

Minutes March 5, 2026 – Final

Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

1. Welcome, Roll Call & Announcements

a. Attendance as follows:

No.	First Name	Last Name	Utility	Role Related to Operating Board
1	Hilary	Allison	SPU	N/A
2	Will	Appleton	Soos Creek	Utility Rep
3	Sean	Bauer	Cedar River	Utility Rep
4	Boyd	Benson	Bothell	Utility Rep
5	Regina	Carpenter	SPU	N/A
6	Alex	Chen	SPU	Utility Rep + Board Member + Chair
7	Julie	Crittenden	SPU	Utility Rep + Alt Board Member
8	Jamie	Crookston	Coal Creek	N/A
9	Kathy	Curry	Woodinville	Utility Rep
10	Katie	Dahlberg	SPU	N/A
11	Bob	Danson	Olympic View	Utility Rep + Alt Board Member
12	Jeremy	DelMar	Highline	Utility Rep + Board Member
13	Pete	Eberle	WD 90	Utility Rep
14	Will	Erickson	SPU	N/A
15	Abdoul	Gafour	Renton	Utility Rep

16	Elizabeth	Garcia	SPU	N/A
17	Terri	Gregg	SPU	N/A
18	Charlotte	Haines	North City	N/A
19	Patricia	Hale	North City	N/A
20	Roxanne	Heller	WD 119	N/A
21	Ulysses	Hillard	SPU	N/A
22	Christian	Hoffman	Woodinville	N/A
23	Jason	Kintner	Mercer Island	Utility Rep + Alt Board Member
24	Amy	LaBarge	SPU	N/A
25	Paula	Laschober	SPU	Utility Rep + Board Member
26	Andrew	Lee	SPU	Utility Rep + Board Member
27	Ron	Little	n/a	Independent Member
28	Ethan	Maiefski	Northshore	Utility Rep
29	Pam	Maloney	Woodinville	N/A
30	Eugene	Mantchev	SPU	N/A
31	Michael	Martin	WD 20	Utility Rep
32	Patrick	Martin	Coal Creek	N/A
33	Suzi	O'Byrne	Coal Creek	Utility Rep
34	Kelly	O'Rourke	SPU	N/A
35	Jorgan	Peadon	WD 49	Utility Rep + Alt Board Member

36	Darcey	Peterson	WD 90	N/A
37	Diane	Pottinger	North City	Utility Rep + Board Member + Vice Chair
38	Kelsey	Quinn	SPU	N/A
39	Kathleen	Quong-Vermeire	Highline	N/A
40	Robert	Russell	Coal Creek	N/A
41	Carla	Snyder	Coal Creek	N/A
42	Shane	Young	WD 125	Utility Rep + Board Member

b. Announcements: None

2. Agenda/Minutes

- a. Feb 5, 2026 minutes were approved 6-0.
- b. Mar 5, 2026 agenda was approved 6-0.

3. Old Business

- a. **Wholesale Rate Study – Part 2 Rate Consultant Scope and Intro to O&M:** Regina Carpenter reviewed the scope for the independent rate consultant, including the various tasks and the roles of the consultant, SPU, and the OB. The group asked a few clarifying questions about the scope, but did not recommend any changes to the scope. The chair requested the Operating Board vote to acknowledge that the OB review of the consultant scope, and submittal of any recommendations, is complete. The Operating Board approved the motion 6-0. Regina also discussed the mechanics of how O&M costs are incorporated into the rate study.

4. New Business

- a. **Acoustic Leak Detection on Eastside Supply Line:** Eugene Mantchev shared information about the major acoustic leak detection project last October on the Tolt and Cedar Eastside Supply Lines. He covered the “SmartBall” technology, the inspection/detection process, the finding of no leaks on the Tolt and 3 leaks on the Cedar, and the next steps to further investigate the 3 leaks. Eugene mentioned the project was prompted by finding a large leak near Coal Creek in Dec 2020 and a concern about potential other large leaks. There were a few questions about the cost and cost-effectiveness of the project. The

consultant cost was approximately \$230K and SPU shared their perspective that since the purpose of the project was related to pipe integrity and avoiding large, expensive failures (rather than saving water), cost-effectiveness should be viewed through that lens.

- b. CIP Project Involvement 2026 Pilot:** Julie Crittenden, Ulysses Hillard, and Will Erickson gave a joint presentation related to the OB's request for more meaningful involvement in CIP project development. Julie reminded the OB of SPU's proposal at the December 2025 OB meeting of involvement in options analysis and the recommendation to pilot that with two specific projects. Ulysses gave an overview of the first project, the Cascades Dam and Lake Youngs Perimeter Dike. Will gave an overview of the second project, the Landsburg Dam Debris Passage. Julie then asked who is interested in participating in the options analysis opportunities described by Ulysses and Will. Overall, the interest level was low. Woodinville expressed interest in both projects (but noted a scheduling conflict) and Olympic View expressed interest in the Cascades Dam project. There was a discussion about the low level of interest and some alternative ideas of how to involve the OB. Julie said SPU would re-think involvement strategies and loop back with the OB.

5. Executive Summaries & Other Business

- a. Water Consumption – Actual Compared to Rate Study: Actual annual consumption to date is 0.3% lower than the 2020 Rate Study projection and 2.2% lower than this time last year.
- b. **Water Supply Update:** The group was briefly walked through the standard four supply graphs, which tell a story similar to last month. Cumulative precipitation is higher than the long-term average, however snowpack is well below average. Therefore, SPU is keeping the combined storage higher than the long-term average. Consumption is tracking the long-term average. A question was asked as to how SPU thinks the situation will play out if the snowpack doesn't improve. SPU mention we have already starting taking steps to address the low snowpack including higher and earlier refill. SPU also offered to have Elizabeth Garcia come to the next OB meeting to discuss water supply.
- c. **Next Meeting:**
 - i. April 2, 2026; 1-3pm; in person only at Mercer Island Community Center.

6. Good of the Order

- a. Alex Chen shared a short video of wildlife in the Tolt Watershed that was compiled for one of the Tolt relicensing studies.

Board meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.

Chair, Alex Chen

Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

Date