

Administration:

Rachel Cardone, Chair

- Members Present: Laura Markley, Valerie Cholvin, Helen Pitts, Frank Metheny, Alice Lanczos, Tom Grant, Rachel Cardone, Eric Anderson, Dave Magorty
- SPU Staff Present: Dave Hilmoe, Julie Burman, Rich Gustaf, Susan Sanchez, Tracey Rowland, Sue Morrison
- Review of June meeting summary – Correction to SPU staff name noted.

.AGENDA TOPICS:

Thoughts regarding conversation with Chuck Clarke

Alice Lanczos

Chuck was strongly supportive of the three citizen committees. Alice felt Chuck had the opportunity to be more forthcoming because he's no longer employed by the City. Chuck appreciated the fact that the committees provided an honest read of the Utility. He liked the questions posed by the members. He urged the committee to meet with the interim department head Ray Hoffman. Chuck suggested more committee diversity in terms of age and gender, but felt the best committee member is an interested committee member.

Options for WSAC Fieldtrip or Meeting

Julie Burman

Julie discussed options for August - meeting or a fieldtrip. If a fieldtrip, the following subjects were offered: Seattle Wells, UW Water Conservation, Water Quality Lab (Taste & Odor), Cedar Water Treatment. Laura Markley suggested a Bio-Filter landscaping project in Shoreline as another possibility. It was suggested that since the covering of a reservoir is going on right now this would be a relevant fieldtrip. A vote was taken and it was decided that the fieldtrip would consist of a visit to the Seattle Wells and West Seattle Reservoir. Sue will check calendars to determine staff availability in August.

Water Supply Update

Dave Hilmoe

The water supply is in great shape. The reservoirs are a little higher than usual and from a supply perspective, we are in great shape. Demand charts were provided. These charts are regenerated frequently. Essentially, the demand charts indicate that all factors considered, the reservoir levels are good. It was noted that as temperatures go up, so does use – mostly for residential irrigation. Our rates of consumption are equal to those in the 1950's. There was a good snow pack, and then a late melt. Not much water has needed to be spilled.

SPU's reservoir covering program includes 4 reservoirs: Beacon & Myrtle are complete. West Seattle is under construction, and Maple Leaf is next. Reservoirs have received substantial press attention recently. During a QC at the Beacon and Myrtle reservoirs a problem was detected which requires a fix be made. This has delayed the Parks Department in developing Parks on top of the Beacon Reservoir. Dave said a project was started in the 1970's to cover the Lincoln Reservoir, so the issue has been out there for quite some time. In 1994 the State Department of Health asked SPU to come up with a plan.

Water Conservation – SPU Programs

Julie Burman

Julie presented information regarding two programs - Regional and Low Income and direction beyond 2010:

Regional: The forecast handout (1st chart) does not indicate a need for a new source of water supply. The forecast shows demand going down. Every forecast has indicated this. A regional program aimed at reducing demand involves Seattle Public Utilities and most of our wholesale partners. SPU is making a substantial investment. Goal adopted is less usage over time per year. Technology is continuing to advance. SPU feels good about the progress we've made. Program planning is about to begin. Rebate level average is that SPU usually pays about 50% of the rebate program. Any program that can come in at 2.00 or less per CCF of water for the rebate is a good program and SPU will consider. Public service announcements are used to advertise programs. Rich Gustaf offered to follow up with the committee regarding any questions that arise.

Seattle Low Income Conservation: Initiative 63 said "we want the City of Seattle to do more". Program included retrofitting shower heads and toilets. These programs are paid at 100% by the Utility. SPU's goal by 2010 is to have a 43% market penetration. Measure of success is the amount of households served. Also available to this same population is rate assistance. SPU is looking at revamping the guidelines for qualification, and also extending the program beyond 2010. SPU has three funds. This program is being paid for out of the water fund. Julie solicited thoughts regarding the program from the committee members. Helen Pitts felt that the cost of the program was minimal compared with the benefits to customers. Rachel asked what the cost of a 100% rebate is to the Utility. She suggested undercutting the price of toilets and beating out companies such as Lowes.

Wrap Up

Rachel Cardone

- Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 16th.