



**Joint Meeting of Water System Advisory Committee (WSAC)
 and Creeks, Drainage, and Wastewater Advisory Committee (CDWAC)**
November 8, 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			
Joel Carsley	Y	Sheryl Shapiro	CAC Program Manager
Steven Cole	N	Natasha Walker	CAC Program Coordinator
Melissa Levo	Y	Kathy Curry	Water LOB Liaison
Paul Reed	Y	Judi Gladstone	Division Director, Strategy and Governmental Affairs, DWW
Rodney Schauf	Y	Elizabeth Garcia	Water Planning & Program Management Division, Water Resources Hydrologist
Teresa Stern	N	John Edgerly	Water Planning & Program Management Division, Water Resources Hydrologist
Michael Godfried	Y	Rachel Garrett	SPU Communications
Kat Dej-Panah	Y	Alex Chen	Division Director, Water Planning and Program Management
Wendy Walker	Y		
Ky Lewis	N		
CDWAC			
Ben Billick	Y	Guests	
Christina Ciampa	N	Andrew Schiffer	Guest
Schyler Hect	N	Anne Miller	Guest, South Seattle Action Climate Network
Colum Lang	Y	Valerie Schloredt	Guest, South Seattle Action Climate Network
Seth McKinney	N		
Gary Olson	Y		
Mariella White	N		
Michael Williams	Y		
Maria McDaniel	Y		
Thy Pham	Y		

1. Regular Business

- WSAC Co-Chair Rodney Schauf opened the meeting at 5:36 PM and reminded attendees to sign-in.
- Committee Members, SPU staff, and guests introduced themselves.
- Meeting notes from October were approved.

- Sheryl indicated emergency exits, exit procedures, and bathrooms. Sheryl shared some leftover / additional materials from the Emergency Planning All-CAC, and said that if Committee members

2. Overview of SPU's Climate Change Approach for 2019 Water System Plan

John Ederly and Elizabeth Garcia, Hydrologists from SPU's Water Resources Planning Group, provided an overview of the results and recommendations from the latest analysis of the potential impacts of climate change on SPU's water supply. These results are to be included in the climate change section of the 2019 Water System Plan. Water LOB Liaison, Kathy Curry, provided some context related to the Water System Plan and explained that the Water System Advisory Committee would be exploring more on this in the early months of 2018.

- **CAC Member:** Are you working with University of Washington (UW) Climate Impacts Groups for this modeling?
 - **Staff Response:** Will be getting to that in the modeling section of our presentation. We have been working with the Pacific Northwest Climate Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC), which includes professors at the University of Oregon and the University of Idaho, in addition to the UW.
- **Staff question:** Clarifying what "links" are (slide 5)
- **CAC Member:** When you look at result of Hurricane Harvey and its impact on reservoirs; if in the future, we had a rain event that was as extraordinary as that... what tactic would we take, and what communities would be endangered that we might have to release water to? Have you looked at that?
 - **Staff Response:** Our analysis was focused on climate change and the water supply, not flooding. King County just completed a climate study that is more focused on flooding.
 - **CAC Member:** So you could respond to that kind of significant event?
 - **Alex Chen:** I think the general answer is that we do monitor and manage to mitigate flooding impacts. SPU is constantly managing multiple objectives: water for people, water for fish, flood mitigation, and hydrology.
- **Guest question:** Did you take into account population growth?
 - **Staff Response:** It is accounted for. We didn't present it, but it's tracked and analyzed by another person in the Water line of business.
- **Guest question:** Could you speak to the "triggers"? What would be considered a "trigger"?
 - **Staff Response:** There's a lot of different kinds of triggers, and we haven't identified any formally. For example, changes in snow melt or soil and/or moisture conditions in a watershed.
 - **Staff Response:** Another example of a possible trigger could be changes in water demand. Demand had been declining since the 1980s despite population growth. If we saw an increase, that could be a trigger. There could also be operational triggers. If the begin and/or end date of drawdown starts to shift (consistently earlier and earlier), that could be a trigger. Or if the frequency in which we are accessing emergency storage changes. But again, we're just in the brainstorming phase on this.
- **CAC Member:** So if you have a more compressed refill period, you don't have as much time. Do you also have the issue where the reservoirs can get filled up too fast and you have to release water at a time where the rivers are already full?

- **Staff Response:** It's not one we analyzed as part of this study. We're trying to plan in advance, so if we see a storm system incoming, we might consider releasing (slowly) in advance to increase the flood pocket.
- **Staff Response:** With decreasing snow pack trends and having to refill earlier; there's always a tradeoff in that refill where we're balancing supply risk with flood risk. That gets more difficult. We lose that ability to attenuate floods as we fill it up.
- **CAC Member:** What if this analysis had said you needed a new supply?
 - **Staff Response:** That's Phase 2. That long list of adaptations (noted in the presentation) is probably where we would start.
- **CAC Member:** I see that there's some wells listed and I know they're a small component of the water supply. Is that something you study? Are those reliable sources of water in the future?
 - **Alex Chen:** You're thinking of the wells by the airport that provide summertime (peaking) supply. We used them in 2015. They offer about 10 million gallon per day, maybe a 1/10 of our overall daily supply, so it's not much.
- **CAC Member:** Can you describe some localized ways citizens can help with water emergencies? Citizen participation opportunities?
 - **Alex Chen:** In 2015, we had to use our Water Shortage Contingency Plan. In the event of a drought or severe emergency, there are ways in which we ask City residents to reduce water use. The outreach/communication materials are outlined in that contingency plan. We will be coming to WSAC with the 2019 Water System Plan, which includes an updated version of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan, revised last month. On an everyday basis, we ask people to use water wisely and that message has gotten us out of a buying a new water supply, which we were slated to do in the late 1990s. This is much more efficient than increasing water supply.
 - **Staff Response:** There are also materials available from the Saving Water Partnership.
 - **CAC Member:** Speaking from a commercial standpoint; [my company] is a large water consumer. We saw significant outreach in 2015 (posters and daily meeting reminders and bulletins) that was effective.
- **CAC Member:** I am interested in how decisions are made in the organization. Decisions in the face of vulnerability are quite important. Is there a team that makes these decisions together? Decisions on things like refill, drawdown, etc.?
 - **Staff Response:** We have regular meetings with the water resource team on weather systems and water reservoirs. This is where decisions, such as to refill Chester Morse Lake, would be made. We will also bring in other parties as needed, such as the Watershed Group.
 - **CAC Member:** How large are the teams?
 - **Staff Response:** It depends on impact of the decision. The water resources group is approximately 6 individuals. The watershed group contributes members. And Alex Chen and those working with him are interested in the decisions as well.
- **CAC Member:** In the future, we are expecting to see more wildfires and fires in the community. California is a good example. Can you talk about water requirements for firefighting and how that drains drinking water supply?
 - **Alex Chen:** Wildfires in the watershed are deserving of a more thorough look, and we have been going through that process in light of recent wildfires. We use GIS tools to look at hot spots. We examine how that might change in the future and affect our risk of wild fires in the watershed, or ash and runoff into the water.

- **CAC Member:** In California, when fighting fires in communities, what’s happening with their drinking water supply?
 - **Alex Chen:** That would contribute to the water supply demand. We have not looked at that specific question for Seattle.

3. Residential Customer Wastewater Outreach

SPU Wastewater Education and Outreach Program Manager, Rachel Garrett, presented on a few outreach campaigns hitting homes (and computers/mobile devices) in November. The first is a residential kitchen practices survey. This survey will reach customers in areas where the City has “hot spots” of fats, oils, and grease buildup in pipes – micro-neighborhoods in Rainier Beach, South Beacon Hill / New Holly, South Delridge, North Capitol Hill, Central District, four locations in Lake City and two locations in South Park. It will also be provided at four community gathering locations, to reach individuals who do not speak English or may not respond to a mailed survey. SPU will offer interpretation of the survey as well. CAC members spent 10-15 min taking the survey on their mobile devices (with one exception, who took it on a City-provided laptop). They provided feedback on:

- Glitches;
- Ways to rephrase questions so they are more user friendly, or noting areas of confusion; and
- Grammatical errors or problems.

- **CAC Member:** Are you considering doing the survey in an area that isn’t a hot spot so you have a comparison?
 - **Staff Response:** Yes, and we’re tracking demographics from people who respond. We want to see where we get information from.
- **CAC Member:** [In regards to question 3] That was one to require you identify 3 cooking utensils. I had to ad-lib, because I don’t use 3 things.
 - [Other members agreed. With this]
 - **CAC Member:** “Up to 3” is a more accurate response.
 - **CAC Member:** Do you need to have so many different options for things that don’t seem particularly likely to clog? I don’t know much about avocado oil, but wondering if that does clog. Whereas something like shortening would be more likely to cause issues?
 - **Staff Response:** Good point, could compress more. Did want to get some feel for what people we were using.
 - **CAC Member:** How would that data inform the outreach campaign you would be building from this?
 - **Staff Response:** It’s a valid point. Vegetable vs avocado. Part of it is the oil liquid at room temp, as some change form. But we want to look at cultural trends.
 - **Staff question:** What about margarine?
 - **Rachel:** Should be butter & margarine.
 - **CAC Member:** Brand names might be helpful, like Earth Balance.
- **CAC Member:** [In regards to question 5] Three are too many options for types of dishes.
 - **There was some back and forth among CAC members; not all agreed on the level of detail the survey should include.**
 - **CAC Member:** Maybe if you were more specific with what you’re looking for – which foods are you trying to target?
 - **CAC Member:** That said, if you’re driving at the cultural aspect, we need to get that specific input.
 - **CAC Member:** What does the dish we’re cooking in have anything to do with it?
 - **CAC Member:** Are you trying to get at how much volume is being disposed of?

- **Staff Response:** Yes, in part.
 - **CAC Member:** I come from an Asian household; the amount of fat from bacon is different than fried food. I can see how you can extract that from the survey; might want to ask about the amount of oil they are using, maybe weekly.
 - **CAC Member:** This was harder to answer. But I could answer a question on quantity.
- **CAC Member:** What about fat that is coming from a dish? Not an added oil.
 - **Staff Response:** That makes sense. We could look at expanding the dishes to include a baking/roasting pan.
 - **Staff response after the meeting:** We expanded the options to include baking sheet and baking pan.
- **CAC Member:** [regarding the questions with images of pots/pans] It's hard to know what you're getting at. What type of dish is used? There is a lot of similar pots.
 - **There was some back and forth among CAC members; not all agreed on the level of detail / specific options the survey should include.**
 - **Staff Response:** If we're looking at creating materials (transcreated materials) we want to make sure we're using images of cookware that people are using. This way the materials we create resonate with audiences.
 - **CAC Member:** It is missing a broiler, and baking pan.
 - **CAC Member:** The risk you run with adding additional things; The survey was very long to begin with. Even with incentives, you're going to have people who get halfway through and don't have time to finish. I like to complete surveys, but I'm not necessarily your target audience. You may be biasing your survey results by skewing it towards folks who know more about topic to begin with.
 - **CAC Member:** Survey is too long; don't have to give the same survey to everyone.
 - **CAC Member:** Ask half the questions, get more than 2x the response.
 - **CAC Member:** I'm an analytical person and like having all the data, but I think simplifying the survey would go a long way. Make the length of the survey less daunting.
 - **CAC Member:** There is a number of questions structured at getting at the same demographic information. If you could extract the same demographic information from one question versus three questions.
 - **CAC Member:** But sometimes in survey you do want two types of questions for checks and balances. So that you don't have any assumptions.
- **CAC Member:** I may have marked that I like to receive information by mailers, but I would be much more likely to take a survey if a link was sent electronically.
- **CAC Member:** It will not let you take it twice; Can you open it again?
- **Issues with image scaling was found on the following phones:**
 - Iphone 6 S, Browser: Safari
 - Google Pixel, Android, Browser: Chrome
- **CAC members were asked to provide additional comments before the end of week.**

CAC Members also watched three short cooking oil and grease videos (to be shared via a Facebook ad campaign targeting Seattle residents who live in zip codes where the survey was not distributed – so as to not bias survey results). Members provided the following feedback:

Bacon Video

- **CAC Member:** Why is the can missing its label?
- **CAC Member:** Bag in compost looks like trash.

- **CAC Member:** It's a lot of bacon cooking action. A little too long.
- **CAC Member:** Shorter video is too short; can't read the words.
- **CAC Member:** From a safety standpoint, I would not show them pouring hot grease. You need to cool the grease before pouring. This safety message is not coming across in the video.
- **Guest:** Is it a problem to pour grease directly into compost, once its cooled?
 - **Staff Response:** If it's a large volume, we suggest you contain. If it's a small amount, then you can scrape/wipe.
- **CAC Member:** Garbage is where you want it to go? Conflicting message because can is supposed to be recycled. What that vessel is is kind of important. Huge difference between high value can or coffee cup.
 - **CAC Member:** I don't even have cans.
 - **Staff Response:** Valid point, we may change it from can-it to contain-it. One reason we show a can is because it's common and durable – it can stand up to hotter oil/grease than a plastic container.

Cooking Oil Video

- **CAC Member:** Little extra clip at end of video needs to be removed.
- **CAC Member:** You lose me with a funnel. I see the need for it, but now that I need a dedicated kitchen funnel... it's a barrier to me.
- **CAC Member:** Having a spare jug is a barrier.
- **CAC Member:** Gross pipe image is very important.
 - **Staff comment:** I don't recognize it as a pipe. (Other CAC members agree).
 - **CAC Member:** Split screen it with flooding? The human scale is missing. The consequence is missing.
 - **CAC Member:** I feel like I'm a person that cares about infrastructure, but it doesn't do it for me.
 - **CAC Member:** If it's someone's yard flooding or bathtub flooding; personal consequence matters more. People just don't care about the City infrastructure.
 - **CAC Member:** I don't think you necessarily need to show someone carrying it down the stairs; don't need to show how involved it is.
- **CAC Member:** What is the point of name and address on the jar?
 - **Staff response:** We will look into that.

4. Community Insights, Around the Table

- **CAC Members** shared their experience at the Longfellow Event on Sunday.
 - **Staff Response:** Photos from the event will be posted soon.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Arthur Johnson & Rebecca Wodder – Rainier Arts Center, Nov 9
 - Poetry on the Bus – Your Body of Water. Tomorrow night at El Centro De La Raza
 - Salmon SEEson
- **CAC Member:** There are salmon in Lake Washington at Gene Coulon Park in Renton. I heard they are setting up a water taxi service to the hotel they're building. What is the impact to salmon?
 - **CAC Member:** I also heard about a possible taxi service across Lake Washington, from Seattle to Bellevue. It was a proposal to attract large tech companies to Bellevue, and would be a private water taxi. I wonder if that's the same?

Adjourned 7:35 PM