

Final Minutes
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board
September 7, 2023
1-3pm

Webex Video Conference Meeting

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Utility Representatives</u>	<u>SPU Attendees</u>	<u>Other Attendees</u>
Alex Chen, Vice Chair	Abdoul Gafour	Amy LaBarge	Charlotte Haines
Andrew Lee	Bob Danson	Dani Purnell	Crystil Woodridge
Diane Pottinger	Jane Vandenberg	Elizabeth Garcia	Darcey Peterson
Jeremy Delmar, Chair	Jason Kintner	Hilary Allison	Jamie Crookston
Paula Laschober	Jorgan Peadon	Julie Crittenden	Kathleen Quong-Vermiere
Ron Little, 7 th Member	Kathy Curry	Kelly O'Rourke	Katie Nolan
Shane Young	Michael Martin	Ky Lewis	Logan Wallace
	Mike Amburgey	Martha Neuman	Max Woody
	Pete Eberle	Maura Patterson	Patty Hale
	Steve Leniszewski	Terri Gregg	Robert Russell
			Ron Ricker
			Ron Straka

1. Welcome, Introductions & Announcements

The Operating Board (OB) Chair, Jeremy Delmar welcomed everyone to the meeting and welcomed Kathy Curry to the meeting in her new role as the General Manager of the Woodinville Water District. He also introduced Kelly O'Rourke, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), who is serving as the Interim Wholesale Water Contracts Manager following Kathy Curry's departure.

2. Agenda/Minutes

- a) The **July 6, 2023** minutes were **approved 6-0**.
- b) The **September 7, 2023** agenda was **approved 6-0**.

3. New Business

3a) Water Supply Update

Elizabeth Garcia, SPU Water Resources Hydrologist, provided a water supply update sharing details about how the summer weather we have had is shaping our water supply conditions.

3b) Water Shortage Contingency Planning

SPU's Julie Crittenden, Water Planning and Program Management Division Director, shared information on SPU's water shortage contingency planning, including that SPU plans to activate the internal-only planning Advisory Stage tomorrow. A discussion ensued to clarify the contingency planning process, impacts to wholesale customers, how the wholesale customers will be represented on the Water Shortage Advisory Group, and that wholesale customers should send their Conservation Technical Forum (CTF) representatives to the Sept 12 CTF meeting for more information on planned outreach materials, should the plan move into the public-facing Voluntary Phase.

3c) Update on Cascade Contract Negotiations

Alex Chen, SPU Water LOB Deputy Director, shared information on the status of contract negotiations with Cascade Water Alliance (CWA). Andrew Lee added that SPU's leading principles/philosophies around the negotiations are as follows: reducing F&P costs, postponing development of an additional water supply, everyone paying their fair share, and establishing some long-term certainty around water supply needs. SPU shared several options they and Cascade are discussing for both short-term and longer-term water supply. SPU will continue to keep the Operating Board informed as the options develop.

3d) SPU and Grant & Loans

Danielle Purnell, SPU Director of Corporate Policy and Planning, shared information on SPU's efforts and plans to secure grants and loans. There was a question about CHIP funding, and Dani Purnell offered to connect Diane Pottinger with the appropriate SPU Government Relations staffer. Another question was raised about the State's public works fund. Dani Purnell explained that that funding source has not been competitive for SPU as the state typically gives that funding to smaller utilities.

4. Executive Summaries & Other Business

- **Water Consumption from Watersheds vs. Rate Studies** – Alex Chen went over the graphs on Attachment 4a relaying that actual consumption is 5% higher than the 2020 rate projection and 8% higher than this time last year.
- **Water Supply Update** – did not cover given 3a presentation.
- **PFAS** – Alex Chen gave an update about a proposed settlement between a few large PFAS manufacturers (such as Dupont) and water utilities. The deadline for water utilities to opt out is December 4, otherwise utilities are automatically enrolled in the class action suit. Some may wish to opt out if they are not having any impacts or want to reserve the ability to sue at a later date for a potentially better deal. Alex Chen added that SPU's two watersheds and Riverton wellfield (2 wells) are all non-detect for PFAS; SPU's Boulevard well had detected concentrations below the WA State action level but above EPA's current health advisory level.
- **City of Carnation** – There was a question about the recent Tolt Early Warning System failures in the news. Alex Chen explained recent events and SPU's coordination with the City of Carnation, including participation of NorCom (lead on pulse point phone alarms) at an upcoming City meeting and the planned BeDamReady event on September 30. Alex stated that while the dam is monitored 24/7 and is safe, he acknowledged that public perception is important and that the community frustrations are understandable.

5. Future Meetings

- October 5 – In-person, all-day field trip & meeting at the Tolt Watershed
- November 2 – Remote online regular monthly meeting (1 to 3 pm)
- December 7 – Remote online regular monthly meeting (1 to 3 pm)

6. Good of the Order

- No comments.

Board meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Approved by:

Jeremy S. DelMar
Jeremy S. DelMar (Oct 10, 2023 13:39 PDT)

Chair, Jeremy Delmar
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board

10/10/2023

Date