



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

**June 8, 2016 Meeting Notes**

**Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue**

**Room 4901**

**5:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

Committee Members & CAC Staff	Present?	SPU Staff & Guests	Role
<b>WSAC</b>		Sheryl Shapiro	CDWAC Liaison and CAC Program Manager
Tom Grant	Y	Julie Burman	WSAC Liaison
Faon O'Connor	Y (P)	Madeline Goddard	SPU, Deputy Director, Drainage and Wastewater Branch
Melissa Levo	Y	Natasha Walker	CAC Program Coordinator
Kelly McCaffrey	Y	Julie Crittenden	SPU, DWW System Assessment, Operations and Monitoring Division
Teresa Stern	Y	Alex Chen	Director, Water Planning & Program Management Division
Kyle Stetler	Y		
Rodney Schauf	Y	<b>Guests</b>	
Paul Reed	Y	Jeff Upton	
Chelsea Jefferson	N	Michael Godfried	
<b>CDWAC</b>			
Clifford Armstrong III	Y		
Schyler Hect	Y		
Patrick Jablonski	Y		
Christina Ciampa	N		
Seth McKinney	N		
Noel Miller	Y		
Devin O'Reilly	N		
Gary Olson	Y		
Evan Osborne	N		
Michael Williams	Y		
Mariella White	Y		

**ACTION ITEMS**

- ✓ When Sheryl receives edits from presenters, she will distribute the May CDWAC/WSAC notes electronically to members for review/feedback/ approval.

- ✓ Advisory Committee members requested to include the RSJ questions list (brainstormed at the 5/25 All-CAC meeting) in distributed meeting notes.
- ✓ Advisory Committee members suggested including RSJ commitments in the proposed Member Agreement (companion document to Charter).
- ✓ Sheryl will be sending out a self-assessment/survey to gauge interest level and availability to participate in an RSJ Learning plan. One option is to form a sub-committee to provide RSJ development opportunities and increase application of an equity lens in future committee discussion.; Sheryl requested thoughts on that be sent to her via email.
- ✓ Julie Crittenden to look into the impacts of chemical root control on trees.
- ✓ As follow-up to Alex Chen’s presentations on Drinking Water Quality and Water Supply, CAC members were asked to review the following links shown during the meeting and provide the following feedback:
  - Current Water Supply Graphs : [www.seattle.gov/util/watersupply](http://www.seattle.gov/util/watersupply)
    - How is this layout working for you?
    - Should the website be answering any other questions?
    - Anything we should change?
  - Lead in Water: [http://www.seattle.gov/util/MyServices/Water/Water\\_Quality/WaterSourcesContaminants/Lead/index.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/util/MyServices/Water/Water_Quality/WaterSourcesContaminants/Lead/index.htm)
    - Does this match the kind of information you are receiving during the meeting?
    - Does this communicate clearly?
    - Are there any other questions need to be answered by this website?
    - Please play with mapping tool to see service line and let us know your feedback!

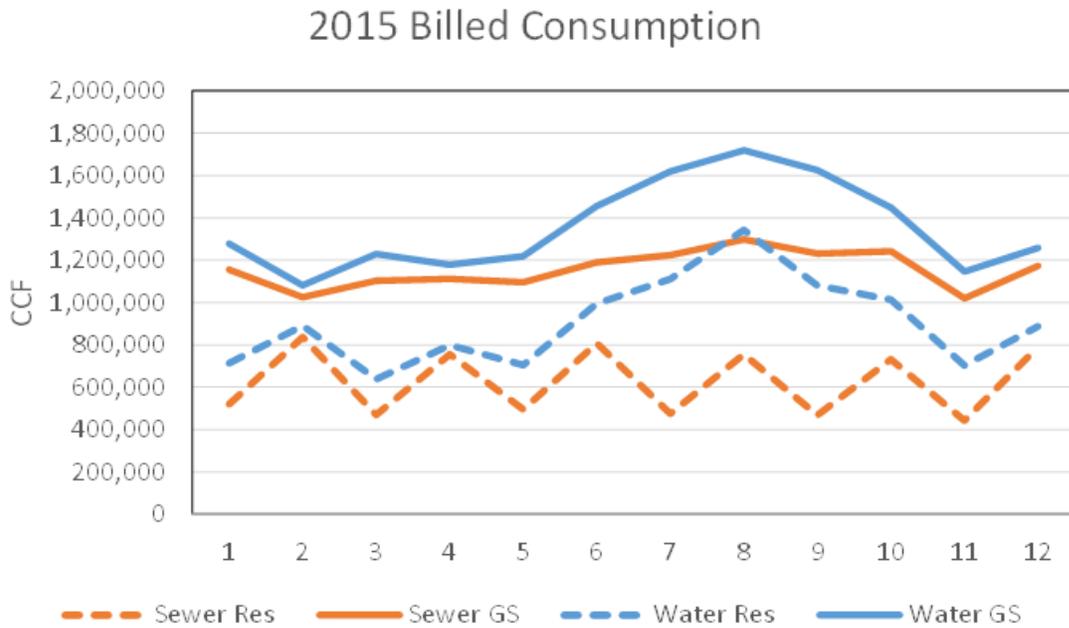
## 1. Regular Business

WSAC Co-Chair, Rodney Schauf opened the meeting and reminded attendees to sign-in. Introductions were made. May meeting notes were not ready for review due to transit in staff; Sheryl will distribute them electronically for review once completed.

### Follow-up to ACTION ITEMS from May meeting:

- The following is Craig Omoto’s responses to questions posed by the committee at their May 11, 2016 meeting:
  - Request data on summer sewer rate differences between residential and commercial
    - Answer: All customers are billed the same sewer rate year-round – there is no difference between residential and commercial.
  - Request information on possible options for customer to average use so don’t have peaking bills.
    - Answer: If this is about Budget Billing, then I would suggest contacting someone in Customer Service for more info. (Sheryl will follow up with Customer Service on this).
  - Residential vs commercial – sewer – is there a big difference between two groups during the summer? Craig will get some data; sewer doesn’t have the peaks like water does
    - Answer: Below is a chart comparing billed water and sewer consumption, residential vs. general service. It shows that for general service, sewer billed consumption is less peaky in the summer months. It’s more difficult to see with

residential due to the bi-monthly billing, but it shows that residential sewer consumption (due to the sewer max policy) doesn't have the peakiness as water.



## 2. Update on Drinking Water Quality: Alex Chen, Director of Water Planning & Program Management Division

The 2015 Drinking Water Quality Report was passed out to members. Alex explained the regulatory requirements for the Report but noted that it was also used as an opportunity to communicate messages to our customers. He emphasized that feedback from the CAC would be helpful in shaping these messages before being delivered to the general public.

Alex provided a review/update on concerns regarding lead goosenecks. He described the investigation that Tacoma Water did on the high lead levels in galvanized service lines in May and provided background on the water treatment process. He walked through SPU's service line schematic, explaining that SPU manages the service line to the water meter and that about 5% of those lines may have a lead gooseneck. SPU's corrosion control program is designed to deposit a protective film on the inside of pipes that may have lead components.

During Tacoma Water's sampling, they found high lead levels in the water. As a result of this, SPU conducted similar testing in real world scenarios on five galvanized service lines, in order to ensure that the corrosion control strategy is working well. The results were all well below the 15ppb lead action level. SPU then continued their investigation with 9 more houses, two of which had lead goosenecks, and none of the results came close to 15ppb. The next step, Alex explained, is to work with the State Department of Health to communicate these results. While the limited testing confirms that this is not a

public health issue, SPU is seeking to be supportive of the State as they look at the whole of lead exposure, including other sources such as house paint.

Alex asked CAC members to complete some homework, by reviewing SPU's lead in water webpage and provide feedback on:

- Whether this matches the kind of information they are receiving during the meeting
  - Whether the website communicates clearly
  - Are there any other questions need to be answered by this website?
  - Please play with mapping tool to see service line and let us know your feedback!
- 
- **Member Question:** Is 1920-1930 the time period in which lead goosenecks were installed and are they all in the same neighborhood?
  - **Answer:** Yes, typically installation before about 1930. There are a few geographical areas with more galvanized service lines in that age range.
  - **Member Comment:** There are utilities in the western United States that use lead service lines.
  - **Answer:** Our system did not use lead service lines. We used galvanized steel service lines, which corrode. In the 1960s and 1970s, we used plastic and found that they corroded even faster. We now use copper.
  - **Member Question:** Is the galvanized pipe toxic in any way?
  - **Answer:** Limited testing confirms that the corrosion control program is working well and protecting customers from lead exposure in water. Galvanized service lines are steel pipe dipped into a zinc-rich dip, which protects from corrosion. That dip can be as high as 2% lead (varies considerably). We wondered if we might see lead leaching out from the galvanized coating, but our investigation did not show this.
  - **Member Question:** There is a problem when copper is connected with galvanized. Does that cause issues? There are homes that have this issue.
  - **Answer:** Galvanic corrosion reaction – when two metals touch and there's a conductor (such as water), resulting in one metal that corrodes. When we connect different metals, we use a dielectric union (insulating) so there's not a galvanic reaction between the metals.

### 3. Update on Water Supply: Alex Chen, Director of Water Planning & Program Management Division

The outlook for peak season 2016 is good despite the fact that snow melt occurred earlier than normal. Alex shared graphs of snow melt, water consumption (including reviewing results of heat waves as well as voluntary reduction), as well as combined reservoir storage and cumulative precipitation maps. He explained that Seattle has one of the biggest wet to dry (winter to summer) differences in the County. Alex reminded CAC members that SPU updates graphs on the water supply website each week, and would be interested to hear from members on the content of that site.

- **Member Question:** Do you think you'll need to activate the request to curtail water use?
- **Answer:** Not at this point. Models show that we should be fine, but if there was another historically dry period we'd have to re-evaluate.

- **Member Question:** Is it more about how hot it is, or precipitation?
- **Answer:** They go hand-in-hand. Lack of precipitation has the double effect of less water filling the reservoirs and people using more water. When it's hot, people use more water. It also evaporates from the soil faster, leaving less to fill our reservoirs.

Feedback on the website was electronically received by committee members and passed along to Water Systems Policy Liaison Julie Burman, and Alex Chen, Director of Water Planning & Program Management Division. Thanks were extended to Teresa Stern for her specific and helpful comments.

**4. CMOM (Capacity Management and Operations Maintenance) roadmap: Julie Crittenden, SPU, Drainage and Wastewater Branch, System Assessment, Operations and Monitoring Division**

Julie Crittenden provided a brief program overview and 5-year roadmap for this wastewater-focused maintenance program. She also provided a quick drainage and wastewater system overview for Seattle. The three types of DWW systems are:

- Separated: sewer is one pipe, storm drain/drainage is separate.
- Partially separated system; roof drains and wastewater from buildings go into the sewer, stormwater from the street goes into the drainage pipe.
- Combined systems: there is one pipe that carries stormwater and wastewater.

Julie reviewed the program goals, regulatory drivers (NPDES and Consent Decree), and desired outcomes of the CMOM program: reducing sewer overflows and preventing dry weather overflows. She reviewed the sewer overflow causes chart, which showed the differences between 2015 and 2016. Members discussed some of the differences and projections for 2016.

Julie explained that CMOM is about maintaining what you already have. She reviewed the Program strategies and how they influenced the 2016-2010 Roadmap program direction, i.e. what initiatives they planned to focus on to meet their 2020 vision. Julie reviewed the initiatives in more detail, sharing a Draft Roadmap and explaining that the next steps are to develop a scope, timeline and more detail on each of these initiatives. Julie provided CAC members with a checklist to indicate which initiatives they are most interested in hearing more about in the future. Members were encouraged to review the document e-mailed prior to the meeting in more detail, and then complete the checklist of indicating those initiatives which they would like to learn more about and to include their name.

Julie addressed side sewers, a specific concern of the Committee. Julie explained that SPU owns the main and connection to the main, but the pipe that connects from the house to the main under the street belongs to the property owner. She explained that homeowners can find it difficult to know how to maintain and repair their side sewers, especially if a problem occurs in their side sewer under a roadway.

Madeline Goddard, SPU Deputy Director, Drainage and Wastewater Branch took a moment to acknowledge Julie Crittenden for her work. She commended her on her ability to map out this project, which matrixes the full organization, since beginning on it in December 2015. She also commended Julie on her ability to sort out the project roles and responsibilities in such a short timetable.

- **Member Question:** How do you know when you have a CSO?

- **Answer:** We monitor them and get an alarm. You can see it in real time on the website we share with King County.
- **Member Question:** How many CSO outfalls are there?
- **Answer:** We have 86 CSO outfalls.
- **Member Question:** On an average of 1 overflow per year, how did a record rainfall year impact that average?
- **Answer:** Of the 86 outfalls, approximately half of them are “controlled”, which means we average less than 1 failure per year. The others have more than one, so that’s why they’re part of this project.
- **Member Question:** What is the protocol if you’re not meeting the SSO performance threshold of 4 overflows/100 miles of pipe/year?
- **Answer:** If we meet them, we’re left mostly on our own to manage them, in consultation with the regulatory agencies. If we don’t meet them, we need to develop a plan for how we are going to meet them and discuss it with the regulatory agencies, who may increase their requirements on how we manage the wastewater system. If we have a storm event >25year flood, this is considered an extreme wet weather event and we do not have to consider that in our performance goal. Department of Ecology does not require us to consider them.
- **Member Question:** So are these performance measurements dictated by Department of Ecology? Are any of ours higher?
- **Answer:** Our regulators are the US EPA and WA State Department of Ecology.
- **Member Question:** What does zero poop in the water look like? Is that even possible in the urban environment?
- **Answer:** In order for us to meet the requirements, we put together a long term plan, completed last year. But there’s a point at which there is diminishing return. As you spend more money, you’re going to get less benefit out of your action.
- **Member Question:** How are you able to see the sewer overflows? How do you know they have occurred?
- **Answer:** Most of the calls come from customers; generally via a sewer backup in their house. Sometimes it comes from a report from the Department of Ecology.
- **Member Question:** With the extreme wet weather events, who gets to classify them?
- **Answer:** We have a meteorologist on staff and when we have a large storm event James develops a map of the intensity of storm differentiated by neighborhood.
- **Member Question:** Are structural failures at all tied to extreme weather events in the year previous?
- **Answer:** Not typically. Structural failures have more to do with the age of our system. A lot of our pipes are around 80 years old.
- **Answer:** I’m going to add that there were at least 3 incidents on one pipe. We were repairing a force main (a pressurized pipe) and some sewage was released. It was minor, but any sewage released is recorded.
- **Member Question:** Are you tying this in with your Asset Management Program? I don’t see anything on your work plan.

- **Answer:** We are; that's our plan. We have a section in the document called "Key Program Values" and I think asset management is one we should put in that spot.
- **Member Question:** Regarding "Assessing Drainage Storage Facilities," is that helping to prevent CSOs?
- **Answer:** The effort is focused on drainage storage facilities to address flooding and stormwater control.
- **Member Question:** Why does assessing drainage storage facilities fall under CMOM?
- **Answer:** CMOM at SPU has been focused on the wastewater system. However, we want to increase our attention on the drainage/stormwater system. This initiative was developed because of that desire.
- **Answer (Madeline):** To me, CMOM has always been a pipe system and since the pipe system is always combined I've always felt we need to manage them the same. Appendix 13 to our Stormwater Permit is requiring us to develop a stormwater plan for the lower Duwamish. Ecology is thinking the same as I am: what is good for the sewer is good for the drainage. We have to rehab and sustain our drainage system.
- **Member Question:** Explain how the side sewer piece fits into overall sewer performance?
- **Answer:** All of wastewater originates out of homes and buildings and we are not responsible for the flow until it goes into our pipes. If it doesn't make it there, it may backup at the home level or end up elsewhere. We have a vested interest in what the side sewer condition is, even if we don't claim ownership of side sewers. If we have stormwater or other water that doesn't need treatment coming into the wastewater system, it takes up capacity in our pipes and at the wastewater sewage plant.
- **Member Question:** Can you go over chemical root control? What are the environmental impacts?
- **Answer:** A number of utilities use chemicals to control roots growing into sewer mains. There was an assessment done years ago to look at the environmental impacts of root control chemicals. We treat during the summertime when there is less flow to keep the chemical in the line themselves. This is a longer-term control option than cutting the roots.
- **Member Question:** Does the chemical used on the roots back up to the tree and hurt the tree?
- **Member Comment:** It normally kills the roots back a few feet.
- **Answer:** They've tested this and it doesn't kill the trees.
- **Member Question:** Is chemical root control an institutional strategy or also an option for homeowners?
- **Answer:** There's a limitation to the quantity we can put in the sewer system and we work closely with King County each time we do this application. So no, this is not something we want to recommend to homeowners. It is one tool in the toolbox to keep the sewer clear but it can't be used at all times.
- **Member Question:** Looking around us here, there's enormous growth in infrastructure in Downtown Seattle and has likely exceeded expectations. Do you need an increased capacity for managing sewer flow?
- **Answer:** It's definitely a concern on how to manage growth (and climate change). That's why we're really excited about the wastewater management plan we're working on.

- **Member Comment:** We also need to be looking at a capacity charges/impact charge. How do we ensure the businesses driving this growth are paying their fair share of the impact and pay for upgrades we need to make to the system?

### 5. Review of 5/25 All-CAC Meeting

Sheryl asked CAC members who attended the 5/26 All-CAC meeting to share highlights and impressions. The meeting focused on the Race and Social Justice Initiative and equity work, with presentations given by staff from SPU's Environmental Justice and Service Equity Division (Michael Davis, Director, Steve Hamai and Maythia Airhart). The Committee then discussed how to integrate equity and RSJ work into future meetings. Please see 5/25 meeting notes and PowerPoint for more details.

Highlights:

- Melissa discussed the income and language maps, and how they would be helpful when thinking about the geography of programs.
- Committee members were impressed with the sensitivity of presenters when discussing geographic disparities.
- Committee members were impressed by the diversity of the City, mapping of the language barriers, and discussion around being able to communicate in ways community members are most comfortable.
- "One piece I took away was the challenge to be mindful of that when discussing all programs, linking those programs with an RSJ perspective. Examples include FOG (Fats, Oils, and grease) control, or side sewers, which would be approached differently when considering the language and cultural diversity of the audience."
- "Theatre bathrooms example was a great way to discuss how equity issues impact everyone"
- All rolls up into the broad message of SPU, but also into how the CACs function.
- Committee members thought the tips provided for Water Conservation during the drought last summer was a great example of equity considerations: translating into 13 languages, tailoring the materials to more communities. Shows more acknowledgement of the micro pockets of communities throughout Seattle that we're not normally reaching.
- The history of the RSJ department at SPU and the upcoming expansion/ further integration of Equity-focused procedures within each of SPU's Branches.
- The introduction/ growth of transcreation standards/policies (this is the creation of messages and communications as a partnership with communities)
- The breakdown of institutional racism
- Fluidity in the development of messages

Committee members brainstormed RSJ-focused questions to regularly consider when discussing SPU programs, policies, projects, and goals. Sheryl will be sending out a self-assessment/survey to gauge interest level and availability to participate in an RSJ Learning plan. One option is to form a CAC sub-committee to provide RSJ development opportunities and increase application of an equity lens in future committee discussion. Sheryl requested thoughts on that be sent to her via email.

- **Member Question:** Will you be sending out that complete list? It can be hard to maintain that (RSJ) mindset at each meeting and I think having those questions would be helpful. Also, I didn't see any inclusion of that in the Draft Member Agreement. This would be one way to maintain that moving forward.
- **Answer:** I think we have that in the Charter, but there could be space for that in the Member Agreement. We'll have those questions typed up in the meeting notes. Maybe we can also develop our own little sheet to keep in front of us in the future.
- **Member Comment:** Reminds me of the stories of field staff interaction with those being affected by side sewer overflows: how that was being communicated, how that interaction played out.
- **Member Comment:** Sometimes the easier thing to focus on is the communication side of what we do, but sometimes it's important to focus on the way we make decisions on the work we do. Ex: complaint maps are linked to primarily higher income, more English speaking customers. What does that say about our decision to work in that neighborhood? Should we be looking at demographic data in those instances?

## 6. CAC Charter Next Steps

Sheryl reminded Committee members to send their comments by 6/10. If there are significant changes, the new version would come back to the Committee, otherwise the draft document will be passed up to Branch Directors and then to the Director's Office.

## 7. Field Trip Planning

Julie Burman discussed past field trips and explained some of the scheduling limitations. Possible field trips discussed including visiting in-town drinking water reservoirs when under construction, the water quality lab, tour of the Cedar and Tolt Watersheds, and canoe trips on the Duwamish. Sheryl will provide a poll to gather input on availability and interest.

## 8. Around the table (Interesting items, open business, community events)

Committee members discussed the possibility of a July meeting. Consensus was not found, so it was decided that a poll would be sent out to gauge availability. Sheryl also noted that the meeting time could be a field trip, and that she would be checking with Michael Davis about the status of their field trip scheduling with community organizations.

Sheryl also provided some key updates:

- SPU Communications is gathering focus groups in June to discuss the Strategic Business Plan. Possibly a stipend involved. Committee members should expect an email on this in the next week. Uncertainty on whether this will be replacing an All-CAC opportunity for feedback.
- SPU is forming a new customer review panel (9-member) for the next iteration of the Strategic Business Plan. Those members will be appointed by Mayor and City Council. Sheryl has submitted all Committee member bios, so they may be contacted. Those meetings usually take place during the day, 2 times per month.

- Sheryl is considering a Policy sub-Committee to dive into policy issues in more detail, separate from the Committee meetings. This is in part due to the fact that the SPU Drainage and Wastewater team are developing policies that they will need some focused input on. The Subcommittee could then recommend what items would be helpful to bring to the Committee as a whole.

Committee members shared interesting updates and upcoming events:

- A Committee member shared their experience at the Living Futures Institute Conference in Seattle (2<sup>nd</sup> week of May) which has integrated design sessions (e.g. biomimicry, water issues). The committee member stated they would recommend attending the conference in the future.
- A Committee member shared their experience on a boat tour on the Duwamish, via their volunteer position with Earth Corps was shared. It was interesting to see this river by boat, rather from a restoration standpoint on land. A member of Duwamish tribe went over history of tribe, neighborhood, pollution, and river access points. Access points were emphasized because they affect a community's exposure to the river. Committee members were interested to learn more about the availability of this tour.
- A Committee member noted that the KCD (King Conservation District) plant starts are all dying because of lack of rain.
- A Committee member volunteered with City of Renton labeling storm drains with the Northwest Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers.
- Committee members were encouraged to attend the June 11<sup>th</sup>, "Influence of Confluence" event in NE Seattle, celebrating Thornton Creek restoration work.
- A Committee member shared details about a 2 day conference next week in Tacoma for staff of summer schooling programs called "Summer Blast." For \$40, breakfast, lunch and 12 hours of professional development are included. Last year, 200 folks attended and already this year 200 people have registered. This Committee member is also giving a talk on structural racism on July 8 at a conference for the Department of Early Learning and OSPI.
- **Member Question** (Regarding submitting comments on the PDF of the Water quality report distributed by email today): Is tomorrow too late to submit comments?
  - **Answer:** It may be, but if the comments are not too extensive and you can complete ASAP, I'm happy to forward your comments to our colleague.

**Adjourned 7:30PM**