report can be sent to Julie Burman

4. Overview of 1% for Art Master Plan for SPU's Plan to Protect Seattle's Waters: Vaughn Bell, SPU Artist in Residence *Refer to PowerPoint and Comments document for additional information*

- Started work in February, 2016
- Vaughn would like to come back at a later date with more specific information and request for input as the Plan develops.
- After the presentation, the group was asked to consider several questions and respond via index cards. The questions and responses are below
 - ✓ What are the key themes to explore through public art commissioned by DWW 1% for Art funds?
 - ✓ What aspects of the drainage and wastewater system and ecology may be especially inspiring to artists?
 - ✓ Who else (stakeholders and community members) should be involved in the art planning process?
 - ✓ What priorities do *you* have for SPU's public art?

Member #1

Key themes: Interactions between water and its impact on how we live our daily lives

The importance of water to our lives, living environment and larger ecosystem

Aspects: Physical structures, landscaping, swales, their design, influence artistically

Recycling of stormwater and wastewater-education through artistic expression

Interpretive art- signage, murals, reliefs on surfaces

Issue- most structures are hidden, underground

Member #2

I understand everything differently when I am camping vs. at my house in Ballard

How much water I use, How much waste I produce, The temperature, weather, The terrain I ignore these soon after arriving back in Seattle. I miss that awareness. Sometimes I stand on my front porch and try to call back that sense of awareness. I pretend I am again camping and the buildings around me are gone. What would that look like? And how would that make me feel?

Member #3

Art Planning Process- Engage with community members who use the Duwamish River; Earth Corps, Duwamish Alive Coalition, Duwamish Tribe, fishermen, youth

Key themes- Mountains to Sound

Aspects: restoration sites, return of wildlife (osprey nests, salmon, etc.)

Member #4

Theme: Understanding infrastructure

Aspects: Treatment-what comes out of the process?

Priorities: Creating an appreciation for how things work, Creating an understanding of how we all contribute to wastewater

Member #5

Stakeholders: Public and private schools; Port of Seattle

Themes and Aspects: Natural environment and ecology; GSI

Member #6

Students- long-term planning public awareness of infrastructure and art

Communities associated –pairs with 15 year plan with youth

Themes: along lines of false binaries

Who should be involved? Those benefiting

Building comparison through biology: human bodies/animal bodies; pharmaceutical contaminants

Member #7

Themes: Every plant-backyard, street, green space, curb, etc. is part of the watershed. I like that message.

Ask artists what is inspiring to them

Kids: Where do they want to see the art today and 20 years from now? Their future is longer than ours and corporate view (nice to know that perspective).

Priorities: Art is visible to large numbers of people for broader impact and ecological education (not just ecological but awareness of impact). The medium that conducive to multigenerational viewers. Long term installation-yes vs short temporary-public funds

Member #8

My Big idea: GIS/System Art- based on all the digital info flowing to command center (e.g. both abstract and literal representations of live and historic data? "They" may be a little terror-paranoid about literal reps, so thinking in sounds, colors, etc.

Themes: Connectivity, downstream= great timelines. Historic cycles? Will industry fouling be a blip in human history?

Inspiration: "It's all happening all the time, whether we know it or not;" "Making the invisible, visible"

Stakeholders: Kids! Schoolkids

Member #9

Themes: Water quality (What is GSI, why is it used? What can you do to improve the quality of water that discharges to Puget Sound?)

Member #10

Themes: I loved the concept of removing binaries. Our cities are part of the natural world.

Dog poop (personal responsibility); Function of plant

Inspiration: Ways to slow water runoff-one thought I had was cool was a berm made of recycled cloth fibers- connecting SPU's line of business

Stakeholders: Seattle housing Authority has invested a lot in landscaping and infrastructure to protect creek below High Point-knowledgeable community

Plants are a functional part of SPU infrastructure-we can mitigate issues with plants or cement, but plants are prettier (and probably more effective)!

Member #11

Natural areas along creeks: signage that exemplifies the area; create displays that are attractive and safe
Instructive works for efforts to improve the creek

Videos of creeks available to the public showing creeks, wildlife, vegetation

Member #12

Themes: How we live (what we consume, etc.) determines whether the world around us thrives or not
Interconnections of 1) us, 2) the drainage and wastewater systems, and 3) ecology around us

Tribal people and corporate people should be involved in the planning process and other people in the art community

Priorities: Entertain and educate; also to make unattractive objects more beautiful

Other Comments:

- Vandalism is an issue
- Reveal beauty of what we have
- Use art in classroom to educate about environment
- Public Awareness of sources of water pollution

5. Field Trip Planning - All

- Postponed to next meeting due to time overruns in previous presentations.
- Suggestions should be sent to Sheryl for summer field trips.

6. Around the Table

- 6/11:Influence of the Confluence, Thornton Creek event Meadowbrook Park/Thornton Creek in NE Seattle ; lots of info; 35th Ave NE & NE 105 St., by Nathan Hale High School
- Sheryl will attend a Symposium at UW on Indigenous Foods and Ecological Knowledge on 5/13
- 5/15 all CAC meeting to take a deeper dive into the Race and Social Justice Initiative and Equity work at SPU
- The CAC Charter is ready for CAC Chairs' review; staff will meet with them would like meeting before all-CAC meeting and then edited Charter will be sent out to members for comment.

- Discussion of summer schedule for meetings and possible field trips: a Doodle Poll will be sent to members.

7:30 PM meeting adjourned.