

Final Minutes
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board
June 2, 2022
1-3PM

WebEx

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Utility Representatives</u>	<u>SPU Attendees</u>	<u>Other Attendees</u>
Alex Chen, Chair	Mike Amburgey	Chad Buechler	Kelly Boswell
Patrick Sorenson, V. Chair	Dave Barnes	Regina Carpenter	Bob Danson
Paula Laschober	Boyd Benson	Julie Crittenden	Charlotte Haines
Andrew Lee	Pete Eberle	Kathy Curry	Patty Hale
Ron Little, 7 th Member	Abdoul Gafour	Terri Gregg	Pam Maloney
Diane Pottinger	Steve Leniszewski	Amy LaBarge	Katie Nolan
Shane Young	Michael Martin	Ky Lewis	Darcey Peterson
	Al Nelson	Eugene Mantchev	Ron Straka
	Suzi O'Byrne	Maura Patterson	Jane Vandenberg
	Patrick Sorenson		Logan Wallace
	Ron Speer		

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. Kathy then reminded the group that it was the last Operating Board (OB) meeting that long-time OB members, Ron Speer and Matt Everett, would attend prior to their planned retirements.

Matt Everett shared that, following his retirement, Jeremy Delmar will be the new General Manager for Highline Water District, as well as the new Alternate Board Member for the Large Utility Category as based on Matt's poll of Large group members. Matt further shared that, based on his polling, Patrick Sorenson will be new Large Utility Category Board Representative following Matt's retirement. Ron Speer announced that Jane Vandenberg will be the new General Manager at Soos Creek Water and Sewer District following Ron's retirement.

Kathy also announced some other OB leadership changes including that Dave Barnes with Olympic View Water and Sewer District is leaving for a new position as General Manager with Mukilteo Water & Wastewater and that Jorgan Peardon will be the new General Manager at King County Water District No. 49.

Alex Chen, OB Chair and Deputy Director of SPU's Water Line of Business and Shared Services Branch mentioned that it was good to see everyone in person at the Cedar River Watershed for the May 5 meeting and requested feedback on returning to some in-person meetings in the future.

2. Agenda/Minutes

a) The **May 5, 2022**, minutes were **approved *5-0**.

b) The **June 2, 2022**, agenda was **approved *5-0**.

* SPU Board Member, Andrew Lee, was not present for these votes and joined later in the meeting.

3. Old Business

a) **2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan**

Alex Chen, OB Chair and SPU Director of the Drinking Water Line of Business and Shared Services, asked Operating Board Members from the Large, Medium, and Small Utility Categories to vote on whether the

annual Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) review process is complete. Alex reminded that wholesale water customers don't pay for capital projections until they are completed and put in service, and that there are annual opportunities to review the 6-year CIP, plus opportunities to review and provide feedback on specific capital projects that are in the options analysis phase. There was discussion from some members of it being difficult this year to dedicate time to review the CIP with the ongoing contract negotiations, COVID, and their own utility work.

Board Action: Large Category Utility Board Member, Matt Everett, voted yes; Medium Category Utility Board Member, Diane Pottinger, voted yes; and Small Category Utility Board Member, Shane Young, voted yes.

4. **New Business**

a) **2022 Washington State Water Sector Tabletop Exercise**

Chad Buechler, SPU's Emergency Management Program Manager, shared details on the water and wastewater seismic exercise that is planned for July 12, 2022. Chad relayed that both a 3-hour seminar and a 3-hour exercise would occur virtually, and participants would include water and wastewater utilities, the State Department of Health, Washington State Emergency Management, and some local emergency management agencies. Chad then went on to describe some of the details of the planned earthquake response seminar and the tabletop exercise that would be centered on a Cascadia Subduction Zone scenario. Chad also passed on seminar (<https://wa-water-eg-seminar.eventbrite.com/>) and exercise (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/washington-drinking-water-and-wastewater-earthquake-tabletop-exercise-registration-338346051147>) registration information, saying that registration for both events is not required.

b) **Cedar Eastside Supply Line Replacement at Coal Creek Parkway in Bellevue**

SPU's Eugene Mantchev, Professional Engineer, provided an overview of the Cedar Eastside Supply Line replacement project long Coal Creek Parkway in Bellevue. In his presentation, Eugene described the project location, background, operational considerations, replacement options, conceptual level schedule and costs, and the recommended option to replace approximately 1,000 feet of transmission pipeline (Row 34e on 2022 CIP, #C600888).

Following Eugene's presentation, Alex Chen reminded Board members that SPU is seeking input and feedback on the recommended project option. Input was provided by a few members. There was also an inquiry about the feasibility of using an HDPE liner in lieu of pipeline replacement; a question about the use of data retrieved from planned culvert inspections; and a question about how SPU is managing easement disputes.

Experiences using electromagnetic technologies to determine pipe conditions were shared. It was also shared that the SPU planning team did not consider an HDPE liner for this project due to hydraulic limitations and seismic concerns at this location. SPU plans to use the culvert inspection data to prioritize improvements as needed and offered to share and learn from others' easement disputes.

c) **Lake Forest Park Reservoir Covering Project**

Eugene Mantchev provided the next presentation, which included an update on the Lake Forest Park Reservoir covering project (Row 32a on 2022 CIP, #C600775), as well as operational usage of the reservoir. In his presentation, Eugene shared information about the project's location, background, operational considerations, and timeline,

Following the presentation, attendees asked if a tour could be provided before the reservoir goes fully back online. There were also questions about the liner material and cell connectivity. Eugene shared that the old

liner had a 20–25-year life, and that the new material may have closer to a 25-30-year life because the new material is more resilient to chlorine. Answering a few questions, Eugene said that the cells can be separated or connected via a butterfly valve. Eugene also shared that SPU was considering microgeneration of power by using small hydro turbines, driven by the drop in hydraulic head as water travels from the Tolt Treatment plant to the reservoir.

5. Executive Summaries & Other Business

- **Water Consumption from Watersheds vs. Rate Studies** – Alex Chen went over the graphs on Attachment 5a and reminded everyone that the largest predictor of water sales is the summer weather. He further pointed out that currently there was about 1% less water sales/revenue than projected, but that we are still early in the summer peak water use season.
- **Water Supply Update** – Alex Chen went over Attachment 5b and described that we are still in a cooler and wetter weather pattern and currently in good shape for water supply. The current water supply synopsis can be found at: <http://www.seattle.gov/util/MyServices/Water/WaterSupply/index.htm>
- **Cascade Water Alliance** – Andrew Lee provided some background on the current declining block contract between SPU and the Cascade Water Alliance (Cascade) and recent exploratory conversations with Cascade related to their request for another 10-15-year extension.

6. Future Meetings

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

- July 7, 2022 – regular monthly Operating Board meeting
- August 4, 2022 – regular monthly Operating Board meeting
- September 1, 2022 – half-day field trip to Landsburg Diversion Dam & Hatchery – tentatively scheduled for from 9 am to noon

7. Good of the Order

- Final farewells to Ron Speer and Matt Everett, as well as Dave Barnes. – next in-person meeting September 1st.

Board meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.


Approved by:

Alex Chen

Chair, Alex Chen
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

7/11/2022

Date

Signature: 
Alex Chen (Jul 11, 2022 16:39 PDT)

Email: Alex.Chen@seattle.gov