

**FINAL Minutes**  
**Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board**  
**December 2, 2021**  
**1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**

**WEBEX VIDEO CONFERENCE MEETING**

<b><u>Board Members</u></b>	<b><u>Utility Representatives</u></b>	<b><u>SPU Attendees</u></b>	<b><u>Other Attendees</u></b>
Dave Barnes, Alt.	Boyd Benson	Jennifer Arthur	Patty Hale
Ron Speer, Alt.	Abdoul Gafour	Regina Carpenter	Roxanne Heller
Diane Pottinger, Chair	Steve Leniszewski	Paul Faulds	Pam Maloney
Andrew Lee	Michael Martin	Maura Patterson	Darcey Peterson
Alex Chen, V. Chair	Al Nelson	Jonelle Mogi	Ron Ricker
Paula Laschober	Suzi O'Byrne	Eugene Mantchev	Robert Russell
Ron Little, 7 <sup>th</sup> Member	Terry Olson	Martha Neuman	
	Patrick Sorenson	Kathy Curry	
		Chad Buechler	
		John Holmes	
		Winsome	
		Robinson Williams	
		Carol Volk	

**1. Welcome, Introductions & Announcements:**

Operating Board (OB) Chair, Diane Pottinger, requested that the Vice Chair run this month's meeting. Alex Chen, Vice Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Kathy Curry, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Wholesale Water Contracts Manager, confirmed Board Member or Alternate Board Member attendance (missing identification of Dave Barnes as the acting Board Member in Shane Young's absence).

Kathy then facilitated two announcements. The first was provided by SPU's Chad Buechler, who gave an update on 2022 Cascadia Rising (which has been reduced to just County and State-level emergency exercises). Chad went on to introduce a drinking water sector exercise enabled by EPA's support to be timed to occur with Cascadia Rising in spring/early summer 2022. OB members were invited to get involved in planning the exercise and/or participation.

The second announcement was the introduction of Jonelle Mogi by Paul Faulds. Jonelle Mogi will be supporting SPU's wholesale customer support team, including engagement with the OB.

**2. Agenda/Minutes**

a) The **November 4, 2021**, minutes were **approved \*5-0**.

b) The **December 2, 2021**, agenda was **approved \*5-0**.

*\*Missing 6<sup>th</sup> vote that could have been provided by Dave Barnes as acting Alternate Board Member.*

**3. New Business**

a) **Operating Board Business & 2022 Work Plan**

Kathy Curry covered the following end-of-the-year OB business items:

- Update from the Small Category on their elected Board Member and Alternate for the next 4-year

term (2022-2025). It was relayed that Shane Young and Dave Barnes will remain as Board Member and Alternate, respectively, for the Small Category.

- Announce Seattle's Board Members and Alternates for the same 4-year term - Kathy relayed that SPU's current Board Members would remain the same, but that SPU would be reducing the number of Alternates from 3 to 2 and that the Alternates for the coming year will be shared after finalized.
- Request nominations for the 2022 OB Chair and Vice Chair – the Board was not ready to propose and vote on a 2022 Chair and Vice Chair and so resolved to discuss, determine, and relay their decision to Kathy ahead of the February 3, 2022 OB meeting.
- Review of the 2022 draft work plan, which included discussion of topics to be covered in the coming year, cancelling the January 2022 meeting, moving the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to March 31<sup>st</sup>, and two field trips in May 2022 (to Cedar Falls) and in September 2022 (to Landsburg).

**Board Action:** *Postponed nomination and vote to elect the Chair and Vice Chair for 2022. Approved the 2022 Work Plan.*

b) **Seattle Water Quality Lab**

Winsome Robinson Williams, SPU Interim Drinking Water Quality Director, provided an overview of SPU's Water Quality Division work including: drinking water and source water sampling; water quality analyses; oversight of the treatment facilities at the Cedar and Tolt; and high health hazard site inspections. Following Winsome's presentation, a discussion ensued about a change in laboratory data management system software. Ron Speer and Al Nelson both recommended software they are using called SwiftComply. Al Nelson shared a link to the software: <https://www.swiftcomply.com/>

c) **Water Supply Form Developer/Development Survey**

Alex Chen, Deputy Director of the Water Line of Business and Shared Services, shared results from a Water Supply Forum survey on developer and development practices. Members of the OB were invited to complete the same survey, and Kathy emailed the survey link out following the meeting (<https://spu.surveymonkey.com/r/JRTKFKK>).

d) **Cedar River Fish Returns**

Carol Volk, SPU Aquatic Resources Strategic Advisor, provided a brief update on 2021 fall fish returns in the Cedar River. A discussion ensued around potential reasons that salmon are having a good spawning year in the Cedar River. Carol Volk proposed that sockeye were having a good 2021 season following a good 2017 season (sockeye have a 4-year lifecycle); Chinook populations were marginally higher than previous years; and coho are having a good 2021 season, potentially due to ocean conditions.

**4. Executive Summaries & Other Business**

- **Water Consumption from Watersheds vs. Rate Studies** – Alex Chen went over Att. 4a noting that we will be 2.5% higher than projected in the 2020 rate study and 5.5% above this time last year.
- **Water Supply Update** – Paul Faulds went over Att. 4b, noting above normal rainfall in the watersheds in alignment with the wettest meteorological fall on record at SeaTac since recordings began there in 1945. He also noted that the region has already experienced six atmospheric rivers this season requiring careful reservoir management to evacuate water in a way that is protective of salmon redds and downstream communities while maintaining dam safety.

**5. Future Meetings & Workshops**

Kathy Curry provided reminders for the following upcoming meetings:

- January 6, 2022 – cancelled (agreed via 2022 Work Plan approval)
- February 3, 2022
- March 3, 2022

**6. Good of the Order**

- **Kathy Curry** will be sending a revised 2022 Workplan and reminded the Board that we need to nominate and vote on the next Chair and Vice Chair.
- Everyone followed with holiday wishes.

**Board meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:25 p.m.**

**Approved by:**

  
Alex Chen (Feb 7, 2022 12:12 PST)

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**Chair, Alex Chen**  
**Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board**

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**Date**