

## **Small Water Systems Technical Committee**

9:30-12:30, June 26, 2006

Seattle KC Public Health Eastgate

*Facilitator: Tamie Kellogg, Kellogg Consulting*

### **Meeting Summary Notes**

#### **1. Introductions – Housekeeping**

- The Web site for the water supply planning effort is now online. The page for the Small Water Systems (SWS) Committee includes the approved meeting summary notes. It also includes the 1991 DOH small water systems report and links to other documents and Web sites such as the SPU consolidated report and the King County groundwater protection program.
- The committee approved the draft summary notes for the June 5 meeting.

#### **2. Updates: Technical Committees and Coordinating Committee**

- The Executive Committee approved all technical committee proposals for using the \$250,000 in state funds to support their work. The SWS Committee co-chairs will develop a more detailed scope for three of the committee's proposals to use \$40,000 to compile information on exempt wells and to produce a final report. The fourth proposal—to use \$10,000 to install meters and measure groundwater use at selected wells—was approved for later implementation when staff are available. The fleshed-out proposals will be submitted to Ecology and then to the King County Council for approval. Work will start around July or August and products are expected to be ready in September and October.
- Members raised concerns about meeting the October deadline for the final report, given that the products will need to be discussed and analyzed before being incorporated into the report.
- A question was raised about the emphasis of the proposals on exempt wells. One response was that gathering new data and compiling existing data on exempt wells will help the committee to determine whether these wells pose a problem in King County.
- The proposed work will be done by PHSKC, by King County DNRP and WLRD, and possibly by a consultant to help with final report production.
- Kaleen's cross-walk of technical committees is still in review by the Coordinating Committee. SWS Committee members reported on the work of other committees:
  - Climate Change is almost finished with their agreement on “building blocks” to be used in their analysis.
  - Small Tributaries has agreed on a list of priority tributaries. The goal is to identify areas where source exchange (taking wells offline and using other sources instead) would benefit instream flows. A member indicated that the targeted tributaries cover about one-third of the county.

*Action Item for July 18 meeting: Tamie will incorporate the updated scope of work for the proposals into the roadmap and then distribute the revised roadmap and schedule before the meeting.*

*Agenda Items for July 18 meeting:*

- *Distribute the detailed scope of the three proposals to members for their review.*
- *Distribute a list of the priority tributaries and a map that shows their locations.*

*Agenda item for all meetings: Include an update on the work of other technical committees.*

### **3. Identify New Issues and Questions**

- No new issues or questions were raised.

### **4. Data/Information Gathering**

- DOH and PHSKC reported on progress made on the recommendations in the 1991 DOH small water systems report. They will continue the discussion at the July 18 meeting and then produce a handout that summarizes the status of each recommendation.
- Members raised questions regarding funding for oversight of Group B and small Group A systems. Group A systems are charged for third-party surveys. Federal and state funds cover costs for PHSKC to conduct surveys of Group B systems. The funding is contingent on continued legislative approvals. PHSKC also receives funds from new system fees. Ecology oversees well decommissioning.

*Agenda Item for July 18 meeting: Continue the discussion of the status of the 1991 recommendations.*

*Action Items for future meetings:*

- *DOH and PHSKC will distribute a summary of the status of the 1991 recommendations.*
- *PHSKC will compile and report on utility referrals in the county for the past three years.*

### **5. Next Steps – Reports and Work Products**

- Members reviewed a draft annotated outline of the final report for the SWS committee. A member requested that the process for eliminating potential problems/issues be made more explicit in the outline.
- King County staff are preparing a summary of all committee handouts and presentations to date. Its purpose is to help members assess the status of the data gathering task and to serve as a basis for writing Chapter 2 of the final report.

*Action Items for July 18 meeting: Distribute to members a revised draft outline of the final report and a draft of the summary of handouts and presentations.*

## **6. Refinement of Committee-Generated Questions/Issues**

- The committee began to refine its list of questions/issues (Q/I). The process will continue at the July 18 meeting. Outcomes and assignments are as follows:
  - Q/I 1a. Mike Ireland will compile a list of disincentives. Members will send Mike an email with disincentives they'd like to add to the list.
  - Q/I 1b. Bob Pancoast will rewrite this Q/I to reflect the committee's comments on how, because of water rights issues, there sometimes is no choice but to form Group B systems and how new water rights are different from transfers of existing rights.
  - Q/I 1c. Larry Fay will rewrite this Q/I to reflect the conflict between landowner and utility schedules for supplying water to properties. A question was raised as to entitlement to develop land (and receive water) irrespective of a utility's plan and "taking" (may be subject to interpretation of rules for Municipal Water Law 1338). This issue may be outside the scope of the committee. Another question was raised as to who pays for infrastructure to connect to a utility's system.
  - Q/I 1d. DOH and Ron Garrow will rewrite this Q/I.
  - Q/I 1e. This Q/I will be consolidated with Q/I 1c.
  - Q/I 1f. Dave Monthie and Mike Ireland will rewrite this Q/I.
  - Q/I 1g. Members decided that discussion of this Q/I should be postponed until after DOH makes a presentation on the recently issued MWL discussion papers at the August 7 meeting.
  - Q/I 1h. Bill Lasby will rewrite this Q/I.

*Action Items for July 18 meeting: Members will send rewritten Q/I's to Tamie by July 10. Tamie will revise the list to incorporate these change and distribute the revised list before the meeting.*

### *Agenda Items for July 18 meeting:*

- *Continue the discussion of Q/I's.*
- *Craig Shuck will present his understanding of the perspectives of small water systems.*

## **7. Next Meetings**

- Potential agenda items for future meetings:
  - PHSKC: the number and locations of daycares in King County.
  - PHSKC: information on well decommissioning in King County.
  - Kaleen Cottingham: a chart depicting coordination among the technical committees.
  - Broader issues discussion with King County DDES including requirements under Title 13 of the KC code and under the GMA.
  - Deana Taylor, DOH (August 7): Municipal Water Law discussion papers.

- DOH: information on the grant program used to help fund hookup of a small system to the Cedar River water system.
  - Discuss funding sources and amounts available to agencies for regulating small water systems to determine whether the funding is adequate.
  - Sarah Ogier (KC groundwater protection program): present information on policy recommendations and the work being performed under interlocal agreements.
  - Others?
- Meetings scheduled thus far:
    - Mon. August 7
    - Tues. August 29 (proposed change of meeting date from Aug. 28 )
    - Tues. Sept. 19
    - Mon. Oct. 9
    - Mon. Oct. 30
    - Mon. Nov. 20

**Abbreviations:** DOH—Washington State Department of Health, DNRP—King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Ecology—Washington State Department of Ecology, PHSKC—Public Health—Seattle and King County, CWSP—Coordinated Water System Plan, SPU—Seattle Public Utilities; WLRD—Water and Land Resources Division within King County DNRP.