



**Joint Meeting of Water System Advisory Committee (WSAC)
 and Creeks, Drainage, and Wastewater Advisory Committee (CDWAC)**
October 11, 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	Y	Alex Chen	Director, Water Planning & Program Management
Melissa Levo	Y	Madeline Goddard	DWW Deputy Director
Teresa Stern	N	Sheryl Shapiro	CAC Program Manager
Paul Reed	N	Natasha Walker	CAC Program Coordinator
Michael Godfried	N-ex	Kathy Curry	Water LOB Liaison
Joel Carsley	Y	Tom Gannon	SPU RainWise Program Manager
Steven Cole	N	Judi Gladstone	Division Director, Strategy and Governmental Affairs, DWW
Wendy Walker	Y		
Ky Lewis	Y		
Kat Dej-Panah	N-ex		
Thy Pham	Y		
CDWAC			
Ben Billick	Y	Guests	
Christina Ciampa	N	Andrew Schiffer	Guest
Schyler Hect	N-ex	Ann McKinney	Guest
Patrick Jablonski	Y		
Colum Lang	Y		
Seth McKinney	N		
Gary Olson	N-ex		
Mariella White	Y		
Michael Williams	Y		
Maria McDaniel	N-ex		

Action Items

- Committee members were encouraged to share specific drinking water system topics that SPU should be communicating with the public about, and when.
- Committee members were encouraged to share additional feedback on the presentation in advance of that meeting with Sheryl and Natasha, and they would share with Tom.

- Sheryl to send out a survey to determine which week of the month makes the most sense for each CAC, or possibly other days of the week. She emphasized that she did not want to lose any members as a result of scheduling difficulties, so would be looking for an option that works for everyone.
- The first celebration of 25th anniversary of the Longfellow Creek Action Plan will take place on Sunday, November 5. Committee members interested in volunteering were encouraged to contact Sheryl.

1. Regular Business

- WSAC Co-Chair Rodney Schauff opened the meeting at 5:34 PM and reminded attendees to sign-in.
- Committee Members, SPU staff, and guests introduced themselves.
- Meeting notes from September were approved.
- Sheryl indicated emergency exits, exit procedures, and bathrooms.
- Sheryl provided a membership update and welcomed two new members, Maria McDaniel and Thy Pham.

2. Water Supply Update

Water Planning & Program Management Division Director Alex Chen began with a basic overview of SPU's water supply management strategy. Alex provided a water supply update for 2017, sharing a graph that depicted the status of SPU's combined reservoir storage for Chester Morse Lake, the Masonry Pool, Lake Youngs, and the South Fork Tolt Reservoir. He noted that folks could search online for "Water Supply Seattle" to see these graphs on SPU's website. CDWAC and WSAC members reviewed recent questions received from Councilmember Lisa Herbold's office for information on the 2017 water supply status following the long dry and hot summer season, and were asked to share their feedback on how SPU can best get these kind of messages out when the public might be wondering about the water supply status.

Alex also provided an overview of the Chester Morse Lake Pump Plant and its role in SPU's water supply management strategy. He explained that most reservoirs provide water via gravity. However, Alex described a natural high point (~ 1538 ft.) in the discharge channel that drains Chester Morse Lake into the Masonry Pool and explained that water won't drain out by gravity when the water elevation is lower than the high point. When this occurs, SPU activates pumps, including the Chester Morse Lake Pump Plant, to pump water over the natural high point. Alex noted that this is an unusual occurrence, taking place only about three times over the last 30 years. Alex relayed that, despite the hot and dry summer, it is not anticipated that pumping will be needed in the next 1-2 months for water supply management purposes - due in part to how SPU managed reservoir storage during the 2017 rainy season. However, Alex added that, because the Chester Morse Lake Pump Plant was newly installed in 2015/2016,- the system is being activated this year to test function while still under the one year contractor warranty.

Alex noted that it is Salmon spawning season, and if folks who missed the Landsburg tour were interested in a tour of the hatchery and dam at Landsburg, to send an email asking for information on how and where to do this. As an added follow up note, as a part of Salmon Season, tours of the

Landsburg Park and Dam will be offered October weekends from 11 am to 4 pm. More information can be found here: <http://www.govlink.org/watersheds/8/action/salmon-season/cedar.aspx>

- **CAC Member:** [To look for this kind of information] I would go to the SPU website; I personally like that level of detail.
- **CAC Member:** Who is the intended audience? Are you trying to reach those who care about this topic already, or those who might not care/know about it?
 - **Staff Response:** Good question. We don't always know who we're trying to reach.
 - **CAC Member:** I think the concept of water supply is novel to most people. I think the average person doesn't think about where their water comes from. I recommend you start with the very basics, and use social media to teach about it.
 - **Staff Response:** We try to stay out of the news. Our message is generally that you should always use water wisely, but that we're behind the scenes managing. If we need you to do something different, we'll talk to you about it.
 - **CAC Member:** So, the question you should be asking is "how do we make this readily available to those who want it?"
- **CAC Member:** Does SPU have a Facebook page? People would be interested in seeing this.
- **CAC Member:** Are you fielding lots of questions like this right now?
 - **Staff Response:** We got a question from KIRO and they ran a quick spot.
- **CAC Member:** To me, the easiest thing would be to use imagery to communicate this message. Either with icons or red/green/yellow indicators.
 - **Staff Response:** We tried to do the icons, but there's so much nuance to color-coding.
- **CAC Member:** In the beginning, you gave a succinct discussion on how the water supply works, explaining the three seasons. I recommend that you share that information. You'd be beating them to the punch, so to speak, so they'd know what was going to be happening in July, when "we're in the draw-down season." I like the idea of communicating this via the water quality report, because it's a beautiful document and a fairly big deal. But a little description on the website couldn't hurt as well.
- **Guest:** Do you think folks would be interested in forecasts related to pumping needs, and energy requirements? Example; "Here's where we are in the year, and it's looking like there may be pumping involved."
 - **Staff Response:** The last time we used the pumps was 2015, and the media was curious to hear about it. We could talk about power use for that. It's a relatively low power use for the pumps, compared to our overall power requirements.
- **CAC Member:** I think it's important to communicate: Are we near a crisis, or has there ever been a crisis?
- **CAC Member:** I think that you invite the possibility (or run the risk) of inviting more questions from the public by sharing additional information. You will be getting more interest.
 - **Staff Comment:** It would be good to know what topics the public is interested in regarding the drinking water system. It would be good to regularly get input at CAC Meetings on what topics we should be communicating with the public about, and when.
- **CAC Member:** Graph is missing 2015 for Average WY (blue line).
 - **Staff Comment:** The water year starts in October and the graph you see just hasn't been updated yet to reflect that information for 2015.
- **CAC Member:** Podcasts are a nice way to go deep in a topic. NPR has a Terrestrial Podcast series that might be a good fit. You're not pushing information out, but it's a nice way to create visibility in the community. People can access at will, and can engage with an expert. Some level

of transparency is helpful to the community. If you wanted to post on the website, post at two levels: intervention required/no concerns, but also have a dashboard approach. You could provide regular snapshots and link to the blog or other resources where folks could get more in-depth info.

3. RainWise Rebate Program

Tom Gannon, RainWise Program Manager, shared the RainWise Workshop slide deck that is presented to members of the public and advertised via Direct Mail (postcards). He invited CDWAC and WSAC input on the presentation content and format.

Questions on “the problem”

- **CAC Member:** In a separated system, you’re going to get more of that (water) pushed out to waterways?
 - **Staff Response:** Yes. In a separated system, the (storm)water will never go to the treatment plant. At the very least, in a dry weather period a combined sewer system will send stormwater to the treatment plant. There are pros and cons to both systems.
- **CAC Member:** Do the “specs” include the toxins, and not just the effluent?
 - **Staff Response:** Some things are still getting through, such as particulate plastics/micro plastics and medicines. As we get more info on the impacts of these, we may begin to look at better treatment options, but that’s more of a concern of King County Wastewater Treatment Division.

Feedback on the presentation

- **CAC Member:** The General Manager/CEO of SPU is very much into GSI. I may have the numbers wrong, but I think \$25million was recommended for GSI in the Strategic Business Plan Update.
- **CAC Member:** Why isn’t this available to the commercial community? I’ve got a project pending; a full City square block. We’ve looked at these cistern plans. There’s nothing available to the community. I was told by multiple folks in the utility who said it’s not available for commercial.
 - **Staff response:** There is a Stormwater Facility Credit program available. With regards to RainWise rebates, we’re actually targeting large roofs more and more, because our return on investment is larger. But commercial buildings can be tricky, with limited green space and sometimes internal gutters. It has to be a project where the risk is acceptable. For instance, in Belltown, you have lots of big roofs, but not a lot of room for rain gardens and above ground cisterns. We’re looking at options: is it possible to have underground vaults? I would be glad to talk to anybody about their roof, commercial or not. I would need to run the project by engineers and would need to look at impact on the Program.
- **CAC Member:** You said you’ve done 1,400 installations to date? How long of a time frame is that within?
 - **Staff response:** Since 2011. We started a little slow, and are seeing probably 150-200 per year. With an emphasis on bigger roofs, we’ll see fewer individual and more acreage being diverted.
 - **CAC Member:** So, you’ve been going to communities and giving presentation?
 - **Staff response:** Yes, we’ve been targeting basins in the North, Central, and South, Central. We go to Farmers Markets, grocery stores, and relevant community events. Anything with a connection to stormwater and resource conservation.
- **CAC Member:** How do you get the word out for your events? Or are they arranged?

- **Staff response:** We roll out on a schedule with King County and consultants. We do regular mailings (Examples provided). We also do reminder cards about maintenance. We try to keep RainWise top of mind.
- **CAC Member:** Who in Washington State is working on the changes to the rebate as federally taxable income?
 - **Staff response:** Senator Diane Feinstein is leading the charge Nationally. There are now both House and Senate bills in the works with bi-partisan sponsorship.
 - **Madeline:** Within SPU, Mark Jaeger has been pursuing this every year.
 - **CAC Member:** I hadn't heard of it from a public perspective; I wonder if a public campaign would be helpful in pushing this forward?
- **CAC Member:** Does each contractor work with the homeowner to pick plants?
 - **Staff response:** Each contractor runs their business differently. Some are part of a bigger permaculture community and may focus on native plants, or edibles. Plant selection is really between you and your contractor.
- **CAC Member:** Initial installation: Are plants included in that cost?
 - **Staff response:** Plants are included in the estimate from contractors. How much is covered by the rebate depends on the rebate calculation, i.e. amount of rain being captured. The calculator is available online, at seattle.rainwise.gov.
- **CAC Member:** You mentioned the business case. You also mentioned a big CSO tank in Seward Park. How does the economics work in the business case between the massive systems versus a private cistern?
 - **Staff response:** I can't speak to the accounting and engineering, but generally we're trying to avoid the need for large, expensive infrastructure. The Program also gives folks a better sense of ownership of their impacts to the sound; there is the added benefit that they've taken responsibility as stewards of their environment.
 - **CAC Member:** To add to that, there's a couple pretty good literature reviews on the economics (of green infrastructure), and the Environmental Protection Agency has done a comparative analysis of green vs. gray. By and large, they find GSI to be more cost effective.
- **CAC Member:** Is there any effort to reach townhomes? I've wanted a cistern, but we have a shared downspout.
 - **Staff response:** Condo Associations and covenants can be difficult to work with. And anything built after 1993 has storm water code retention requirements.
- **CAC Member:** Your enthusiasm is contagious!
- **CAC Member:** Are you trying to reach X number of eligible homeowners by a certain time frame?
 - **Staff response:** Not exactly. Our limit isn't our outreach ability, it's the capacity of contractors. Right now, we don't have enough contractors doing RainWise installations to meet the demand.
 - **Madeline:** But to add to that, there is a metric that we try to meet each year, and there is a budget to expand the eligible areas in years to come.
- **Staff comment:** Liked the equity issue related to taxable income; could we have that in the presentation ongoing?

The RainWise presentation will be shared in Webinar format on November 13. Natasha encouraged members to share additional feedback on the presentation in advance of that meeting with Sheryl and Natasha, and they would share with Tom.

4. CDWAC/WSAC Transition

Sheryl Shapiro provided a brief history on the reasons for the two Committees meeting jointly. She discussed SPU's move to a more LOB-focused Utility, and how meeting independently would allow the respective CACs to dive deeper into individual LOB topics and provide spaciousness for deeper discussion. She noted that there are still some topics where the two Committees would overlap in interest, so to expect the possibility of meeting together in the future. The CAC Program will continue to hold All-CAC Meetings and coordinate cross-LOB work.

Beginning January 2018, CDWAC and WSAC will begin meeting separately. Sheryl said she would send out a survey to determine which week of the month makes the most sense for each CAC, or possibly other days of the week. She emphasized that she did not want to lose any members as a result of scheduling difficulties, so would be looking for an option that works for everyone.

Sheryl passed out a roster with each Committee's member makeup. She said to let her know if the roster did not meet their expectations, or if they had additional questions or concerns.

5. Longfellow 25th Anniversary

This year is the 25th anniversary of the Longfellow Action Plan, one of the first urban creek plans in Washington State. Sheryl provided a brief overview of the work she is doing to plan for the celebration. The first event will be held Sunday, November 5. Sheryl passed out the event flyer, which will be shared on social media. Sheryl said she will share flyer once it's finalized, and if CAC members would like to volunteer please let her know. She said later in the season they will have additional events, further south on the creek.

- **CAC Member:** Do you know about the group called "Friends of Dragonfly?"
 - **Staff Response:** Yes. And I met with them. It's a local group focusing on the garden beds underneath the sculpture.

6. Landsburg Field Trip Debrief, Around the table / Community Insights

Landsburg Tour Debrief: Kathy Curry provided a brief overview of the Landsburg tour and invited CAC members to share their experiences.

- **CAC Member:** On a personal level, I've been an engineer that is mostly chained to a table. You design these things, but don't get to see them in the field. Through the tour, I was led to appreciate something about fluid mechanics. You can't see it moving from above, but the velocity of it is powerful. I just thought the whole facility was impressive. Unfortunately, we didn't get to see the salmon (timing was off by mere hours).
- **CAC Member:** One thing that struck me was the extraordinary effort that is taking place to transport fish in trucks; enormous amount of specialized infrastructure.
 - **CAC Member:** Yeah, that whole sockeye salmon separation was crazy. They basically, at that facility, manually sort out the sockeye from other species because sockeye is not native to this area. They're native to the region, just not that stream system.
 - **Staff response:** As we learned during the tour, it was thought that the Sockeye might spawn in such large quantities that they could negatively affect water quality. So, it was

decided that it was best to sort out the Sockeye and not let them spawn above the dam, managing the Sockeye instead through use of the hatchery we toured followed by downstream release.

Around the Table / Community Insights

- **A CAC member shared** that they went to the Duwamish River Festival. They toured the RainWise and SPU/Source Control tables. The member said they played the 'Our Waters in Jeopardy Game,' which they thought was a really cool way to engage.
- **A CAC member shared** that they were happy to see SPU promoting Green Seattle Day (flyers were handed out at the meeting). They said their employer, Seattle Audubon, is partnering with Seattle Parks Department and Forterra, recruiting volunteers for an event in West Seattle. They felt that all the tree planting efforts pair well with the increased goal of GSI benefits.
- **A CAC member shared** that they took a tour of the facility at Rattlesnake. They gave a shout out to the engineers that worked on that project, noting that the pump has won a bunch of awards for engineering standards. The member said they were interning with SPU and had written an article on it; they said they will find out if they can share the article with the CACs.
- **A CAC member shared** that they volunteer with the Pike Place Market Foundation. With their CDWAC-WSAC hat on, they provided an informal presentation / outreach to discuss flushables with the folks on the Board. They said that 90% of them were clueless about this issue.
 - **Staff question:** Does the market have the flushable posters?
 - **CAC Member:** That's something I could approach them about.
- Sheryl will send a link with Salmon See-son.

Adjourned 7:34 PM