



Water System Advisory Committee (WSAC)
July 11, 2018 Meeting Notes
Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue
Room 4901
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Committee Members	Present?	SPU Staff & Guests	Role
Joel Carsley	Y	Natasha Walker	CAC Program Coordinator
Steven Cole	N	Kathy Curry	Water System Policy Liaison
Paul Reed	Y	Wylie Harper	Drinking Water Quality Director
Rodney Schauf	Y	Jim Nilson	Senior Water Quality Engineer
Teresa Stern	N		
Michael Godfried	N		
Kat Dej-Panah	N	Guest	
Wendy Walker	Y	Christina Heinlen	Guest
Ky Lewis	Y		
Annie Saunders	Y		

1. Regular Business

- WSAC Chair Rodney Schauf opened the meeting at 5:36 PM.
- New member, Annie Saunders, was welcomed and introduced.
- Meeting notes from May were reviewed and approved.
- Kathy indicated emergency exits and exit procedures.

2. CAC Program Updates

- **June 13 Cedar River Watershed Tour - Report Back.** Members shared highlights, noting the depth of presenter, Suzy Flagor’s, knowledge and ability to answer any/all questions, as well as learning about the cultural uses of watershed and fire management. A member noted that it was much more in-depth than previous public tours they have taken.
- **WSAC 2018 Workplan – Mid-Year Update.** The updated workplan was distributed to members to review after the meeting. If members have questions, they are to let Kathy know.
- **Continued 2019 WSP & WSAC involvement discussion.** Kathy introduced the topic for discussion later in the meeting.
- **A Water LOB 101,** including a transmission and distribution system emphasis, will be coming to the August 8 WSAC meeting.

3. SPU Water Quality treatment and monitoring

Wylie Harper and Jim Nilson provided an overview on SPU's water quality, treatment, and monitoring. They noted that the time allotted would not be enough to cover all these topics in detail, and that if one sparks interest, they can return to discuss further.

Nilson opened by discussing "source to tap" influences, describing source water protection and quality considerations. From there, he reviewed the water treatment facilities and the treatment processes used and objectives for each facility. He then reviewed how water quality is maintained through the transmission and distribution processes, and potential concerns with water quality deterioration once it enters private property plumbing.

Wylie joined to talk about water quality monitoring priorities. He explained that the Washington State Department of Health is the primary customer for routing reporting of data related to source and distribution water quality monitoring, as delegated by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. He added that samples are collected and reported on for both Seattle and wholesale customers. Wylie discussed some key regulations impacting water quality in Seattle, touching briefly on the political climate that could impact future changes to regulations.

Wylie reviewed public notice and boil advisories. He reviewed examples of regulatory public notices (with prescribed language) and non-regulatory public notices mostly due to main breaks and major pressure loss. He noted the kind of system-wide precautionary advisory they would expect in the event of a seismic incident.

Lastly, Jim Nilson reviewed limnology, algae and aquatic nuisance species monitoring, focusing on Lake Youngs. He shared information on the Lake Youngs bypass operation, which may be activated in the event of an algae bloom in the lake.

- **A CAC Member** inquired about the use of ultraviolet (UV) light in water treatment. Staff explained that UV breaks up the DNA of microorganisms that would otherwise be infectious. They specifically noted *Cryptosporidium*, a parasitic alveolate addressed by regulations that began in the 1990s.
- **A CAC Member** asked what agency has oversight and monitors the plumbing within Seattle Public Schools and private buildings. Staff responded that Seattle Public Schools has a Drinking Water Quality Program, establishing a set of standards and testing protocol in public schools. Some private buildings may also be impacted by regulatory oversight, which was echoed with first-hand experience from a CAC member. SPU sends out letters to remind buildings to test their assemblies and can also fine or shut off water if the circumstances are severe enough. Additionally, staff noted that SPU has water quality inspectors that can be dispatched in the event of a water quality concern.
- **A CAC Member** asked if SPU ever pushes for stronger regulations. Staff said that is rare, though they have worked with regulators to spotlight items. They explained that the process to regulate an item is slow, requiring health science to quantify risk.

- **A CAC member** asked if SPU could provide a brief comment on the addition of fluoride to City drinking water. They explained that they were shocked to see “misinformed” comments on NextDoor against fluoridation and hoped to better understand the concern. Staff explained that fluoride was first added after a public referendum in late the 1960s. In addition, SPU must meet State and Federal guidelines. **Staff said they would be happy to return at a future date to provide more history and delve into the process.**

4. Water System Plan Discussions

Kathy Curry started the discussion with a handout of the meeting notes from the May 9 Water System Plan (WSP) presentations. The goal of the conversation was to ensure that the notes contained all feedback on the WSP, and to decide:

1. If WSAC wants to provide comment to City Council on September 11, 2018;
2. If providing comment, what form – letter, or verbal comment? 2 Minute limit;
3. If providing comment, what process – who will lead?

Upon discussion, WSAC members unanimously agreed that they would like to provide comment.

Members decided to identify 5-6 key areas where they would like SPU to maintain focus, because those areas are important to the regional operation.

The format for delivery of comments (verbal, letter, or both) will be based on both the content and bandwidth of members, though some members advocated for presenting the letter/bullets in front of Council. WSAC Chair, Rodney Schauf, is available if the Council presentation is on a Tuesday. Vice-Chair, Joel Carsley, could likely join as well. Wendy Walker volunteered to collect member comments and draft a letter.

A timeline for comment was established:

- **Wed., July 11 – Wed., Aug 8:** Member comments will be collected electronically (email prompt from Wendy Walker). Upon reviewing the results of the input from this exercise, the Committee expressed interested in focusing on areas/topics where members’ interests greatly overlap.
- **Wed., Aug 8:** Draft letter due. A short amount of time will be available at this WSAC meeting to discuss. Following the meeting, edits will be conducted electronically.
- **Thur., Aug 30:** Final Draft letter due to SPU

The following additional comments were received:

- **A CAC Member** shared that they felt the May 9 notes captured the main ideas well, though CAC presentations may have been shortened because of limited time.
- **A CAC Member** shared comments that they were unable to address during the May 9 meeting due to time: *[regarding Table 7-1. Financial Revenues and Expenditures, 2011-2016]* It would be helpful to see how costs panned out for the last five years versus what was projected for the last five years. In general, would like to see spending vs projected costs. In addition, it would be good to know how the Utility is tracking updates on what projects are approved, following the publishing of the WSP. WSAC Chair and Customer Review Panel member responded that the Strategic Business Plan establishes a 6-year budget for projects, which is re-evaluated every

three years. Some of those answers could be available in that update. Staff added that while we are past the date to make changes to the content of the WSP, **if members have additional questions about the Plan they can reach out to Kathy Curry for clarification.**

- **CAC Members** requested additional clarity on the kinds of comments that Council would find helpful and would be responsive to. Staff reviewed recent topics that have been highlighted by members and discussed how this is an opportunity for WSAC to let Council know of their involvement in the WSP, and the areas they are concerned and/or supportive of.
- **A CAC member** asked if there were any comments received by the WSP public comment process that WSAC Members should be brought up to speed on? Staff responded that very few comments were received, namely about fluoridation and chlorination of drinking water.

6. Community Insights, Around the Table

- **A CAC Member** shared about comments on the Water Quality Report post seen on NextDoor.
- **A CAC Member** shared about their experience at the event “Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha and Nick Licata discuss 'What the Eyes Don't See.'” The member discussed their learnings of the Flint drinking water crisis, including administrative appointments and the denial of science. A CAC Member added a comment about Elon Musk’s commitment to addressing the Flint crisis.
- **A CAC Member** shared about an experience at a West African Restaurant receiving bottled water. A discussion ensued around the cultural significance of bottled water.
- **A CAC Member** shared about the Sunset supper in Pike Place Market. Fri, August 17. They said the event sells out, though tickets are available. The event benefits social services at the Market.
- Staff shared two opportunities for community input at upcoming events: Union in Central District, and Cornucopia Festival in Kent, both this weekend. **Members interested should email Natasha for more details.**

Adjourned 7:35 PM