

**FINAL Minutes**  
**Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board**  
**December 1, 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                  | Hilary Allison       | Charlotte Haines        |
| Jeremy Delmar                      | Bob Danson                     | Regina Carpenter     | Pam Maloney             |
| Diane Pottinger                    | Pete Eberle                    | Julie Crittenden     | Cameron Ogard           |
| Shane Young                        | Steve Leniszewski              | Kathy Curry          | Darcey Peterson         |
| Paula Laschober                    | Michael Martin                 | John Edgerly         | Kathleen Quong-Vermiere |
| Ron Little, 7 <sup>th</sup> Member | Al Nelson                      | Rolf Gersonde        | Robert Russell          |
|                                    | Suzi O'Byrne                   | Terri Gregg          | Ron Straka              |
|                                    | Terry Olson                    | Ulysses Hillard      | Logan Wallace           |
|                                    | Jorgan Peadon                  | Amy LaBarge          |                         |
|                                    | Jane Vandenberg                | Ky Lewis             |                         |
|                                    |                                | Eugene Mantchev      |                         |
|                                    |                                | Julia Munger         |                         |
|                                    |                                | Martha Neuman        |                         |
|                                    |                                | Maura Patterson      |                         |

**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 **November 3, 2022**, minutes were **approved 5-0**.
- b) The **December 1, 2022**, agenda was **approved 5-0**.

**3. New Business**

**a) Operating Board Business & 2023 Work Plan**

Kathy Curry, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Wholesale Contracts Manager, covered the following end-of-the-year Operating Board (OB) business items:

- the Large Category reported that they elected Patrick Sorensen as Board Member and Jeremy Delmar as Alternate for the next 4-year term (2023-2026);
- Seattle put forth Alex Chen, Andrew Lee, and Paula Laschober as Board Members for the same 4-year term;
- nominations and vote for 2023 Chair (Patrick Sorensen) and 2023 Vice Chair (Alex Chen); and
- review and approval of the 2023 Draft Work Plan.

Discussions ensued to clarify the work plan, and a request was made for a list of prioritized seismic projects during the upcoming 2023 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) conversations. **The Board voted and passed the 2023 Operating Board Work Plan 5-0.**

**b) Facilities Charges**

Regina Carpenter, SPU Principal Economist, shared background information on Facilities Charges (FCs) to prepare the Operating Board for the upcoming 2023 FC update, which includes the Board's decision of whether to select FCs or rates to pay for regional conservation capital costs. Topics included historical

decisions by the Operating Board and the inputs to the FC calculation, which includes the expected pace of new retail connections. A suggestion to poll members ahead of the February 2023 Operating Board meeting was made to get a pulse from the group on future growth projections in their respective purveyor areas.

**c) Landsburg Dam Gate Reconditioning Project**

Ulysses Hillard, SPU Sr. Water Resources Engineer, shared information on the completion of the Landsburg Diversion Dam Tainter Gates Reconditioning Project (Row 2f from 2022 CIP, C116021). The Operating Board was appreciative that SPU was able to complete the work in-house, as well as the opportunity to visit the site during the watershed tour this past summer.

**d) Cedar River Watershed Forest Management Plan**

Rolf Gersonde, SPU's Senior Environmental Analyst, provided an overview on the purpose and development of the Cedar River Watershed Forest Management Plan (Rows 11 & 12 from 2022 CIP, C100025 and C100027). In response to questions, Rolf provided added information on wildfire fuels management (focusing on smaller fuels versus downed logs, which have significant ecological value) and snow water storage via forest canopy gaps that are synergistic with pre-existing goals of promoting old growth forests.

**4. Executive Summaries & Other Business**

- **Water Consumption from Watersheds vs. Rate Studies** – Alex Chen went over the graphs on Attachment 4a relaying that water sales are on track. Alex also noted revenue losses due to peak season pricing and the extended dry season.
- **Water Supply Update** – Alex shared that consumption is normal and that reservoir storage is below normal, because a lot of snow water is building in the watersheds instead of rainwater in storage.
- **Potential Rail Strike** – Alex shared updates related to the potential rail strike due to chlorine gas for water treatment being delivered primarily via rail. Alex explained how SPU has researched alternate regional supplies. Sodium hypochlorite (bleach) can be used instead of chlorine gas, but sodium hypochlorite is made using chlorine gas thus still largely depends on the rail system. However, Alex shared that a sodium hypochlorite supplier has been identified that does not count on getting chlorine gas by rail car since it's located at the chlorine gas manufacturer's location.
- **Meter Replacement & Budgeting** – There was a question raised on the replacement schedule for regional meters for budget planning purposes. SPU Engineer, Eugene Mantchev, jumped in to share an approximate schedule of 10-15 years for meter replacement at an approximate cost of \$10-15k. A discussion followed about ownership of meters and replacement planning and Mr. Mantchev clarified that SPU owns the system from the water transmission pipeline all the way to the downstream wall of the meter vault. The wholesale customer pays for the costs of repairs and replacements of the meters that serve their system and the wholesale customer owns the system components beyond the downstream wall of the meter vault. Alex Chen suggested that we could put together a small working group to work through some of these issues if there is interest.
- **Federal Funding** – The group discussed the use of Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grants from FEMA for earthquake resiliency. Members suggested that grant applications would be more competitive if we put forth regional projects that impacted a larger number of people. Martha Neuman provided an update on the Water Supply Forum efforts. To date, the resiliency criteria is more focused on climate change, hurricanes, etc., so, we need to better position seismic work in the legislation to become more competitive over time. She also shared that with the recent federal infrastructure funding, utilities have access to money that can be used for seismic upgrades; however, utilities can only do so many projects at one time. Kathy Curry will arrange a time for Diane Pottinger and Martha Neuman to exchange

information and discuss how to best reach legislators to advocate for the inclusion of seismic work under the resiliency umbrella, including the idea of a regional project.

**5. Future Meetings**


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

- January 5, 2023 – cancelled.
- February 2, 2022 – Hybrid monthly meeting at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center.
- March 2, 2023 – Remote online regular meeting.

**6. Good of the Order – none raised.**

**Board meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.**

**Approved by:**

  
Chair, Patrick Sorenson  
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

2-2-2023  
Date