

Final Minutes
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board
April 6, 2023
1-3PM

Hybrid Meeting at the Mercer Island Community & Event Center

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Utility Representatives</u>	<u>SPU Attendees</u>	<u>Other Attendees</u>
Patrick Sorenson, Chair	Mike Amburgey	Hilary Allison	Jamie Crookston
Julie Crittenden, Alt.	Boyd Benson	Regina Carpenter	Charlotte Haines
Paula Laschober	Jeremy Delmar	Julie Crittenden	Darcey Peterson
Diane Pottinger	Pete Eberle	Kathy Curry	Kathleen Quong-Vermiere
Bob Danson, Alt.	Abdoul Gafour	Terri Gregg	Robert Russell
Ron Little, 7 th Member	Michael Martin	Lynn Kirby	Ron Straka
	Suzi O’Byrne	Eugene Mantchev	Logan Wallace
	Jorgan Peadon	Martha Neuman	Nicole Siekmeier Janes
	Jane Vandenberg	Kelly O’Rourke	
		Maura Patterson	

1. Welcome, Introductions & Announcements

The Operating Board (OB) Chair, Patrick Sorenson, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Kathy Curry, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Wholesale Water Contracts Manager, completed a roll call of OB Members and confirmed there was a quorum to begin the meeting. Patrick Sorenson shared an announcement that he will be retiring from his role as General Manager for Woodinville Water District and his role as OB Chair at the end of May.

2. Agenda/Minutes

- a) The **March 2, 2023** minutes were **approved 5-0**.
- b) The **April 6, 2023** agenda was **approved 5-0**.

3. Old Business

3a) 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan

Maura Patterson, SPU Drinking Water Planning and Policy Advisor, shared an update on the 6-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), focusing on new projects introduced to the Regional CIP Table this year and looking ahead at the remaining steps for this year’s annual Regional CIP review by the Operating Board.

4. New Business

4a) Wholesale Annual True Up Procedures

Nicole Siekmeier Janes, from Moss Adams, along with Regina Carpenter, SPU Principal Economist, highlighted the annual True Up procedures to be performed, asked if the OB wants any changes to these procedures, and requested approval to proceed.

A discussion ensued about the Southwest Subregion’s flow as summarized in a presentation table, noting that Seattle’s portion of flow is much higher than anticipated prior to the start of the wholesale contract negotiations. Regina Carpenter clarified that it was not possible to provide totals for the flow-related columns in the table since the flows for each facility overlap.

Another question was raised regarding the recent discussion on postponing the wholesale rate study and what it would look like with the True Up balance if that study was to happen today. The Board was reminded that Regina Carpenter's presentation at the March 2, 2023 OB Meeting looked at that question. There was a request to further discuss the Rate Study options at an upcoming OB meeting. Kathy relayed that she would try to carve out some time at one of the upcoming OB meetings. At the conclusion of the discussion, the OB members voted in favor of proceeding with the wholesale annual true up procedures.

4b) Regional Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Implementation

Kelly O'Rourke, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Water Conservation Manager shared the results from a recent Conservation Technical Forum survey on AMI implementation among Seattle's wholesale water customers.

4c) New Proposed PFAS Regulations

Lynn Kirby, SPU Water Quality Engineer, shared PFAS background information, information on proposed EPA regulations, and SPU's plans. A discussion ensued about potential sources of PFAS such as fire-fighting foam and methods for removal of PFAS.

Lynn shared that SPU's understanding of EPA's proposed PFAS regulation is that SPU will be responsible for monitoring as the water supply source provider, meaning that wholesale water customers that get their entire water supply from Seattle will not need to monitor. For those wholesale customers subject to the new EPA monitoring requirements, the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule No. 5 (UCMR5) may be used to satisfy initial monitoring requirements. All wholesale water customers greater than 3,300 customers are subject to UCMR5 monitoring requirements.

A question was also asked about SPU's Water Quality Laboratory capabilities to analyze PFAS samples. Lynn Kirby responded that SPU's Lab is not certified for any PFAS samples; SPU sends PFAS samples to a lab in California. A Board member asked if SPU would share its comments on the proposed EPA regulation with the Operating Board. *Post-meeting note: SPU does not have any comments on EPA's PFAS proposal to share at this time.*

The discussion then shifted to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). Lynn Kirby shared that she has learned the WA Department of Health (DOH) is not intending to provide guidance on alternative sampling methods such as modeling. SPU is developing a model that would reduce the number of connections requiring inspection by using statistical analyses and historical plumbing code information to develop a representative sample of SPU's total connections, which are over 200,000. Lynn relayed that SPU has shared their research with the attendees of the Water Quality and Supply Operations Technical Forum. Lynn Kirby also shared that she has received verbal agreement from DOH that a 3-point inspection will suffice for an inspection – one on the private side and two on the public side of the connection. WD90 shared that they were able to reduce the number of inspections in question from 8k to 2k based on the combined Seattle-King County plumbing code update in 1968 that prohibited lead service lines.

5. Executive Summaries & Other Business

- **Water Consumption from Watersheds vs. Rate Studies** – Julie Crittenden went over the graphs on Attachment 5a relaying that water sales are on track.

- **Water Supply Update** – Julie Crittenden went over Attachment 5b and shared that consumption is normal and that, while water storage is a little lower than typical for this time of year, everything is in generally good shape.

6. Future Meetings

Kathy Curry provided reminders for the following upcoming Operating Board meetings:

- May 11 - Remote online regular monthly meeting (1 to 3 pm)
- June 1 – Remote online regular monthly meeting (1 to 3 pm)
- July 6 – In-person meeting at the Cedar River Watershed Education Center (12 to 3 pm)

7. Good of the Order – none raised.

Board meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Approved by:



**Chair, Patrick Sorenson
Seattle Water Supply System Operating Board**

May 16, 2023
Date