

Small Water Systems Technical Committee

9:30-12:30, July 18, 2006

Seattle KC Public Health Eastgate

Facilitator: Tamie Kellogg, Kellogg Consulting

Meeting Summary Notes

1. Introductions – Housekeeping

- The committee approved the draft summary notes for the June 26 meeting.
- The committee discussed whether to post meeting agendas on the Web site for regional water supply planning. The general sentiment was that posting would be useful particularly if the agendas were online in enough time to view before the meeting.
- Members agreed on a new ground rule—to take responsibility for learning (via summary notes and other means) the content of meetings that they missed. The ground rule was accepted with the caveat that members can send emails to the committee with any comments and questions regarding summary notes of missed meetings before each meeting.

Action Item for August 7 meeting: Dave Monthie will check to see if agendas can be posted on the Web site in a timely manner.

2. Updates: Technical Committees and Coordinating Committee

- There were no comments on four maps prepared by the Department of Ecology for the Tributary Streamflow Technical Committee and sent via email to SWS committee members before the meeting. Kaleen mentioned that the information will be the main topic of the Coordinating Committee meeting on July 26.
- The updated proposal for using \$50,000 of the \$250,000 in state funds was distributed to members at the meeting. Dave Monthie explained that detail was added on how the money would be used, including tables listing duration and costs for project tasks. An additional \$5,000 was added to the cost for Project 3. Other funding sources will need to be found to cover this addition. PHSKC described Project 1, which focuses on gathering and compiling data on Group B systems.
- Some members raised concerns that the emphasis of the projects may be too narrow (Group B systems; water usage). They feel that the money could be used to address other issues related to small systems, such as water quality. Others thought that information obtained from Projects 1–3 may be useful in determining whether exempt wells pose a problem and in determining where the wells are located (whether they're in service areas or rural areas). The Ecology representative suggested that exploration of water quantity issues (including whether water rights are exceeded) should not be abandoned because of an assumption that these issues are under Ecology's purview. Ecology deals with such issues on a case-by-case basis only.
- A question was raised about the timeliness of Project 3 (collecting data on water usage of exempt wells). The results will not be ready until after the

proposed time for completion of the committee's final report. This project has been included in the proposal as a "placeholder." Because of staffing constraints, it cannot begin until fall 2006. Data would be collected for a year so that the summer dry period (2007) can be included. The committee decided to revisit this placeholder at a later date to see if collecting other types of data, such as data on operational issues related to providing safe and reliable water supply, would better support the committee's efforts. Kaleen said that the placeholder proposals must be ready for funding committee review by September 30. (The Coordinating Committee has delegated review of proposals to the funding committee.)

3. Identify New Issues and Questions

- No new issues or questions were raised.

4. Data/Information Gathering

- DOH and PHSKC continued reporting on progress made on the recommendations in the 1991 DOH small water systems report. They distributed a handout that summarizes the status of each recommendation.
- Craig Shuck distributed a handout and discussed the pros and cons of small water systems. Craig is a certified operator who designs and manages small water systems. Some issues were raised in relation to the discussion, such as provision of fire protection flows and the lack of a clear definition of "timely and reasonable" for provision of Group A water to small systems.
- PHSKC clarified that although Group B systems are not assigned a DOH operating status color, PHSKC classifies these systems as adequate, provisionally adequate, and inadequate.
- Ecology distributed copies of *2003 Municipal Water Law Interpretive and Policy Statement*. Ecology would like comments on the statement by the end of July.

Action Items by August 7 meeting:

- ***PHSKC will distribute a sample property title or provide a link to such a title that indicates that the property is on a Group B system and the requirements for satellite management or connection to Group A system if these services are available.***
- ***Members will provide Ecology with comments on its MWL policy statement by July 31.***
- ***Craig Shuck will send an electronic version of his handout on pros and cons of small water systems to Tamie for distribution to the committee.***

Agenda Item for August 7 meeting: DOH and PHSKC will provide the status on Recommendations 9b and 9d in the 1991 DOH report (waiting to get information from DOH sources).

Agenda Items for future meetings:

- *Discuss issues regarding Recommendation 6d, funding for infrastructure needs. (Utilities would like a centrally managed program that provides information on funding sources and criteria.)*
- *Discuss responsibilities/liabilities between satellite managers and certified operators, including the types of services that a satellite management agency can delegate to operators.*

5. Next Steps – Reports and Work Products

- King County staff distributed and asked members to review a summary of all committee handouts and presentations to date. The purpose of the summary 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 August 7 meeting:

- *Cathie will send members an electronic version of the summary of committee handouts and presentations.*
- *Members will provide comments on the accuracy of the information in the summary.*
- *Tamie will distribute a revised committee roadmap based on the schedules provided in the funding proposals.*

6. Refinement of Committee-Generated Questions/Issues

- The committee continued to refine its list of questions/issues (Q/I). The process will continue at the August 7 meeting. Outcomes and assignments are as follows:
 - Q/I 1d. DOH and Ron Garrow will rewrite this Q/I. (Carryover from 6-26 meeting.)
 - Q/I 1f. Dave Monthie and Mike Ireland will rewrite this Q/I. (Carryover from 6-26 meeting.)
 - Q/I 2h. Bill Lasby will rewrite this Q/I. (Carryover from 6-26 meeting.)
 - Q/I 2i. New wording: “Do we need a strategy to avoid receivership of small water systems?”
 - Q/I 2j. New wording: “What data is needed to determine the effects of small water systems on regional water resources?”
 - Q/I 2k. New wording: “What should be considered standard elements and best practices of satellite management of small water systems in King County?”
 - Q/I 2L. Sarah Ogier and Larry Fay will rewrite after Deana Taylor’s (DOH) presentation at the August 7 meeting.
 - Q/I 2m. Mike Ireland will assess whether this issue is covered under Q/I 1a. If so, it will be combined with Q/I 1a. If not, it will remain here, with a possible rewrite.
 - Q/I 2n. Larry Fay and Bill Lasby, both of PHSKC, will rewrite this Q/I.

Action Items for August 7 meeting:

- *Members will send rewritten Q/I's to Tamie by July 28. Tamie will revise the list to incorporate these rewrites and distribute the revised list before the meeting.*
- *Members will send Tamie an email to volunteer to rewrite Q/I's yet to be discussed.*

Agenda Item for August 7 meeting: Continue to refine the Q/I's.

Agenda Item for future meeting: Ecology will make a presentation on its standards, processes, and policies regarding Q/I 2m—disposition of Group B water rights when Group B systems are absorbed by Group A systems.

7. Next Meetings

- Main topics for the August 7 meeting: (1) Deana Taylor (DOH) presentation on MWL discussion papers and (2) continuation of refinement of committee-generated questions and issues.
- 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.
 - 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:
 - Tues. August 29 (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, MWL—Municipal Water Law, SPU—Seattle Public Utilities, WLRD—Water and Land Resources Division within King County DNRP.