



STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, June 11, 2014, from 9:00 am to 11:20 am
USGS, 934 Broadway, Tacoma WA, 98402

Draft Summary

OF THE MEETING'S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

See the last page for a list of acronyms

ATTENDEES:

Work Group Members and Alternates at the table, and the organizations or groups and caucuses they represent: **Abbey Barnes** (WDNR), State Agencies; **Mark Biever** (Thurston Co), Local Governments; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Dick Gersib** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments and the PSEMP Steering Committee Chair; **Katelyn Kinn** (Puget Soundkeeper Alliance), Environmental Groups; **Chris Konrad** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Brian Landau** (Shoreline), Local Governments; **Bill Moore** (Ecology), State Agencies; **Ben Parrish** (Covington), Local Governments; **Kit Paulsen** (Bellevue), Local Governments; **Jim Simmonds** (King Co), Local Governments and the Work Group's Chair; **Carol Smith** (WCC), Agriculture; **Bruce Wulkan** (PSP), State Agencies.

Other Work Group Alternates in attendance: **Jenee Colton** (King Co); **Melva Hill** (Bainbridge Island).

Others in attendance: **Curtis Nickerson** (CardnoTEC); **Bill Taylor** (Taylor Aquatic Science); **Kelly Uhacz** (Battle Ground).

Work Group Staff: **Karen Dinicola** (Ecology, SWG Staff); **Brandi Lubliner** (Ecology, RSMP Coordinator).

WORK GROUP APPROVES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INITIAL ROUND OF RSMP EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES

At our meetings the past several months (and years) we have discussed the list of RSMP Effectiveness Studies. Most recently, we requested pre-proposals for studies that would address the 6 priority topics that were identified in our June 2013 recommendations to Ecology. At the first of two workshops on this topic we narrowed the list of 23 pre-proposals to a list of 12. Two of the 12 were combined with other studies resulting in full proposals for 10 studies that were discussed at the second workshop. Permittees ranked the studies in a survey and discussed them at a recent caucus meeting. The Pooled Resources Oversight Committee (PRO-Committee) discussed the feedback from our most recent work group meeting and forwarded a set of recommendations for the work group to consider submitting to Ecology. The work group discussed the PRO-Committee's recommendations and made minor edits. The 14 work group members present at the table voted to approve the following recommendations:

The Stormwater Work Group recommends funding the first round of RSMP Effectiveness Studies as follows:

1. A majority (all but two) of the work group members recommend that all ten of the study proposals that came out of the RSMP Effectiveness Studies Workshops should move forward for the Ecology contracting process. All work group members recommend that funding will be contingent upon the review and approval of the scope, schedule, list of deliverables, and budget by the PRO-Committee.
 - a. Of the two work group members in the minority, one recommended that only the top eight move forward, and the second recommended that only the top seven move forward. (See the complete list of studies below.) These two members were concerned that some permittees are not convinced that the other studies would be as beneficial or regionally applicable and perhaps the funding should be saved for the next round of proposals. However, there was not strong opposition to those other studies moving forward.
2. All work group members agree that four proposals should move forward this summer:
 - a. Paired Urban Small Stream Watershed Restoration Effectiveness Study
 - o A steering committee will be convened to inform the streamflow monitoring design and approach, and identify the best indicators.
 - b. Effectiveness of Bioretention in Reducing Stormwater Flows, Pollutants and Toxicity

- An Ecology engineer reviewed this proposal and the project proponents will respond to the comments as part of developing the QAPP.
- c. Effectiveness of treating highway runoff to Echo Lake with LID retrofits
 - An Ecology engineer should review this study as soon as possible.
- d. Can bioretention prevent toxicity to coho salmon exposed to road runoff?
 - An Ecology engineer should review this study as soon as possible.
- 3. All work group members agree that PRO-Committee members should review a detailed scope of work for the first four, focusing on the proposed deliverables. The RSMP Coordinator will facilitate this process. The purposes of the reviews are to discern:
 - a. What are the study feasibility, chance of success, and potential value of study results?
 - b. Do the deliverables clearly accomplish/support the intent of the proposal?
 - c. Is the budget reasonable given the level of effort and resources proposed?
 - d. Are the schedule, approach, and key assumptions reasonable?
- 4. All work group members agree that the RSMP Coordinator and PRO-Committee should do a close inspection of estimated costs in each proposal, including contracting processes and overhead rates on pass-through funding; consider appropriate contingency funding; and find opportunities for equipment sharing or rental in lieu of purchase.
- 5. All work group members agree that a gap analysis is needed in advance of requesting another round of proposals to allocate the remainder of the funds. This should be done in about 2 years.
- 6. All work group members agree that a third party technical and scientific review of the remaining study proposals should be sought to identify fatal flaws and improve the projects.
 - a. Consider having previous funding recipients review future proposals.
- 7. All work group members agree that the following specific, project-specific suggestions should be considered further:
 - a. Include as-built information/documentation as part of bioinfiltration study QAPPs.
 - b. Disposal costs for catch basin maintenance would require substantial additional data evaluation and should be considered as a separate, future project.
 - c. Consider adding funding for the substantial staff time that will be required to collect data for the catch basin and source controls studies.
 - d. Add an additional year of monitoring and evaluation of the wet pond in the bioretention effectiveness study.
 - e. For the hydrologic performance study, articulate what would happen if the full desired number of facilities could not be found. How would that affect the study?
 - f. For rain gardens, articulate process and early deliverable of what info the project would continue to gather. Have a steering committee of local jurisdictions help define this.

The complete list of studies is:

1. Mining the existing Western Washington catch basin inspection and maintenance data for maintenance needs and cost-efficiencies.
2. Paired Urban Small Stream Watershed Restoration Effectiveness Study.
3. Effectiveness of Bioretention in Reducing Stormwater Flows, Pollutants and Toxicity.
4. Stormwater Source Control at Small Businesses.
5. Bioretention Hydrologic Performance Study.
6. Can bioretention prevent toxicity to coho salmon exposed to road runoff?
7. Field test of plants and fungi on bioretention performance over time.
8. Effectiveness of treating highway runoff to Echo Lake with LID retrofits.
9. Quantifying the Impact of Voluntary Private Property Rain Gardens across Puget Sound.
10. Efficacy of current rain garden installations at interrupting PCB cycling.

Chair Jim Simmonds will formally submit these recommendations to Ecology for the RSMP Coordinator to begin implementing over the summer.

WORK GROUP APPROVES SCOPE OF WORK FOR RSMP STATUS AND TRENDS MONITORING

The overall strategy for RSMP Status and Trends monitoring was established in our “Key Recommendations” to Ecology in 2010. Our recommendations were adopted by Ecology and included in the permit. At our last meeting, we discussed the PRO-Committee’s recommendations to bring the RSMP Status and Trends monitoring costs in line with the available budget while still meeting the main objectives of the program and being strategic with our overall investment. By consensus (all members present voting in favor), the work group members approved the following recommendations:

The Stormwater Work Group recommends implementing the RSMP Status and Trends monitoring as follows:

1. Maintain a budget buffer of 10-15% for RSMP cost overruns.
2. All of the site numbers in the recommendations below are inclusive of opt-out sites in the referenced list. (The RSMP will sample the recommended number of sites, less sites on the list that will be sampled by the permittees who elected to conduct their own status and trends monitoring.)
 - a. Keep stream benthos and sediment chemistry monitoring at all 100 small streams sites.
 - b. Reduce periphyton sampling from 100 sites to 30 sites inside the UGA.
 - c. Reduce the number of Water Quality Index (WQI) small streams sampling sites from 50 inside and 50 outside Urban Growth Areas (UGAs) to no fewer than 30 inside and 30 outside UGAs.
 - d. Add metals (copper, chromium, zinc, lead, cadmium, silver, and arsenic), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), calcium, magnesium, and hardness to the WQI sites.
 - e. Monitor nearshore sediment chemistry and mussels at a total of 40 nearshore sites.
 - f. Eliminate the nearshore bacteria sampling. Instead, conduct an analysis of local government (including opt-outs), WDOH, and other data to recommend future monitoring for this indicator.
3. Begin work on contracting for the small streams monitoring as soon as possible. When sites are confirmed, get estimates of travel and labor costs from entities interested in conducting the monitoring.
4. Continue to develop the budget with additional detailed information. Continue to refine the cost estimates and bring decisions to the PRO-Committee.
5. Continue to explore opportunities to coordinate with USGS NAWQA study and cooperative funding program.

Chair Jim Simmonds will formally submit these recommendations to Ecology for the RSMP Coordinator to begin implementing over the summer.

Thurston, King, Skagit, Whatcom Counties are awaiting the confirmed list of sites for RSMP small streams status and trends monitoring to move forward with an implementation plan for the monitoring. Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties do not plan to participate. The Counties are planning to have USGS fill the gaps. USGS is currently conducting the site confirmation under the funding agreement signed in March. They expect to complete this work and have all of the sites confirmed by the end of this month.

Several other activities related to RSMP Small Streams Status and Trends monitoring are happening this summer: The NAWQA study will have 50 sites in Washington, but that study design will not be completed until this fall. USGS Cooperative funds might be available to expand the list of parameters monitored at the RSMP small streams sites. WSDOT will notify Ecology by July 15 which permit option the agency chooses for participation in RSMP Status and Trends monitoring. Their choices include an annual funding contribution, adding pesticide analyses in small streams, or adding nearshore mussel monitoring sites.

WORK GROUP APPROVES AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS

At previous work group meetings, we have approved recommendations for monitoring nutrients, sediment, pesticides and other pollutants from livestock and croplands. Today we consider the final round of recommendations anticipated to comprise a regional monitoring strategy for agricultural runoff. When the work group last discussed this set of recommendations in November 2013 we had relatively little feedback for the subgroup to consider. Today’s discussions of the recommendations focused on addressing effectiveness and implementation monitoring of agricultural and, where applicable, stormwater-specific BMPs.

With some edits, the work group members approved the subgroup's recommendations. The SWG Agricultural Runoff Subgroup will compile all of the SWG-approved recommendations from previous meetings and from today's meeting and will present a strategic framework for implementation and funding to the work group, optimistically in January 2015. The approach will be analogous to the development of the "Key Recommendations" for regional stormwater monitoring ultimately adopted by the SWG in 2010 and submitted to Ecology and PSP. When the agricultural runoff monitoring strategy is approved, the SWG will formally submit it to the appropriate agencies.

WORK GROUP APPROVES NEW MEMBERS OF THE POOLED RESOURCES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The PRO-Committee has been meeting with interim members as approved at our meeting on March 19. At today's meeting we approved the following PRO-Committee members for 2-year terms:

Permittee Representatives:	Will Appleton (Federal Way), Ben Parrish (Covington), Jim Simmonds (King County), and Kelly Uhacz (Battle Ground)
Permittee Alternates:	Heather Kibbey (Everett), Kit Paulsen (Bellevue), Bill Reilly (Bellingham), and Carla Vincent (Pierce County)
Other Stakeholder Representatives:	Chris Konrad (U.S. Geological Survey), Tom Putnam (Puget Soundkeeper Alliance), and Bruce Wulkan (PSP)
Other Stakeholder Alternates:	Abby Barnes (WDNR), Jay Davis (USFWS), and Katelyn Kinn (Puget Soundkeeper Alliance)

Work group members revisited the previously-discussed concerns that permittee representatives not paying into the RSMP Status and Trends monitoring should recuse themselves from those decisions. Work group members generally agreed that it is the professional responsibility of each member of the PRO-Committee to decide when it is appropriate to have another, alternate member take their seat at the table for a discussion or decision.

WORK GROUP HEARS UPDATES RELATED TO OUR WORK AND OUR SUBGROUPS

- The next issue of our SWG Reporter will go out in mid-July and will include the following topics:
 - Work group approves recommendations for first round of RSMP Effectiveness Studies. Next steps.
 - Pooled Resources Oversight Committee up and running. Next meeting late July.
 - Work group approves recommendations for RSMP status and trends scope. Update on status of implementation and next steps.
 - Work group approves recommendations for agricultural effectiveness monitoring. Strategy expected in 2015.
 - WSDOT decision on RSMP Status and Trends monitoring participation.
- Most of our caucuses were well represented at today's meeting. The Local Government Caucus has one member vacancy but recently appointed twelve alternates to ensure that all six of their seats at the table are filled. The State Agency Caucus has two vacancies. Tribes, Ports, and Business and Environmental Caucuses have not been as consistently represented and should be encouraged to fill their seats at the table. When the SWG was formed, PSP supported caucus discussions of issues broader than, but including, monitoring. Bruce Wulkan will ask his managers about reconvening the Business and Environmental Caucuses in particular.
- The next SIDIR Subgroup meeting might not happen until this fall. Priority is to get effectiveness studies and status and trends monitoring underway. Permittees are required to report on IDDE incidents in their annual reports due March 31, 2015.
- The Ruckelshaus Center's PSEMP audit findings will be shared in July. Steering Committee members are looking forward to implementing the recommendations therein. Meanwhile the Steering Committee is focused on funding and staffing, having identified gaps in monitoring PSP's priority indicators.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS

Wednesday, September 17 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm at the USGS Office in Tacoma:

- Hear an update on RSMP Effectiveness Studies and Small Streams Status and Trends Monitoring implementation
- Hear an update from the Pooled Resources Oversight Committee and consider any new recommendations
- Hear from our subgroups about the status of implementing our 2014-2015 work plan
- Determine messages and timing for next SWG Reporter
- Hear from PSEMP Steering Committee and other PSEMP workgroups

The final work group meeting in 2014 is scheduled on November 12.

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED IN THIS MEETING SUMMARY

IDDE: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

NAWQA: National Water Quality Assessment

PRO-Committee: Pooled Resources Oversight Committee

PSEMP: Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program

PSP: Puget Sound Partnership

RSMP: Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program

SIDIR: Source Identification Information Repository

SWG: Stormwater Work Group

UGA: Urban Growth Area

USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS: United States Geological Survey

WCC: Washington Conservation Commission

WDOH: Washington Department of Health

WDNR: Washington Department of Natural Resources

WQI: Water Quality Index

WSDOT: Washington Department of Transportation