

Minutes February 5, 2026 – Final

Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

1. Welcome, Roll Call & Announcements

a. Attendance as follows:

No	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	Boyd	Benson	Bothell	Utility Rep
5	Leslie	Brinson	SPU	
6	Regina	Carpenter	SPU	
7	Alex	Chen	SPU	Utility Rep + Board Member + Chair
8	Julie	Crittenden	SPU	Utility Rep + Alt Board Member
9	Jamie	Crookston	Coal Creek	
10	Katie	Dahlberg	SPU	
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	Abdoul	Gafour	Renton	Utility Rep
16	Terri	Gregg	SPU	
17	Charlotte	Haines	North City	
18	Patricia	Hale	North City	
19	Roxanne	Heller	WD 119	
20	Andrew	Lee	SPU	Utility Rep + Board Member
21	Steve	Leniszewski	Duvall	Utility Rep
22	Ron	Little	n/a	Independent Member
23	Leebue	Maidesil	WD 125	
24	Pam	Maloney	Woodinville	
25	Michael	Martin	WD 20	Utility Rep
26	Kelly	O'Rourke	SPU	
27	Jorgan	Peadon	WD 49	Utility Rep + Alt Board Member
28	Darcey	Peterson	WD 90	
29	Diane	Pottinger	North City	Utility Rep + Board Member + Vice Chair
30	Kelsey	Quinn	SPU	
31	Ron	Ricker	North City	
32	Robert	Russell	Coal Creek	
33	Shane	Young	WD 125	Utility Rep + Board Member

b. Announcements:

- Alex Chen shared the good news that Andrew Lee has been retained as SPU GM/CEO by the new Seattle mayor.
- Alex Chen shared that the Tolt Treatment Plant successfully transitioned from contractor-operated to SPU-operated on January 1, as planned.

- Alex Chen mentioned that the upcoming AWWA Effective Utility Management training on February 25 in Lynnwood is a great local opportunity for training and CEUs.
- Julie Crittenden shared that City of North Bend staff have been added to OB meeting invites. North Bend is not an official member of the OB, however it receives untreated “mitigation water” from SPU.
- Kelly O’Rourke mentioned she emailed the forms for the annual wholesale survey this morning, with a return deadline of Feb 27.

2. **Agenda/Minutes**

- a. Dec 4, 2025 minutes were approved 5-0 (1 Operating Board member was absent).
- b. Feb 5, 2026 agenda was approved 5-0 (1 Operating Board member was absent).

3. **Old Business - none**

4. **New Business**

- a. **SPU Customer Assistance & Affordability Programs Overview:** Leslie Brinson provided an overview of SPU’s customer assistance and affordability programs for its retail customers. She explained long standing programs including the Utility Discount Program, Emergency Assistance Program, and standard payment plans. Leslie also shared information about an evaluation of the programs to problem-solve barriers to participation. Finally, she covered a new payment plan program called PromisePay which launched last August and has had early positive results.
- b. **Wholesale Rate Study – Part 1 Introduction:** Regina Carpenter provided a kickoff to the wholesale rate study being conducted in 2026, which will be discussed at numerous OB mtgs throughout 2026. She covered the roles of SPU, the OB, and the rate consultant; the interplay between the rate study and the true up; the scope and timeline; decision points for the OB; and provided a preview of asset and O&M cost allocation.
- c. **Dec 2025 Storm Impact to Regional Water System:** Julie Crittenden shared information about the impacts to the regional water system from the historic storms in December 2025. The Cedar system was the primary focus of the storm management efforts including: 1) balancing dam safety with downstream flooding, 2) managing large woody debris at Landsburg, and 3) impacts of turbidity on diversion. The Tolt system was able to successfully store excess rainfall behind the dam because the Tolt reservoir was well below the typical flood pocket.

5. **Executive Summaries & Other Business**

- a. **Water Consumption – Actual Compared to Rate Study:** Actual annual consumption to date is the same as the 2020 Rate Study projection and 1.4% lower than this time last year.
- b. **Water Supply Update:** The group was briefly walked through the standard four supply graphs. Cumulative precipitation is higher than the long-term average, however snowpack is well below

average. Therefore, SPU is keeping the combined storage higher than the long-term average. Consumption is tracking the long-term average.

c. Next Meeting:

- Mar 5, 2026; 1-3pm; virtual via Microsoft Teams.

6. Good of the Order

a. Julie Crittenden shared that SPU is working with a consultant to develop a comprehensive business case analysis that will identify a recommended implementation approach, if SPU moves forward with Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). The focus is primarily on SPU's retail distribution system, however it will also address wholesale meters. The bulk of the work is expected to be completed towards the end of June. If the outcome looks favorable for wholesale meters, SPU would actively engage wholesale customers. On a corollary, SPU is doing a "quick technology pilot" on 8 wholesale meters (Cedar River, Tukwila, Highline, Soos Creek, and WD 20) to test if AMI works on certain meter types.

b. Alex Chen mentioned DOH's new guidance for updating population numbers and its impact on water quality sampling requirements. SPU is aware of two wholesale customers with increased sampling requirements (WD 125 and Bellevue) and one wholesale customer with decreased sampling requirements (Tukwila). SPU's sampling requirements are staying the same this year, however they will likely increase next year.

Board meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.



[Alex Chen \(03/12/2026 09:36:47 PDT\)](#)

Chair, Alex Chen
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

03/12/2026

Date