

Minutes March 7, 2024 - Final

Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

1. Welcome, Roll Call & Announcements

- Attendance as follows:

First Name	Last Name	Utility	Official Operating Board Role	Attendance Type
Hilary	Allison	SPU		In person
Julie	Belt	Woodinville		In person
Boyd	Benson	Bothell	Utility Rep	Virtual
Amanda	Campbell	Northshore	Utility Rep	Virtual
Regina	Carpenter	SPU		In person
Alex	Chen	SPU	Utility Rep + Board Member + Chair	In person
Maria	Coe	SPU	Utility Rep + Alt Board Member	Virtual
Julie	Crittenden	SPU	Utility Rep + Alt Board Member	In person
Jamie	Crookston	Coal Creek		Virtual
Kathy	Curry	Woodinville	Utility Rep	In person
Jeremy	DelMar	Highline	Utility Rep + Board Member	Virtual
Pete	Eberle	WD 90	Utility Rep	Virtual
Abdoul	Gafour	Renton	Utility Rep	In person
Terri	Gregg	SPU		In person
Charlotte	Haines	North City		In person
Patricia	Hale	North City		Virtual
Roxanne	Heller	WD 119		Virtual
Ulysses	Hillard	SPU		In person
Jason	Kintner	Mercer Island	Utility Rep + Alt Board Member	Virtual
Lynn	Kirby	SPU		In person
Paula	Laschober	SPU	Utility Rep + Board Member	Virtual
Andrew	Lee	SPU	Utility Rep + Board Member	In person
Steve	Leniszewski	Duvall	Utility Rep	Virtual
Ky	Lewis	SPU		Virtual
Wayne	Liou	SPU		Virtual
Ron	Little	n/a	Independent Member	Virtual
Eugene	Mantchev	SPU		Virtual
Michael	Martin	WD 20	Utility Rep	Virtual
Patrick	Martin	Coal Creek		Virtual
Katie	Medina	Renton		Virtual
Martha	Neuman	SPU		Virtual
Suzi	O'Byrne	Coal Creek	Utility Rep	Virtual
Kelly	O'Rourke	SPU		Virtual
Julie	Padilla	SPU		Virtual
Maura	Patterson	SPU		Virtual
Jorgan	Peadon	WD 49	Utility Rep	In person
Darcey	Peterson	WD 90		Virtual
Fernando	Platin	SPU		Virtual
Matthew	Porter	SPU		Virtual
Diane	Pottinger	North City	Utility Rep + Board Member	In person
Kathleen	Quong-Vermeire	Highline		In person
Ron	Ricker	North City		In person
Robert	Russell	Coal Creek		Virtual
Susan	Saffery	SPU		Virtual

First Name	Last Name	Utility	Official Operating Board Role	Attendance Type
Michael	Smith	WD 119		Virtual
Carla	Snyder	Coal Creek		Virtual
Ron	Straka	Renton		Virtual
Jane	Vandenberg	Soos Creek	Utility Rep	Virtual
Logan	Wallace	Soos Creek		Virtual
Ingrid	Wertz	SPU		Virtual
Max	Woody	North City		In person
Shane	Young	WD 125	Utility Rep + Board Member + Vice Chair	Virtual

2. Agenda/Minutes

- a) The February 1, 2024 minutes were approved 6-0.
- b) The March 7, 2024 agenda was approved 6-0.

3. Old Business

- None

4. New Business

- a) **PFAS Sampling on Bellevue-Issaquah-Pipeline:** Lynn Kirby, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Water Quality Engineer, provided a short briefing on recent per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) sampling that was conducted on the Bellevue-Issaquah-Pipeline. A discussion ensued about the sample analysis methodology and laboratory options available to SPU, which at present is limited to one lab in California that is highly reputable, especially for new the development of new laboratory methodologies.
- b) **Wholesale Rate Study:** Regina Carpenter, SPU Principal Economist, provided a short briefing on SPU's plan to continue to postpone the rate study until the wholesale contract negotiation process is complete. A discussion ensued about the nature of cash balances in the Water Fund, if there was any flexibility or mechanism within the current contract to use the True Up to reduce rates, and the timing of the next rate study. It was mentioned that the proposed changes to the Full & Partial contract would offer flexibility to smooth rates and/or limit the size of the True Up. The group also discussed the time required for the necessary legislative process, which includes City Council approval, for both the contract amendment and the rate study. In the meantime, the True Up is earning SPU's average cost of debt, which is presently 4.4%.
- c) **Hatchery Water Supply Project:** Ulysses Hillard, SPU's Senior Water Resources Engineer provided a "Pre-Stage Gate 2" briefing to present the preferred option for a new water supply for the Cedar River Fish Hatchery. A robust discussion ensued around the original "interim" hatchery, the purpose of the hatchery, the viability of the fry leaving the hatchery, the overall reduced mortality of sockeye salmon, the elevated cost of the options to serve the hatchery, and the risks associated with lower cost options.
- d) **2025-2030 (6-Year CIP):** Julie Crittenden, SPU's Planning & Program Management Division Director, provided the kickoff of the annual Capital Improvement Plan discussion. This agenda item was truncated due to time limitations, however it will continue at the next Operating Board meeting. Comments from the wholesale customers on the preliminary CIP table were requested by March 22.

5. Executive Summaries & Other Business

- **Water Consumption from Watersheds vs. Rate Studies:** This document was briefly referenced.
- **Water Supply Update:** A brief update was provided by Julie Crittenden. SPU is watching snowpack; we are currently 65% of snowpack/snow water equivalent. The combined reservoir storage is above average for the long-term average of the year.
- **Next Meeting:** April 4 – virtual only, Teams, 1-3PM.

6. Good of the Order

- Julie Crittenden offered historic Seattle Public Utilities watershed posters.
- Diane Pottinger congratulated SPU for winning the National Association of Clean Water Agency award for its Apprenticeship Program.
- Diane Pottinger inquired about King County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan and all the purveyor planning efforts, including SPU, and Alex Chen offered to have Chad Buechler present to the Operating Board.

Board meeting was adjourned at 2:58 PM.

Approved by:


Alex Chen (Apr 10, 2024 06:39 HST)

Chair, Alex Chen
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

04/10/2024

Date