



**Meeting of the Water System Advisory Committee (WSAC)**

**April 10, 2019 Meeting Notes**

**Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue**

**Room 4901**

**5:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

WSAC Members	Present?	SPU Staff & Guests	Role
Joel Carsley	Y	Natasha Walker	CAC Program Coordinator
Steven Cole	Y	Sheryl Shapiro	CAC Program Manager
Rodney Schauf	Y	Melissa Levo	Water System Policy Liaison (Interim)
Kat Dej-Panah	Y	Elizabeth Garcia	Hydrologist, Water Planning & Program Management Division
Wendy Walker	N		
Annie Saunders	Y		
Christina Heinlen	N	<b>Guests</b>	
Angella Mickowski	Late		

**1. Regular Business**

- WSAC Chair, Rodney Schauf, opened the meeting at 5:35 PM.
- Staff welcomed Angella Mickowski, a new member of the Committee.
- Sheryl indicated emergency exits and exit procedures.
- Levo passed along a thank you from Ellen Pepin-Cato regarding WSAC feedback on the Annual Water Quality Report. Pepin-Cato will be returning in May to share a status update.
- Levo received Work Plan topic prioritization from most WSAC members. Topics such as water supply and fish came in top. There is still an opportunity to submit your priorities.
  - **A WSAC Member** asked Levo to ensure the work plan includes a follow-up topic on the Water System Seismic Study, focused on SPU preparedness to provide emergency drinking water to customers. The study showed further work to be done. **Levo to follow-up on this.**
- April 24, 2019 is next All-CAC Meeting. New information on SPU’s Risk and Resiliency framework will be presented, as well as framing of that work with Equity Toolkit. We will also be exploring how the City receives and processes claims and will have breakout groups to discuss.
- There is an upcoming collaboration between SPU and the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and ACT Theatres for the production “Urine Town”, a musical about the privatization of water. SPU will participate in a pre-show and post-show talk, featuring SPU CEO/General Manager, Mami Hara. Additional staff from our Water Conservation section and Cedar River Watershed will also participate.
  - Pre-show: April 25
  - Post-show: May 7

- SPU information will run for the length of the show on lobby screens and displays, educational materials and CAC recruitment flyers will be set up near theatre lobby.

## 2. Impromptu Networking

WSAC members gathered in pairs for an impromptu networking exercise. They were asked during each round (two rounds) to “describe a time in your life when you felt connected in / to a community.”

## 3. Water Supply Update

Elizabeth Garcia, a water resources hydrologist with the Water Planning & Program Management Division. Garcia provided a brief overview of drinking water management, and update on our water supply. The Water Supply website was shared in advance:

<http://www.seattle.gov/utilities/services/water/water-supply>

An overview of Seattle’s Water System can be explored here:

<http://www.seattle.gov/utilities/services/water/water-system-overview>

The start of 2019 has seen a combination of a low snow year and lower than average spring rains, which has resulted in below average water levels for refilling the reservoirs. However, it is still early in the season, and SPU is hoping we continue to see rain in order to return to average levels. At the current moment, SPU believes we will have sufficient water supply to last through the summer.

- **A CAC Member** asked about the star on the map. Staff explained that the star marks Mercer Island, which divides the distribution channels for Tolt and Cedar Watersheds. Staff noted that customer taste panels have indicated a difference in taste between the two waterbodies.
- **A CAC Member** asked how emergency drought information is communicated. Staff responded that there is a contingency plan for communicating water drought concerns, ranging from advisory to curtailment. A discussion ensued about previous presentations on this topic, and how the CACs can play a role in disseminating information in the event of a drought. **Staff to send more info on water contingency plan.**
- **A CAC Member** asked about SPU’s relationship with Seattle City Light (SCL) and the dam. Staff responded that SPU is not required to release water for SCL. We communicate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and SCL about release plans, but water supply comes first.
- **A CAC Member** asked how SPU is accounting for population growth in water supply? Staff responded SPU uses population and water demand forecasting models. The models are sophisticated, and consider income, etc. SPU tracks water demand and water conservation as well, as retrofitted buildings receiving fixture upgrades can offset the demands of an increasing population.

## 4. CDWAC Network Analysis / Community Asset Mapping.

WSAC Members participated in an interactive exercise to map place-based connections in the community. Using the prompts from the asset mapping homework that was e-mailed in advance, Shapiro and Walker led WSAC members through an exercise to collectively map their individual connections. The goal of this exercise was to:

- ✓ Discover patterns of geographic strength and gaps within the Committee;
- ✓ Identify where we might deepen relationships and build new ones among members and with communities; and
- ✓ Our discussions of the map may suggest where further assessment would be useful.

WSAC Members began with a quiet opportunity to review and/or complete their homework. They then added the name of the place or type of connection (from each of 10 categories, maximum of two per category) to category color-coded post-it notes. Members were asked to consider which two categories resonated most for them/where they felt most connected. They discussed these with a partner before mapping their two post-its per category on large individual section maps of the City (roughly SE, SW, NE, NW, Downtown areas).

Once asset locations were placed, the five maps were pushed together to create one large map of the City, and members found new partners to participate in a “partner gallery walk”, noting their observations. Afterwards, a group discussion ensued. The following observations were offered:

- Most connections are in SE Seattle
- The least connections are in the NW quadrant (however, it was added that there are three members who live and are connected there but are not present tonight)
- Residences are mostly distributed
- U-District has a blend of categories, including recreation and healthcare
- Downtown core shows representation from a multitude of categories
- Most connections aren’t very far from I-5/public transit routes
- There are a lot of recreation connections
- Regarding “Electronic Communities”
  - Some members expressed they didn’t include dots for these because they didn’t see the connection to this exercise.
  - Members discussed some examples of these, including NextDoor and Buy Nothing pages.

#### **Committee questions/comments**

- **A CAC Member** shared that there was a disconnect between the communities we discuss not being represented at the CAC table and the dots on the map. For example, they said the Committee has discussed not having representation from Rainier Valley, but they see dots in Rainier Valley and Columbia City. No quadrants are empty voids.
- **A CAC Member** suggested including where people have lived in the past, especially if members are still connected there.
- **A CAC Member** suggested that the next thing to explore is the “2<sup>nd</sup> level areas” we visit.

#### **5. Community Insights, Around the Table**

- **A CAC Member** shared about an upcoming event to learn more about how to “go the extra mile in water and energy conservation” with your home, to combat climate change. More

information available here; <http://www.ecobuilding.org/events/education-event-building-for-climate-change>

- **A CAC Member** shared that April is Earth Month, and that there are lot of activities in just about every neighborhood. For example, there is a lot of rotary club weekend trail maintenance taking place.
- Staff shared about an upcoming event they would be hosting at the Delridge Library for a special Earth Day LibraryLab featuring the Longfellow Creek Ecosystem on April 22 between 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. Learn about SPU's past and current creek restoration projects and participate in interactive activities and games throughout the entire library. This is an all-ages event.  
<https://www.spl.org/hours-and-locations/delridge-branch/delridge-branch-events?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D132098272>

**Adjourned 7:25 PM**