

Minutes March 6, 2025 - Final

Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

1. Welcome, Roll Call & Announcements

a. Attendance as follows:

#	First Name	Last Name	Utility	Official Operating Board Role
1	Hilary	Allison	SPU	
2	Will	Appleton	Soos Creek	Utility Rep
3	Sean	Bauer	Cedar River	Utility Rep
4	Julie	Belt	Woodinville	
5	Boyd	Benson	Bothell	Utility Rep
6	Alex	Chen	SPU	Utility Rep + Board Member + Vice Chair
7	Roger	Cox	SPU	
8	Julie	Crittenden	SPU	Utility Rep + Alt Board Member
9	Jamie	Crookston	Coal Creek	
10	Kathy	Curry	Woodinville	Utility Rep
11	Bob	Danson	Olympic View	Utility Rep + Alt Board Member
12	Jeremy	DelMar	Highline	Utility Rep + Board Member
13	Pete	Eberle	WD 90	Utility Rep
14	Will	Erickson	SPU	
15	Mike	Freeman	SPU	
16	Abdoul	Gafour	Renton	Utility Rep
17	Terri	Gregg	SPU	
18	Charlotte	Haines	North City	
19	Roxanne	Heller	WD 119	
20	Ulysses	Hillard	SPU	
21	Jason	Kintner	Mercer Island	Utility Rep + Alt Board Member
22	Andrew	Lee	SPU	Utility Rep + Board Member
23	Steve	Leniszewski	Duvall	Utility Rep
24	Ron	Little	n/a	Independent Member
25	Pam	Maloney	Woodinville	
26	Michael	Martin	WD 20	Utility Rep
27	Suzi	O'Byrne	Coal Creek	Utility Rep
28	Kelly	O'Rourke	SPU	
29	Jorgan	Peadon	WD 49	Utility Rep + Alt Board Member
30	Roger	Pennock	SPU	
31	Darcey	Peterson	WD 90	
32	Diane	Pottinger	North City	Utility Rep + Board Member
33	Ron	Ricker	North City	
34	Winsome	Robinson-Williams	SPU	
35	Robert	Russell	Coal Creek	
36	Gisela	Sanabria	SPU	
37	Shane	Young	WD 125	Utility Rep + Board Member + Chair

b. Announcements:

- There were no announcements.

2. Agenda/Minutes

a. February 6, 2025 minutes were approved 5-0 (1 Operating Board member was absent).

b. March 6, 2025 agenda was approved 5-0 (1 Operating Board member was absent).

3. Old Business – none

4. New Business

a. **Tolt Treatment Plant DBO Transition:** Winsome Robinson-Williams provided an update on the status of transitioning operation of the Tolt Water Treatment Plant from American Water/CDM to SPU, which contractually must be completed by February 2026. She covered 6 categories: contractual items, budget, HR, communication, O&M, and the final contract transition. A significant part of the current effort is the HR work, with the plant staffing positions beginning to be advertised. Key questions from the Operating Board included:

- Why does American Water want to exit the contract? They are getting out of the operations part of Design-Build-Operate work since it's not profitable.
- After the transition, does SPU expect that costs will remain approximately the same, go up, or go down? O&M costs will go up since American Water staffed the plant at minimum levels and SPU will provide more buffer in staffing and higher pay, both of which are anticipated to provide more stability in staffing. The costs were evaluated to be cost-neutral compared to going to a Time and Materials contract with a vendor.

b. **Transmission O&M Program:** An overview of SPU's transmission operations & maintenance program, which manages approx. 200 miles of pipelines and related appurtenances, was provided by Gisela (PR) Sanabria, SPU's Transmission Manager and her crew chiefs Roger Cox, Michael Freeman, and Brooke Pennock.

c. **6-Yr Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) - Part 1 Process Improvements:** Julie Crittenden kicked off of the annual regional CIP discussion. She reminded the group of the Operating Board's role in CIP review, gave a refresher on SPU's overall CIP process, and walked through several process changes for this year that SPU is hoping will help the Operating Board in their review role. Julie explained formatting changes SPU is recommending to the detailed CIP table. She also described and walked through two sample entries for a new suggested "CIP Book" that would have a page for each row in the CIP table which would provide various details. Julie used a MentiMeter poll to get feedback on how much detail the Operating Board wanted to see and did a "sticky note" exercise to gather input on the CIP table reformatting and the CIP Book concept. Overall, the feedback was very positive and SPU will move forward on both.

5. Executive Summaries & Other Business

a. **Water Consumption – Actual Compared to Rate Study:** Julie Crittenden shared that actual annual consumption to date is 2% higher than the 2020 Rate Study projection and 3% lower than this time last year.

b. **Water Supply Update:** Julie Crittenden reported that cumulative precipitation and consumption continue to be close to long-term averages. Snowpack continues to be less than the long-term average, although similar to last year, which is why SPU is keeping the combined storage higher than typical and reviewing other supply management tools to maximize supply through the year.

c. **Next Meeting:** April 3, 2025; 1-3pm. In person only at Mercer Island.

6. **Good of the Order**

a. **Cascade Water System Plan:** Shane Young mentioned Cascade Water Alliance has released its draft Water System Plan and encouraged Operating Board member to review it and comment as appropriate. SPU stated they are formally reviewing the plan.

b. **Cascade Update:** Andrew Lee shared key aspects from a recent meeting with several Cascade board members and Seattle's Mayor. Cascade wanted to make sure the relationship between Cascade and Seattle was intact, even though Cascade is developing contracts with Tacoma. Mayor Harrell reiterated the City's stance of no wheeling Tacoma water thru SPU infrastructure. Cascade stated they are not pursuing legislation to force Seattle to wheel Tacoma water. Seattle made it clear that any future contracts with Cascade would include a stipulation that any such pursuing of legislation would violate the contract. Cascade stated that the final volume of water they may want to retain from SPU may be higher than the 5 mgd in the current contract; they may want something closer to 12 mgd. Mayor Harrell reiterated that future pricing for Cascade would be the same as for the Operating Board members.

Board meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.

Shane Young

Shane Young (Apr 8, 2025 15:54 PDT)

Chair, Shane Young

Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

04/08/2025

Date