

Minutes November 7, 2024 - Final

Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

1. Welcome, Roll Call & Announcements

a. Attendance as follows:

First Name	Last Name	Utility	Official Operating Board Role	Attendance Type
Hilary	Allison	SPU		Virtual
Sean	Bauer	Cedar River	Utility Rep	Virtual
Julie	Belt	Woodinville		Virtual
Boyd	Benson	Bothell	Utility Rep	Virtual
Kelly	Boswell	Olympic View		Virtual
Amanda	Campbell	Northshore	Utility Rep	Virtual
Regina	Carpenter	SPU		Virtual
Alex	Chen	SPU	Utility Rep + Board Member + Chair	Virtual
Jamie	Crookston	Coal Creek		Virtual
Kathy	Curry	Woodinville	Utility Rep	Virtual
Bob	Danson	Olympic View		Virtual
Jeremy	DelMar	Highline	Utility Rep + Board Member	Virtual
Pete	Eberle	WD 90	Utility Rep	Virtual
Abdoul	Gafour	Renton	Utility Rep	Virtual
Elizabeth	Garcia	SPU		Virtual
Terri	Gregg	SPU		Virtual
Charlotte	Haines	North City		Virtual
Patricia	Hale	North City		Virtual
Paul	Hanna	SPU		Virtual
Roxanne	Heller	WD 119		Virtual
Paula	Laschober	SPU	Utility Rep + Board Member	Virtual
Steve	Leniszewski	Duvall	Utility Rep	Virtual
Ky	Lewis	SPU		Virtual
Wayne	Liou	SPU		Virtual
Ron	Little	n/a	Independent Member	Virtual
Pam	Maloney	Woodinville		Virtual
Eugene	Mantchev	SPU		Virtual
Michael	Martin	WD 20	Utility Rep	Virtual
Patrick	Martin	Coal Creek		Virtual
Suzi	O'Byrne	Coal Creek	Utility Rep	Virtual
Kelly	O'Rourke	SPU		Virtual
Jorgan	Peadon	WD 49	Utility Rep + Alt Board Member	Virtual
Darcey	Peterson	WD 90		Virtual
Matthew	Porter	SPU		Virtual
Diane	Pottinger	North City	Utility Rep + Board Member	Virtual
Kathleen	Quong-Vermeire	Highline		Virtual
Ron	Ricker	North City		Virtual
Robert	Russell	Coal Creek		Virtual
Taryn	Sass	SPU		Virtual
Jane	Vandenberg	Soos Creek	Utility Rep	Virtual
Max	Woody	North City		Virtual
Shane	Young	WD 125	Utility Rep + Board Member + Vice Chair	Virtual

b. Announcements from Alex Chen:

- The deadline for the lead service line survey recently passed. SPU did not find any evidence of lead service lines in our retail service area.
- The issue of water utilities adding fluoride to drinking water has been in the news a lot later. SPU continues to monitor the situation.
- Andrew Lee is not attending today because he is in an all-day leadership training. SPU has new multi-day leadership and supervisor training courses, which are requirements for all leaders and supervisors and reflects our commitment to staff development.

2. **Agenda/Minutes**

- a. October 3, 2024 minutes were approved 5-0. (1 SPU representative was absent)
- b. November 7, 2024 agenda was approved 5-0. (1 SPU representative was absent)

3. **Old Business – none**

4. **New Business**

a. **Fall Water Supply Update:** SPU's Elizabeth Garcia provided the annual fall water supply update including a look back at the 2024 Water Year that just ended, our current conditions, and a look ahead to projections for this fall and winter. Water Year 2024 had a below average snowpack and therefore the SPU supply management team deployed several "low-snow reservoir management tools" to ensure sufficient supply. The upcoming winter is expected to have La Nina conditions, which are favorable for water supply.

b. **Dam Safety Program Overview:** Taryn Sass, SPU's Engineering & Systems Support Division Director and former Dam Safety Supervisor, filled in for Andre Ball (who was called into the field unexpectedly) and provided an overview of SPU's dam safety program which manages and maintains 13 dams in accordance with best practices and regulations. An Operating Board member asked if the Tolt dam independent assessment (noted on Slide 17) will be shared with the Operating Board. SPU stated that the assessment will be a public document, and if appropriate, SPU can provide a presentation to the Operating Board.

c. **2024 Wholesale Customer Annual Survey:** SPU's Kelly O'Rourke shared the results of the 2024 Wholesale Customer Annual Survey. An Operating Board member requested that next year's report include information regarding the population served by each water utility. SPU stated they will add that information.

d. **Early Input on 2025 Operating Board Meetings:** SPU's Kelly O'Rourke obtained input regarding the format of the 2025 meetings and schedule conflicts with the May meeting. SPU suggested hybrid meetings for 2025. The group asked SPU to conduct a formal survey for preferences of each wholesale customer. (SPU conducted that survey in the following days and the result was an overwhelming

preference for half of the meetings to be in person only and half to be virtual only.) The Operating Board agreed that it made sense to skip the May meeting due to conference conflicts, however they requested that a formal, optional CIP workshop be scheduled for April 24. SPU will add that meeting to the 2025 schedule.

5. Executive Summaries & Other Business

- a. **Water Consumption from Watersheds vs. Rate Studies:** Alex Chen referenced this document. Actual annual consumption to date is 2% higher than the 2020 Rate Study projection and 2% lower than this time last year.
- b. **Water Supply Update:** This document was not discussed because a Fall Water Supply Update was a full agenda item.
- c. **Other Updates:** None.
- d. **Next Meeting:** December 5; Hybrid with in person at Mercer Island Community Center and virtual via Teams; 1-3pm.

6. Good of the Order

- a. **Urbanist Article:** An Operating Board member mentioned there was a recent article in The Urbanist that was critical of how SPU balances costs between developers and SPU. SPU mentioned that we are aware of the article, have had several interactions with the author Donna Breske, and are happy to talk more with any Operating Board members who have questions.

Board meeting was adjourned at 3pm.



[Alex Chen \(Dec 11, 2024 09:08 PST\)](#)

Chair, Alex Chen
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

12/11/2024

Date