



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

June 14, 2017 Meeting Notes

Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue

Room 4901

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff & Guests	Role
WSAC			
Rodney Schauf	N	Alex Chen	Director, Water Planning & Program Management
Melissa Levo	Y	Natasha Walker	CAC Program Coordinator
Teresa Stern	Y	Kathy Curry	Water LOB Liaison
Paul Reed	Y	Madeline Goddard	DWW Deputy Director
Michael Godfried	Y	Brian Landau	DWW Policy Lead
Joel Carsley	Y		
Steven Cole	Y		
Wendy Walker	Y		
Ky Lewis	Y		
Kat Dej-Panah	N		
CDWAC			
Ben Billick	N	Guests	
Christina Ciampa	Y	Tushar Khurana	Guest
Schyler Hect	N		
Patrick Jablonski	N		
Colum Lang	Y		
Seth McKinney	Y		
Gary Olson	Y		
Mariella White	Y		
Michael Williams	Y		

Action Items

- Follow-up was received on a few questions related to the Henderson North project. See notes below.
- CDWAC-WSAC Happy Hour will be on the 1st Tuesdays, monthly, at 6PM at Shawn O'Donnell's in Pioneer Square beginning in August. Wendy Walker volunteered to send out the calendar invite. Christina said she would send Wendy the information needed to do this.
- Request for literature to bring to outreach events (small postcard, or flyer on CAC Program)

- Request for monthly updates on SPU activities where there is opportunity for engagement; also requested that we share those opportunities that were submitted by other CAC Members
- When referencing the “CAC Hat,” numerous Committee Members thought we were speaking of an actual CAC Program ballcap. There was interest in this existing.

1. Regular Business

- CDWAC Co-Chair, Gary Olson, opened the meeting at 5:36 PM and reminded attendees to sign-in.
- Committee Members, SPU staff, and guests introduced themselves. Gary asked attendees to share one thing they were looking forward to this summer.
- Meeting notes from May were distributed electronically today; Committee members needed more time to review. They will provide approval electronically.
- Natasha indicated emergency exits, exit procedures, and bathrooms.
- Kathy Curry welcomed two new members; Wendy Walker and Ky Lewis.

2. DWW / Water LOB Updates

SPU Drainage and Wastewater (DWW) Deputy Director, Madeline Goddard, and Water System LOB Liaison, Kathy Curry, provided a few DWW and Water line of business updates.

- **2016 Water Quality Report:** On the way to the printer, going out in the mail on June 23, with arrival in Seattle resident mailboxes by July 1. Kathy extended Ellen Pepin’s gratitude for Committee input, which had been very helpful in the process.
- **Saving Water Partnership Annual Report:** Kathy provided a brief update on the recently published report, which talks about SPU’s work with 18 wholesale water partners to implement regional conservation program efforts in 2016. Among other accomplishments, the report describes what is called the regional Water Use Efficiency goal and how this goal was met in 2016. Kathy mentioned that SPU is currently working to set a new Water Use Efficiency goal with members of the Seattle Water Supply Operating Board, a board that is comprised of representatives from Seattle’s wholesale water customers. She relayed that it is anticipated that the new Water Use Efficiency goal will apply from 2019 through 2028. Kathy further relayed that she hopes to bring information about the Water Use Efficiency goal setting process to an upcoming CDWAC-WSAC meeting. Print copies of the 2016 Annual Report were distributed.
- **Strategic Business Plan Update & Postcard:** Kathy provided a brief update on the timeline and next steps for the Strategic Business Plan. Madeline provided an overview of the postcard to be distributed to Seattle residents on June 22. She invited Committee Members to attend the Council meetings to show their support or discuss their feedback on the SBP.
 - **CAC Member:** Why does [the rate] go so high in year 2020?
 - **Answer:** The Ship Canal project. That is when we start construction of the tunnel.
 - **CAC Member:** In terms of federal funds and how they impact these projects, is there any impact for SPU? Do reductions in federal budgets impact SPU?
 - **Answer:** We’ll try to go for State revolving loan funds, but most of our projects are not eligible. Unfortunately, the Ship Canal Project was submitted

and we were denied. We are trying to find state revolving loan funds for that project though.

- **Henderson North Combined Sewer Overflow Reduction project:** Madeline provided an update on the recently completed underground storage tank. She briefly reviewed the definition of a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO), discussed the purpose of the storage facility, and shared images of the progression of the construction. She noted that it was completed ahead of schedule and below budget, and was built with more shoreline access. Madeline said she is very proud of the team.
 - **CAC Member:** So it's operational?
 - **Answer:** Not yet. We are commissioning it right now.
 - **CAC Member:** Who was the contractor?
 - **Answer:** I can get back to you on that.
 - **Answer provided electronically, after the meeting:** The contractor was Hoffman Construction. We used an alternative delivery method called "General Contractor/Construction Manager" where we bring the contractor aboard during the design phase.
 - **CAC Member:** Why did you put the tennis courts back? Did you think of putting anything else on top?
 - **Answer:** Part of our goal was to restore what was there before.
 - **CAC Member:** What is the capacity of the tank? And what protection is there in terms of possible overflow of the facility?
 - **Answer, submitted electronically after the meeting:** Storage volume is 2.65 million gallons – sizing was selected based upon hydraulic monitoring of flows in the system and hydraulic modeling of the proposed facility (before it was constructed). The facility is designed to overflow once it is filled, but hydraulic modeling forecasts that it will overflow less than once per year on average – in compliance with Washington state regulations. Overflows (combined sewage and stormwater) would go to Lake Washington via a new underwater outfall pipe that was constructed at the same time as the facility. The outfall pipe replaced an existing outfall pipe that was in poor condition – the sewer system has historically overflowed to Lake Washington.
 - **CAC Member:** Who was the artist? Was it Buster Stimpson?
 - Wendy Walker looked this up: It was Vaughn Bell – during her artist residency with SPU.
 - **CAC Member:** Are those courts lighted at night now? Wondering because of the close proximity to the windows of the neighbors.
 - **Answer:** I do not recall; we can check back on that.
 - **Answer provided electronically, after the meeting:** There is no lighting on the tennis courts. There previously was no lighting either.
 - **CAC Member:** Were there incentives involved in finishing under budget?
 - **Answer:** No. There was no incentive. They finished under budget because the project team worked well together.

3. Water Supply Update: Alex Chen, Division Director, Water Planning and Program Management
Alex provided a quick overview on the water supply for Seattle. Alex reviewed the current water supply graphs including snow melt, water consumption, combined reservoir storage and cumulative precipitation. He relayed that these graphs are updated every week, on SPU's website. He asked Committee Members for their feedback on the graphs:
<http://www.seattle.gov/util/MyServices/Water/AbouttheWaterSystem/WaterSupply/index.htm>

- **CAC Member:** Do we use the water in the reservoir for firefighting?
 - **Answer:** The water is not taken directly from reservoirs for firefighting, but the water supply is used for many purposes. One of the important factors considered in sizing distribution system pipes is fire flow. The water flow needs for fighting fires is much greater than for many other purposes.
- **CAC Member:** What about using water directly from the reservoirs for fighting forest fires in the watersheds?
 - **Answer:** No, because there are water quality concerns related to allowing helicopters to interact directly with the reservoirs. There are also logistical concerns.
- A CAC member wanted to confirm that the graphs include industrial use. They do.
- **CAC Member:** Is there a way to translate it into more of an infographic? It's great when you're explaining it.
 - **CAC Member:** It would be great if you could talk through this on Youtube, and link to these, as long as it's a short video.
 - **CAC Member:** It could have a box (graphic)... An animation/GIF that shows how full the reservoir is.
- **CAC Member:** The term "water year" doesn't mean anything to your average customer.
 - **Answer:** That was a comment we received in 2016. We added the definition but it's tucked in the bottom of the graphs.
- **CAC Member:** This is a side question. You've got a dam, and you've got water coming in. If you're always pulling from the top water, then you've got potential pollutants sitting at the bottom.
 - **Answer:** There's no active mixing but there's different withdrawal depths. And then we have limnologists (lake biologists) monitoring this. We haven't seen sediment issues.
- **CAC Member:** Down in California, in Orville, they had a major problem recently. What do you do to ensure the dams are holding up? Now its 100 years, what did you learn from California?
 - **Answer:** The events in Orville, California caused a lot of people to ask questions about the safety of our dams and so we have provided briefings and taken other steps to ensure the community that our dams are safe. In sum, the circumstances in Orville, California are different than here. Orville's dam had an earthen emergency spillway that was the subject of erosion and related stability concerns. Here, our spillways have been constructed with concrete and annual safety inspections indicate that these areas are in good condition.
- **CAC Member:** How do dams respond in an earthquake?
 - **Answer:** Alex reviewed some of the region's seismic concerns. He noted that when looking at dam safety, seismic performance is examined. CAC Members received a

presentation on seismic upgrades a few years back; that topic could be brought back if it is of interest to the group.

4. DWW Policies Development Update and Surfacing Groundwater Policy: Brian Landau, DWW Policy Lead

Brian provided a DWW LOB Policy Program Update. He began with a brief review of the policy recommendations presented to CDWAC and WSAC in November 2016, some of which are now being implemented. Brian focused his presentation on:

- Informing about implementation of Surfacing Groundwater Policy (DWW_240)
- Engaging in discussion with CDWAC about potential approaches (discussed in today's meeting) to address the piped groundwater discharge into the ROW.

Surfacing Groundwater Policy Implementation

- Brian explained that SDOT came to SPU wanting to work on a policy on how to manage surfacing groundwater problems, as they impact the ROW.
- Brian engaged the Committees on why surfacing groundwater could be a problem; namely that it is a public safety hazard (ice and/or moss). This policy addresses surfacing groundwater from a natural source that is making its way into the right of way from private property. This is not to address water being piped into the right of way (ROW), which is covered below.
- The policy is approved; they are now working on an implementation strategy/plan. As dozens of staff will be impacted by this policy, there is a need to develop a communication plan, work flow processes and performance metrics to measure implementation.

Piped Groundwater into the ROW

- Brian showed videos of examples of "weep holes." He explained that these are examples where private properties are pumping groundwater from their foundation, which drain down the curb and into the drainage system.
- About 20-25 of the 180 identified problem areas are weep holes. SPU receives approximately 100 complaints about these sites. This practice is a violation of our stormwater code.

General Questions

- **CAC Member:** Homeowners are not required to connect the piped groundwater drainage to SPU's sewer lines?
 - **Answer:** Our code does not allow for groundwater to be pumped into the sewers. So this is part of the dilemma.
- **CAC Member:** So you have a stormwater code policy on public safety, but no enforcement policy?
 - **Answer:** To clarify, the City has procedures to enforce the stormwater code; it has not been applied to these piped groundwater sites.

Brian posed two questions to Committee Members:

1. *You're a right of way user. How would you like the City to respond to these piped groundwater discharge problems?*
2. *You're a homeowner. If you were the property owner causing the problem, how would you like to be approached by the City?*

Committee members were asked to privately write down their thoughts, then team up in pairs to discuss before reporting out as a full group. The following records the full report-out:

- **CAC Member:** [If I was the homeowner] I would notify SPU of the problem and monitor response if I lived nearby.
- **CAC Member:** All the criteria were about the physical infrastructure. Did you consider factoring in who is impacted, such as nursing homes/high percentage of elderly people?
 - **Answer:** We tried to use information available. That doesn't mean that we wouldn't prioritize it differently. If we were getting a lot of complaints for a certain site, it wouldn't preclude it.
 - **CAC Member:** That requires them to know they could complain, so I would encourage analysis on who is being impacted. Also, having a plan with a timeline attached to the communication plan.
 - **CAC Member:** I recommend you conduct an analysis and quantify the most important ones and then address those that are highest priority. Hard to quantify, but it's probably most about public safety. A better way might be to provide education for those properties most impacted.
- **CAC Member:** And offer specific solutions for homeowners. But I think the education piece is important. Depending on the neighborhood, people are going to care more about it than others.
- **CAC Member:** I feel for the property owner, because they had been totally unaware what's going on. SPU needs to be leading the charge on investigating the issue and how to solve the problem.
- **CAC Member:** SPU provides drainage services for the City, and this is a common drainage issue. If there is a solution, SPU should be at the center of it. This is core at why DWW exists, to deal with groundwater.
- **CAC Member:** We talked about education options. As residents take on landscaping projects or change anything about their property, knowing the desired solution ahead of time would be nice. Maybe do something like the RainWise program: provide an incentive for upgrading or addressing the problem. Third, if you don't want it discharging into the street, communicate where to put it.
- **CAC Member:** If the City did decide to put out an RFP for this, it would be cool to recommend one survey or one engineer to focus on it. Like the Henderson project.
- **CAC Member:** Repeat of everything said above.
- **CAC Member:** If I'm a homeowner, I'm not sure that I know that this water is my responsibility. Upfront education is a requirement. If I live on a hillside and there's drainage coming onto my property, is that my responsibility too? How do you determine who is responsible for that flow?
- **CAC Member:** With designing the policy, you need to be careful of unintended consequences.
- **CAC Member:** Along the lines of the RainWise idea: instead of incentivizing, if the solution is cost prohibitive, allow them to build a rain garden that offsets and/or mitigates the issue but that's cheaper.
- **CAC Member:** Tying into Brian's comment that there's no set situation: I think that you could have a spectrum of responses. At one end, maybe the City provides free consultation. At the other end, the burden is entirely on the property owner.
- **CAC Member:** What about areas where there is no natural drainage? If you connect it to the side sewer, that belongs to the property owner, and do you meter the water going into the sewer?

- **Guest:** I do feel like it would be helpful to have some kind of criteria for how much SPU helps with the solution based on resident income, to make sure it's not cost prohibitive.
- **CAC Member:** One size does not fit all, and it's complicated. Each property owner is impacted by the steep hill differently. You need a personal approach to each property owner.
- **CAC Member:** If you have a policy, you need to work to enforce the policy.
- **CAC Member:** Rain gardens are a good strategy. Also, tree planting is a good opportunity to take up the moisture in the ground. I believe you need to disconnect that water from going into the street.
 - **CAC Member:** How does that relate to grandfathering? If you have a house built 100 years ago, you can't legally require them to do something that didn't apply when the house was built?
 - **CAC Member response:** It's been done in other States.
- **Answer:** One of the challenges that we're faced with is that there are some places where the discharges are really causing a problem. How you engage and interact with those situations?
 - **CAC Member:** You can't enforce the law selectively. So, if it's illegal to discharge to the street, it's illegal.
 - **Answer:** It doesn't say it's illegal. It says if it creates a dangerous situation, which can be interpreted differently.
- **CAC Member:** It seems like there's a good amount of policy risk for SPU. Does it make sense to make a policy, or does it just make sense to handle it with a service team?
 - **Answer:** Status quo is to respond ad-hoc and mitigate, but there's different options that we're considering with management.
- **CAC Member:** is there a body of experience around the country that we can draw upon?

Brian said he appreciated the Committees' thoughtfulness and time, and will bring these topics back as the policy implementation is developed.

5. CDWAC and WSAC Commitment to Public Engagement

Natasha reminded Committee members of the commitment outlined in the Member Agreement. She explained that Sheryl, Kathy and she would be gathering information on opportunities to participate in SPU outreach events, but the homework to CAC members is to reflect on where are already connected in their communities and where opportunities exist. We want to expand the circle of community, hear what is being discussed in the City, in part because we can't have everyone at the CAC table. Committee members had the following feedback:

- Request for literature to bring with them to events (small postcard, or flyer on CAC Program)
- Request for monthly updates on SPU activities where there is opportunity for engagement; also requested that we share those opportunities that were submitted by other CAC Members
- When referencing the "CAC Hat," numerous Committee Members thought we were speaking of an actual CAC Program ballcap. There was interest in having this available.

6. CDWAC WSAC 2017 Schedule

Kathy Curry provided a brief update on the summer schedule forecast. She noted that Natasha would be sending a poll in the next day or so, which would ask for feedback on the following:

- Feedback on keeping the July meeting. We may have an SBP Update, and Rachel Garrett has offered to come back and talk about the Flushables program and gather feedback on how to deliver that program.
- Availability for a tour of the Duwamish River in August. Weekend and weekday evening options
- Availability for a tour of the Cedar River Hatchery in September. Weekend or weekday evening options.
- Availability and interest in a tour of the Beacon Reservoir Retrofit in October: Only available during weekdays. Kathy said she understood that the limited weekday options may be a barrier for some Members, and wanted to assess possible attendance to determine if she should continue with coordinating this tour.

6. Around the table

- **CDWAC-WSAC Happy Hour Coordination:** Christina noted there was a tie between the 1st and 2nd Tuesday, and between quarterly and monthly. A vote was taken, and the decision was made to have the happy hour be on the 1st Tuesdays, monthly, at 6PM at Shawn O'Donnell's in Pioneer Square beginning in August. There were no volunteers to take over coordination of the happy hours, so these get-togethers will be no-host events. Wendy Walker volunteered to send out a calendar invite. Christina said she would send Wendy the information needed to do this.
- Broadview Bitterlake Council Meeting, next Tuesday, 6/20 at 6:30-8:30. Christina will be attending and invited other members to join.
- A Committee member provided a brief overview of the Citizen Science meeting he attended in May. He said he taped the conversation with one of the Flint activists, and can send over the 35-40 minute conversation.
- A Committee member said they were very curious about the news out of Flint, Michigan with charges were being filed against the water managers and how this could have interesting policy ramifications for the future.
- A Committee member read a book titled Water 4.0. They said it was a great read about how water is sourced and was distributed back in Roman times, tracing through history until today. It also explains how water and sewage have been mixed historically. They said it was fascinating and offers some potential solutions.

Adjourned 7:30 PM