



**Joint Meeting of the Water System Advisory Committee (WSAC) &  
Creeks, Drainage and Wastewater Committee (CDWAC)**

**December 12, 2019 Meeting Notes**

**Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 Fifth Avenue**

**Room 4901**

**5:30 pm – 7:30 pm**

| <b>WSAC and CDWAC Members</b> | <b>Present?</b> | <b>SPU Staff &amp; Guests</b> | <b>Role</b>   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Joel Carsley                  | Y               | Andrew Lee                    | Deputy Director, Drainage and Wastewater (DWW) Branch             |
| Steven Cole                   | Y               | Ben Marre                     | Division Director, DWW Planning and Program Management            |
| Rodney Schauf                 | Y               | Celia Kennedy                 | Water System Policy & Planning Liaison                            |
| Kat Dej-Panah                 | N               | Alex Chen                     | Division Director, Drinking Water Planning and Program Management |
| Wendy Walker                  | N               | Sara Cubillos                 | Program Manager, DWW Vision Plan                                  |
| Annie Saunders                | Y               | Sheryl Shapiro                | CAC Program Manager   |
| Christina Heinlen             | Y               | <b>Guests</b>                 |   |
| Angella Mickowski             | Y               | Dane Madsen                   | Guest   |
| Imani Martinez                | Y               | Chris Portrey                 | Guest   |
| Thy Pham                      | Y               | Robert Smith                  | Guest   |
| Colum Lang                    | Y               | Akemi Smith                   | Guest   |
| Maria McDaniel                | Y               | Katherine Barton              | Guest   |
| Andrew Schiffer               | Y               | Whitney Williams              | Guest   |
| Jason Devaney                 | Y               | Norah Kates                   | Guest   |
| Gary Olson                    | N               |                               |   |
| Weng-Ching Cheng              | N               |                               |   |
| Isabel Carrera Zamanillo      | Y phone         |                               |   |

**1. Regular Business**

- WSAC Chair, Rodney Schauf, opened the meeting at 5:33 PM.
- Sheryl indicated the emergency exits and exit procedures.
- September meeting notes were approved for posting.
- WSAC Officers Election: Last call for in-person ballots. Votes from e-mail and the meeting were tabulated. New WSAC Co-Chairs: Annie Saunders and Christina Heinlen were announced. Out-going Chair, Rodney Schauf and Vice-Chair, Joel Carsley were recognized for their leadership and contributions.

## 2. DWW Updates

Andrew Lee, DWW Deputy Director, gave updates on DWW including information on the Ship Canal Water Quality Project to manage Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). The contractor is Lane Construction. They have extensive experience building this type of tunnel project with work completed in Cleveland, Portland and Washington D.C.

- A member asked: Will a tunnel boring machine be used? Staff responded affirmatively.
- A CDWAC member asked what King County actions are related to the Consent Decree? And what Seattle is implementing related to the Consent Decree? It was mentioned that there was a recent newspaper article on how King County wanted to amend their Consent Decree. The member also asked if there were projects, SPU wanted to modify. SPU staff noted that King County's system and SPU's are integrated, so if King County changes some of their projects, SPU would need to make changes as well. We change projects that we believe have less benefit to the environment and push them further out to lower the rate impacts. If King County pushes out the timing of projects, our projects that relate to those projects should also be pushed out.
- A member asked if this would affect the Georgetown Wet Weather project. Staff replied that it will not and that it is solely a King County project.

Andrew then gave an overview of Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) which is also included in the Consent Decree, 8/SSO/100 miles. Examples of these are overflows are those to basements or maintenance holes. SPU has been monitoring, tracking, maintaining and cleaning them. We are one of the top utilities in the nation for performance in this area. He noted we now have under 2 SSOs per 100 miles; in 2018 it was 1.8. This is a very good rate compared with other utilities around the country.

- A CDWAC member asked if the volumes of the discharges are decreasing? Andrew answered that the volumes are usually small, however, he mentioned that there was one in Golden Gardens and the Duwamish in the recent past that were large. In the Duwamish, someone apparently put a large piece of plywood into the DWW system and caused the SSOs. A member asked if this was inadvertent or sabotage and staff responded that it was unknown.

Andrew mentioned that there have been more spills lately associated with RVs. The City now has a pilot project to pump out wastewater from RVs. A contractor comes out 24 hours prior to when the RV was going to have to move and do a free pump out. We are hopeful that this will lead to less pump outs onto the street. This is part of the effort to address this issue for people experiencing homelessness. We are looking at partnerships and having a fixed location in the future where RVs could come and pump out their wastewater. Creating a fixed location for this will take longer.

- A member asked: How will SPU implement this program? Staff responded that SPU will provide a notice of violation and outsource the pump out; the pilot is funded by the City General Fund.
- A member asked whether this is available to all individuals with RVs. Staff responded no, and also noted that there is an additional need because there is no place to pump out between Shoreline and Federal Way.

Andrew referred to the message sent by Kathleen Baca, Community Affairs Division Director to Advisory members. He explained that there was an assessment of the Advisory Committees. He said SPU is committed to the committees, plans to continue its work and wants to make sure it is a good use of members' time and provides meaningful input for SPU.

- A member asked it if the potential change was because of budgeting issues. Andrew responded that it is good to assess how things are working periodically.

### **3. Strategic Business Plan/Customer Review Panel (CRP)**

A CDWAC/CRP member talked about the Strategic Business Plan and asked members to take the survey that includes what SPU should focus on in the future and how well SPU is doing with line of business services. Sheryl mentioned that she will let everyone know when the survey needs to be completed and will resend the link. The request was made to share with members' networks.

### **4. One Water and DWW Integrated System plan and Visioning Process**

Andrew Lee, DWW LOB Deputy Director, Ben Marre, DWW Planning and Program Management Division Director, Alen Chen, Drinking Water Planning and Program Management Division Director and Sara Cubillos, DWW Planning and Management Division, Strategic Advisor, gave this presentation. Ben explained that: "One water is an integrated planning and implementation approach to managing finite water resources for long-term resiliency and reliability, meeting both community and ecosystem needs" according to the Water Research Foundation, Blueprint for One Water. A One Water framework builds interconnectedness between previously siloed water planning elements, and finding efficiencies. Other water utilities implementing One Water include: San Francisco, Los Angeles, Santa Clara Valley and others.

Ben mentioned SPU Programs that are examples of One Water and explained what is next for SPU's One Water horizon, including coordinated Capital planning across LOBs, extending partnerships and regulatory alignment. He also explained how SPU is shifting our approach to planning in DWW.

There were some questions about how funding works with One Water. Ben responded that within SPU it is fairly straightforward, but when we work with the Parks Department and non-profits it is more difficult. In the beginning, Ben added, we will need to take small steps to integrate the planning. One CDWAC member asked if we had thoughts about putting in community cisterns and letting residents use the water. Ben explained that we are trying to determine how to incentivize projects like that, such as with Rainwise. Another member asked how One Water will impact the Consent Decree re-negotiation. SPU staff responded that it would influence it in the general approach.

Sara presented information on the development of the Integrated System Plan, and explained the analysis, visioning, planning and implementation stages. She described how the effort would creatively engage the community, including youth, to cultivate support, build trust and relationships, and learn about how community priorities intersect with DWW's mission. She noted that during the development of the DWW Vision Plan an engagement playbook would be created, then there would be the creation of the vision, goals, objectives and measures of success. Next the Vision Process would be documented. The goal is that the plan would be a broadly supported integrated system plan, that leads to smart investments and innovative policies, and in the end better outcomes for everyone.

Sara also asked the group *if there were any organizations, businesses, or community groups that the CAC members thought would be interested in participating in the visioning process?*

- A CDWAC member asked if there were examples of a co-creation group where consultants do help reach out to a specific group? Sara answered that it has happened in the past.
- A CDWAC member said most organizations and community groups would be interested but noted that people get tired of giving input and not seeing results. In the Madison Valley Phase 1 example, people could get excited about that. She asked how are you going to take all the input and put it together? Sara explained that we will get a lot of input. She mentioned that we will be putting the Visioning together. She explained how that foundation moves into the technical work and said that we want to continue the partnerships over time versus short-term engagement.
- A CDWAC member asked once the process is completed what mechanism there will be to continue this? What product will be produced? Sara explained that after 1 year of engagement, SPU will come out with a Visioning document. Then one year after that the technical planning document will come out. Then we will go back to the stakeholders to say these are the ideas. Then we develop more specific projects.
- A WSAC member asked what happens if the Drinking Water and Drainage and Wastewater Directors don't agree. Celia Kennedy responded that it could take more time to work through it. However, if the direction from SPU managers is that this is a priority, that speeds up the work up.
- A WSAC member asked if this work would replace the Water System Plan (WSP)? Ben Marre noted that the WSP was required by the State Department of Health, so we would still develop that plan.

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

One member noted there was a volunteer group called Green Seattle Partnerships to clean up parks. If you have extra time to volunteer, consider this work. Another member noted a website called [www.thewaterreport.com](http://www.thewaterreport.com) that has great seminars and conferences for 2 years out around the country. *Note: The web site link was sent out to members.*

**Adjourned 7:33 PM**