

Final Minutes
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board
November 3, 2022
1-3PM

WebEx

Board Members

Alex Chen, Chair
 *Patrick Sorenson
 *Large Category Alternate,
 Jeremy Delmar, voted on
 Agenda items 2a and 2b
 Diane Pottinger
 Shane Young
 Ron Little, 7th Member
 Andrew Lee

Utility Representatives

Mike Amburgey
 Bob Danson
 Jeremy Delmar
 Pete Eberle
 Michael Martin
 Al Nelson
 Suzi O’Byrne
 Terry Olson
 Jorgan Peadon
 Pete Eberle

SPU Attendees

Hilary Allison
 Regina Carpenter
 Kathy Curry
 John Edgerly
 Terri Gregg
 Paul Hanna
 Amy LaBarge
 Brent Lackey
 Ky Lewis
 Eugene Mantchev
 Martha Neuman
 Kelly O’Rourke
 Maura Patterson

Other Attendees

Kelly Boswell
 Charlotte Haines
 Patty Hale
 Roxanne Heller
 Pam Maloney
 Cameron Ogard
 Darcey Peterson
 Kathleen Quong-Vermiere
 Ron Ricker
 Robert Russell
 Ron Straka
 Logan Wallace

1. Welcome, Introductions & Announcements

Kathy Curry, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Wholesale Water Contracts Manager, completed a roll call of Board Members and confirmed there was a quorum to begin the meeting. Announcements included a reminder that the term for the Large Category Representatives is set to expire at the end of this year and a vote is expected at the December 1 Operating Board meeting next month. Kathy also reminded the group that the Board will be voting on the 2023 Chair and Vice Chair at the December meeting.

2. Agenda/Minutes

- a) The **October 6, 2022**, minutes were **approved 5-0**.
- b) The **November 3, 2022**, agenda was **approved 5-0**.

3. New Business

a) Fall Water Supply Update

John Edgerly, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Water Resources Hydrologist, provided a fall water supply update. John’s presentation included an overview of the regional water supply system, seasonal reservoir management objectives, a review of the 2022 Water Year, and a fall/winter water supply outlook.

b) 2022 Wholesale Customer Annual Survey

Kelly O’Rourke, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Water Conservation Manager, shared the results of the 2022 Annual Survey. Discussion ensued about the relationship between retail service area and retail sales, wholesale water, and non-revenue water, as well as overall clarification about the wholesale annual survey process.

c) Tolt Pipeline #1 Rehabilitation Project

Brent Lackey, SPU Strategic Advisor and Project Manager, shared information about the slip lining of a 2,550-foot section of Tolt Pipeline #1 to maintain transmission capacity and reliability (Row 34c on 2022 CIP, #C600756). Brent Lackey also provided updates on the related Tolt Slide Improvements Project (Row

34b on 2022 CIP, #C113010) and the Tolt Pipeline #2 Sheetpile Wall Stabilization Project (Row 34d on 2022 CIP, #C600764).

d) Wildfire Updates

Amy LaBarge, SPU Watershed Management Director, shared updates on wildfires near the South Fork Tolt River Watershed. A discussion followed about SPU Watershed staff assisting on neighboring fires and the value of gaining live fire experience. Amy LaBarge also discussed potential direct/near-term and long-term impacts of fires on the two water supply watersheds and explained that the normal return interval for fires in the Western Cascades based on evidence in the Cedar is about 300 years. Amy relayed that controlling access to, and activities within, the two municipal watersheds are important for limiting ignition potential, and SPU is benchmarking itself with similar utilities to stay abreast of new early detection technologies such as tracking websites for lightning strike locations and using infrared cameras to view heat signals and identify fire sources.

4. Executive Summaries & Other Business

- **Water Consumption from Watersheds vs. Rate Studies** – Alex Chen went over the graphs on Attachment 4a touching on rate study projections (i.e., the basis for current rates), for revenue versus actual consumption, and how individual wholesale purveyor rate structures can impact revenue.
- **Utility Tax and past due amounts.** Alex Chen clarified that the City of Seattle utility tax of about 15% is not applied to wholesale customers, only retail sales, as was discussed at a recent Washington State Sewer and Water District (WASWD) meeting. Andrew Lee also discussed the recent reduction in arrearages (lowering of about 5% since shutoff announcements were initiated) but still high dollar amounts.

5. Future Meetings

Kathy Curry provided reminders for the following upcoming Operating Board meetings:

- December 1, 2022 – regular monthly meeting – Webex remote meeting. Kathy Curry reminded Board Members that the 2023 work plan will be reviewed and voted on at the December meeting. Kathy also encouraged anyone who wants to show off a project or host a future Operating Board meeting to reach out to her.
- January 5, 2023 – To be voted on next month as part of the 2023 work plan review.
- February 2, 2022 – proposed hybrid monthly meeting at the Mercer Island Community and Event Center.

6. Good of the Order

Al Nelson posed a question about use of the arrearages grant funds and how others, including SPU, are prioritizing rebates to customers. Andrew Lee responded that SPU has not yet received any funds and SPU's Customer Care Section is developing a plan. Alex Chen offered to share a specific contact with Al Nelson. Al Nelson also thanked SPU for the recent tour of the Tolt Watershed, which was well received by his staff.

Board meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Approved by:


 Alex Chen (Dec 5, 2022 10:45 PST)

Chair, Alex Chen
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

12/05/2022

Date