

DRAFT Minutes
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board
June 4, 2020
1 PM to 3:00 PM
Teleconference

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Board Alternates</u>	<u>Utility Representatives</u>	<u>SPU Attendees</u>	<u>Other Attendees</u>
Alex Chen, Chair	Ron Speer	Mike Amburgey	Regina Carpenter	Tammy Haas
Diane Pottinger, V. Chair	Shane Young	Boyd Benson	Alan Chinn	Charlotte Haines
Mami Hara		Steve Leniszewski	Kathy Curry	Patty Hale
Paula Laschober, Alt		Byron Murgatroyd	Paul Faulds	Roxanne Heller
Matt Everett		Al Nelson	Arlinda Garcia	Steve Pfaff
Lynne Danielson		Terry Olsen	Meghan Gattuso	Pamela Maloney
Ron Little, 7 th Member		Patrick Sorenson	Terri Gregg	Kathleen Quong-Vermeire
		Ron Speer	Paul Hanna	Ron Straka
			Celia Kennedy	John Thompson
			Michele Koehler	
			Amy LaBarge	
			Jessica Mitchell	
			Martha Neuman	
			Kelly O'Rourke	
			Carol Volk	

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Alex Chen explained that he was currently the acting Deputy Director, Water LOB & Shared Services, covering for Rick Scott who is out on sick leave and Paul Faulds was acting for Alex as the Division Director, Water Policy and Planning.

2. Minutes/Agenda

- The **May 7, 2020 minutes** were approved 6-0.
- The **June 4, 2020 agenda** was approved 6-0.

3. New Business

a. Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Update

Michele Koehler, SPU Aquatic Resource and HCP Program Manager, provided an overview of 2019 HCP activities and finances. She noted that in 2019 there were 25 active HCP projects. Some of the highlights included a new instream flows monitoring project, road improvements in the watershed, Hotel Creek Fish Passage Project, forest thinning and planting, Landsburg Fish Ladder work, and re-initiation of bull trout monitoring. She noted that \$2.7 million was spent in 2019 for HCP work. She explained that we met all our instream flow commitments in 2019. She noted there was approximately \$20 million worth of future projects to be completed between now and the completion of the HCP in 2050.

- *A Utility Representative asked if reduced fishing has increased sockeye conditions for us. Carol Volk, SPU Aquatic Resources Strategic Advisor, responded that if sockeye from the Cedar River are mingling with other sockeye in the ocean it might be helping, but we are not certain. An Op Brd member asked if Bull Trout monitoring is being conducted and Michele explained that we are monitoring the Bull Trout about once a week during the spawning season and we are not using a hydraulic model for this work.*

- *An Op Brd member asked if we would be cutting back on other commitments since the Chinook and Coho mitigation costs have been exceeded by 20%? Michele suggested that the HCP Oversight committee would likely not go for that because the over-expenditures were for capital projects.*
- *An Op Brd member asked if the road decommissioning projects would be moved out of the HCP beginning in 2023 since they were not part of what was originally proposed? Michele said she agreed with that idea but needed to confer with other SPU staff before a decision was made.*
- *A Utility Representative asked about moving funds around within the HCP categories to cover costs and Michele explained that SPU would need to amend the HCP in order to do that which would be a large amount of stakeholder, public and environmental review that SPU is hesitant to do that.*

b. Hatchery Update

Carol Volk, SPU Aquatic Resources Strategic Advisor gave a presentation on the Cedar River Hatchery Program and related capital projects updates. She explained the history of the hatchery, the life cycle of sockeye, and how the adults are collected to later harvest eggs for the hatchery. She summarized the hatchery process and noted that it was built in 2011 and has the capacity for 34 million fry. She also reviewed the adaptive management process for managing the hatchery and the various policy and technical advisory groups involved. She provided data on the amount of fry released since 2008 and discussed the declining numbers of sockeye returning to the Cedar River. Furthermore, she provided information on the new Broodstock Collection Facility that is the design stage at this time and why it was needed and provided details the \$4.88 million project. Next, she described the Hatchery Water Supply Project, why it was needed, options being considered and current cost and timeline estimates. The current estimated cost is \$4.05 million; however, we are only in the options analysis stage of the project. Then she presented a slide with the projected costs of the sockeye Program through 2023.

- *An Op Brd member asked what happens at the hatchery between March and August? Carol explained that during that time they are preparing for the next year. It was also asked how the fry are marked and Carol explained that process. The issue about staff working in pairs at the Broodstock Collection Facility came up and Carol explained they do so during high flows for safety reasons.*
- *An Op Brd member noted that the Hatchery Water Supply Project cost Carol provided was more than what SPU had provided recently in the CIP discussions and the member wanted to know how we could keep the costs down. Alex noted that we were in the very early stages of this project and that our CIP cost estimate was \$4.6 million, and Carol's was \$4.8 million because she likely included the options analysis cost. We will be tracking the cost of this project very closely. He noted that Carol plans to come to the Op Brd this winter to discuss the options in detail for this project.*
- *A Utility Representative asked if the projected cost increase for 2019-2023 for the Sockeye Program was temporary until the Water Supply Project was built? Alex answered that in 2023 the costs do go up because of some improvements that are needed at the hatchery such as improving the holding ponds, and for repairs of buildings near the hatchery.*

c. Water Supply – Operational Changes

It was agreed by the Op Brd to postpone this presentation until the July meeting given time constraints. Alex explained that this presentation describes what we have done over the last 120 years to improve water system operations.

4. Executive Summaries and Other Business

Alex Chen provided summaries on the following topics:

- **Water Consumption** – Alex said it was a bit early to say where we are as a region, though water use is a little low for this time of the year, it could also be attributed to the cooler than normal spring we are having in

comparison to previous years. SPU retail customers are using more residential water and less commercial water.

- Water Supply Conditions – Alex explained we are currently in good shape in water supply.
- Reclaimed Water Update – Alex said we are still trying to assess how King County will reimburse water utilities for lost revenue if they sell reclaimed water to our existing customers. He added that King County took some samples for the water quality of reclaimed water and we have not seen the results.
- COVID-19 and Recent Protests – Alex said that most of SPU’s office workers continue to work from home. For the Field Crews, he explained that they are working, and we are keeping them socially distanced as much as possible, and they are using PPE as needed. He mentioned that SPU was asked by the City to help board up some businesses. This worked was paid for via the Seattle General Fund.

5. Future Meetings

An Op Brd member asked if we could meet in August since we are running out of time today. Alex noted that seemed reasonable. He announced that the next two Operating Board meetings will be held on July 2nd and August 13th. It is likely that both would be via teleconference.

6. Good of the Order

- None

7. Public Comment Period

- None

8. Material presented at Meeting: Electronic copies of the information described on the agenda were provided in advance of the meeting.

9. Board meeting was adjourned at approximately 3 p.m.

Approved by:

Chair, Alex Chen
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

Date