Engineering & Planning Subcommittee High Level Meeting Notes May 4, 2023

Don Anderson from Seattle Public Utilities returned to E&P to complete their presentation about reducing Inflow & Infiltration in the system. He opened by explaining some of the context of the Seattle system that began as a combined system in the late 1800s, with changes starting in the 1950s to separated systems. Their program is opportunistic in separating previously combined sewer where possible with new additions fully separated and now includes efforts nibbling away at the combined system to separate it bit by bit. There is also a consent decree driving the reduction and control of combined sewer overflow events.

Reducing I&I has many drivers, as noted above. If there were a theme for how Seattle is approaching the problem, it is "Knowing our system to better our system". They have a robust program of closed circuit camera inspection of the entire system on a ten year cycle. That allows them to identify problem pipes, unusual flow patterns, and to identify the best strategy and technology for addressing specific problem areas.

By understanding the condition of Seattle's system, a robust asset management program is using all the available tools to rehabilitate or replace pipe that is contributing to I&I. Seattle is also providing incentives to private owners to address their side sewers or to build green stormwater infrastructure in the combined sewer areas to reduce inflow to the system.

Steve Hitch, Chair Ben Marre, Vice Chair