

**Final Minutes**  
**Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board**  
**November 2, 2023**

<b><u>Board Members</u></b>	<b><u>Utility Representatives</u></b>	<b><u>SPU Attendees</u></b>	<b><u>Other Attendees</u></b>
Alex Chen, Vice Chair	Abdoul Gafour	Amy LaBarge	Charlotte Haines
Andrew Lee	Boyd Benson	Chris Hilton	Darcey Peterson
Bob Danson, Alternate	Jane Vandenberg	Elizabeth Garcia	John Gibson
Diane Pottinger	Jason Kintner	Hilary Allison	Logan Wallace
Jeremy Delmar, Chair	Jorgan Peadon	Julia Munger	Max Woody
Ron Little, 7 <sup>th</sup> Member	Kathy Curry	Kelly O'Rourke	Pam Maloney
	Michael Martin	Ky Lewis	Patty Hale
	Mike Amburgey	Maria Coe	Ron Ricker
	Pete Eberle	Martha Neuman	Ron Straka
	Steve Leniszewski	Paul Faulds	Roxanne Heller
	Suzi O'Byrne	Paul Hanna	
		Regina Carpenter	
		Terri Gregg	

**1. Welcome, Roll Call & Announcements**

**2. Agenda/Minutes**

- a) The **October 5, 2023** minutes were **approved 5-0**.
- b) The **November 2, 2023** agenda was **approved 5-0**.

**3. New Business**

**3a) Fall Water Supply Updates**

Elizabeth Garcia, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Water Resources Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the water supply year and current supply situation. Highlights included: Ecology declaring drought “advisories” or “emergencies” across the state (“advisory” in our area); the 2023 water year for the Seattle regional system being drier, having lower reservoir storage, and having higher demand compared to average years; and SPU activating the Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) in September. Current climate predictions are for the return of El Nino, which generally means warmer and drier conditions. Currently, SPU reservoirs are rising but not quite back to normal conditions for this time of year. The WSCP will remain in effect until the supply is closer to normal for this time of year. There was a question and a discussion about what supply could look like next year.

**3b) SPU Wildfire Risk Management Strategy**

SPU’s Julia Munger, Watershed Natural Resources Manager, and Chris Hilton, Utility Resilience Advisor, provided a PowerPoint presentation on SPU’s Wildfire Risk Management Strategy. The presentation covered the goals and tactics of the strategy, a wildfire risk analysis currently underway, and lessons learned from recent PNW fires.

**3c) Cascade Contract Negotiations Update**

Alex Chen, SPU Water LOB Deputy Director, and Andrew Lee, SPU GM/CEO, shared information on the status of the contract negotiations with Cascade Water Alliance. The presentation included options SPU

is considering, including associated risks and benefits. There was a robust discussion after the presentation.

**4. Executive Summaries & Other Business**

- **Water Consumption from Watersheds vs. Rate Studies:** Actual consumption to date is 4% higher than the 2020 Rate Study projection and 3% higher than this time last year.
- **Water Supply Update:** This update was discussed earlier in the meeting, no other updates.
- **Future Meetings:**
  - **December 7** – Will be in person at the Mercer Island Community Center (to support an adjacent contract negotiations meeting)
  - **2024 Meeting Schedule** - Will be discussed at Dec 7, 2023 Operating Board meeting as part of the 2024 Workplan agenda item

**5. Good of the Order**

- No comments.

**Board meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM**

**Approved by:**

*Jeremy S. DelMar*  
Jeremy S. DelMar (Feb 2, 2024 11:08 PST)  

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**Chair, Jeremy Delmar**  
**Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board**

02/02/2024  

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**Date**