

FINAL Minutes
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board
October 6, 2022
1-3PM

WebEx

Board Members

Alex Chen, Chair
Jeremy Delmar, Alt.
Diane Pottinger
Shane Young
Ron Little, 7th Member
Andrew Lee
Julie Crittenden, Alt

Utility Representatives

Mike Amburgey
Boyd Benson
Kelly Boswell
Bob Danson
Pete Eberle
Steve Leniszewski
Michael Martin
Al Nelson
Terry Olson
Jorgan Peadon
Jane Vandenberg

SPU Attendees

Hilary Allison
Regina Carpenter
Kathy Curry
Terri Gregg
Wylie Harper
Bill Heubach
Amy LaBarge
Ky Lewis
Eugene Mantchev
Martha Neuman
Jim Nilson
Kelly O'Rourke
Maura Patterson
Winsome Robinson-Williams
Gisela Sanabria (PR)
Bill Wells

Other Attendees

Charlotte Haines
Patty Hale
Pam Maloney
Darcey Peterson
Kathleen Quong-Vermiere
Robert Russell
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. There were no announcements.

2. Agenda/Minutes

- a) The **August 4, 2022**, minutes were ***approved 6-0***.
- b) The **October 6, 2022**, agenda was ***approved 6-0***.

3. New Business

a) Transmission Operations and Maintenance

Wylie Harper, Director of Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Water Operations and System Maintenance Division, and Gisela Sanabria (PR), SPU Transmission Manager, provided an overview of transmission operations and maintenance work activities and staffing. Questions about SPU's transmission program were discussed including: the presence of a transmission line through the City of Seattle; crew locations in relation to the transmission lines they service; mowing frequency of transmission rights-of-way (ROW); SPU liability for ROWs that couple as recreational trails; and inability to mow ROWs in sensitive wetland areas. PR clarified that the mowing frequency (1-3 times per year) depends on the weather/growing season and need to access transmission lines for inspection. Alex Chen reported that under King County's Trails Agreement with SPU, SPU is deemed indemnified if someone is injured during trail use.

b) Tolt Treatment Plant Contract Alternatives

Jim Nilson, SPU Senior Water Quality Engineer, shared information about the contract alternatives evaluated for implementation when the existing Design-Build-Operate (DBO) contract ends in 2026. Discussion ensued about the transition of staff from American Water to SPU, potential value-added

flexibility of in-house staff that can work at both the Cedar and the Tolt treatment plants, and the deferred maintenance requirements of both DBO contracts that require the contractors to leave the plants in good working order when the contracts end. General support was expressed for either alternative that brings operations and maintenance of the Tolt treatment plant in-house to SPU.

c) Seismic Update

Bill Heubach, SPU's lifeline earthquake engineer, provided an update on SPU's Transmission System Seismic Improvements Program (CIP Table Rows 35a-h). There was a question about personal water storage recommendations if a seismic event occurs in the region. Alex Chen responded that SPU recommends residents store enough emergency water supply for 14 days. A discussion also ensued around the process for post-incident assessments and the strategic location(s) for future material storage. Bill Heubach reported that SPU has an assessment team with inspection equipment depots located around the city. As part of SPU's project to increase SPU's emergency repair material inventory, SPU is currently identifying and evaluating locations for material storage and may be interested in available spaces of wholesale customers.

4. Executive Summaries & Other Business

- **Water Consumption from Watersheds vs. Rate Studies** – Alex Chen went over the graphs on Attachment 4a. Consumption has averaged 3% lower than projected in the 2020 Rate Study and 6% lower than this time last year.
- **Water Supply Update** – Alex Chen went over Attachment 4b. We are waiting for the rains to return but otherwise are in good shape.
- **Other Updates**
 - **Chlorine Supply Update** – Alex Chen confirmed that the railway labor unions and management labor agreement resolved the prior supply concern.
 - **Bolt Creek Fire Update** – Alex Chen share updates on the Bolt Creek Fire. A discussion followed on SPU's preparedness due to the proximity of this fire to the Tolt Watershed.

5. Future Meetings

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

- November 3, 2022 – regular monthly meeting – Webex remote meeting
- December 1, 2022 – regular monthly meeting – Webex remote meeting
- January 5, 2023 – Kathy reminded the group of upcoming 2023 Operating Board work/meeting planning and that the group will be considering whether to meet on January 5, 2023 as the January meeting has been traditionally canceled.

6. Good of the Order

n/a.

Board meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Approved by:


Alex Chen (Nov 3, 2022 16:06 PDT)

Chair, Alex Chen
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

11/03/2022

Date