

STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, May 1, 2013 9:10 AM – 11:55 PM
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, and the Organizations or Groups and Caucuses they Represent:

Abby Barnes (WDNR), State Agencies; **Bob Cusimano** (Ecology), State Agencies; **Jay Davis** (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Federal Agencies; **Jonathan Frodge** (Seattle), Local Governments; **Dick Gersib** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments; **Chris Konrad** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Lorna Mauren** (Tacoma), Local Governments; **Kit Paulsen** (Bellevue), Local Governments; **Tom Putnam** (Puget Soundkeeper Alliance), Environmental Groups and the Work Group's Vice Chair; **Jim Simmonds** (King Co), Local Governments and the Work Group's Chair; **Carol Smith** (WSCC), Agriculture; **Heather Trim** (Futurewise), Environmental Groups; **Bruce Wulkan** (Puget Sound Partnership), State Agencies.

Others in attendance: **Melva Hill** (Bainbridge Island); **Lincoln Loehr** (Stoel Reeves); **Chris Rhinehart** (PACE Engineers); **Bill Taylor** (Taylor Aquatic Science and Policy).

Work Group Staff: **Karen Dinicola** (Ecology)

WORK GROUP DISCUSSES REVISED LIST OF RSMP EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES

At our last meeting we heard the findings of the efforts to synthesize the findings of the effectiveness study literature review. The work group reviewed a version of our September 2011 list of studies that was annotated with a brief summary of whether or not and the extent to which each proposed question was answered, and new questions proposed by the consultants. The Effectiveness Subgroup met on April 15 and came to surprisingly quick agreement on the revised list that was sent to work group members with the agenda for this meeting. The subgroup focused on the top dozen questions in the September 2011 list. For the June 12 work group meeting our goal is to agree to a final revised list and send it to Ecology with any specific recommendations for initial RFPs to work on writing this coming fall. RFPs would go out early next year.

Although the subgroup agreed that the original September 2011 catch basin inspection question had been answered in the literature, subsequent discussion by Heather Kibbey, Kit Paulsen and others revealed dissatisfaction that data collected by Phase I and some Phase II permittees has not been analyzed and shared. They propose this be done to augment the synthesis findings and help permittees plan their approaches to meeting the new permit requirements. Karen Dinicola brought copies of a new Ecology focus sheet providing additional guidance about the new permit requirements for catch basin inspections.

Lorna Mauren shared a graph of data from their outfall monitoring showing a significant decline in PAHs and phthalates following thorough system-wide cleaning and maintenance. Other work group members emphasized that an ongoing combination of internal and external load reduction approaches is needed and that different systems will need cleaning at various rates. Lorna suggested that the RSMP conduct studies to identify other types of actions needed to accomplish similarly significant results.

Heather Trim requested that the subgroup come up with a different question about the current vehicle leak campaign. Heather and Dick Gersib suggested that one or more of the studies under consideration by the Roads and Highways Subgroup be included in the RSMP and conducted by the municipalities rather than by WSDOT. At its next meeting on May 15 the Roads and Highways Subgroup will discuss which studies to recommend to the Effectiveness Subgroup for inclusion in the RSMP.

The Effectiveness Subgroup will schedule a meeting in late May or early June to discuss the feedback provided today and by the Roads and Highways Subgroup. Work group members noted that study questions need to be about specific topics (but not focused on specific projects) and also that we need to provide a credible trajectory to new topics from our September 2011 list which is referenced in the permit issuance documentation.

WORK GROUP DISCUSSES SIDIR PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

The Source Identification Subgroup has new co-chairs: Mike Graves of Bellevue and Brian Penttila of PPRC. The subgroup and Ecology's permit management team cooperated to develop a new IDDE Incident Tracking Form now out for public comment. The form includes information that is required for permittees to include in their annual reports and additional, optional information that the subgroup considers useful for the SIDIR Results/Findings analyses to support adaptive management of approaches in the permit and regional policy initiatives.

Permittees' use of the form is voluntary, but answering the annual report question is required. The form is intended to help permittees understand how Ecology wants them to respond to the annual report question. Ecology retains responsibility for assuring permit compliance and is seeking input from the subgroup to help make the information gathered for the annual reports useful for SIDIR.

Work group members provided the following comments on the form and were encouraged to submit additional comments as individuals:

- Avoid confusion about "incidents" versus ongoing "problems"
- Look at G3/ERTS report flow: "constitutes a threat?" should be at the top of the form
- Use a more legible font
- Some permittees may be willing to submit information to SIDIR that they prefer not to include in their annual reports
- Use of the form will minimize time to assemble the data and maximize use of RSMP funds to do the SIDIR analyses and reporting.

During the discussion of the list of effectiveness studies, the need for new tools to trace sources was highlighted. The Source Identification Subgroup will discuss priorities for identifying and developing new SIDIR Methods/Approaches after the content of the incident tracking sheet is finalized and the new IDDE Field Screening Manual is released.

WORK GROUP HEARS UPDATE ON ECOLOGY RSMP PROGRAM MANAGER HIRING PROCESS AND TIMING

Hiring a Program Manager for the RSMP is a priority for Ecology but the agency is concerned about uncertainty in three areas: what the final state budget for the agency will look like, the actual rate of RSMP participation by permittees, and the outcome of the appeals of the permits. Bill Moore reported (through Karen) that Ecology will likely develop a position description in July and begin the recruitment process in September with a plan to make an offer after the first of the year when the total RSMP budget is known. Ecology welcomes our feedback on the position description.

WORK GROUP HEARS UPDATES FROM SUBGROUPS AND DISCUSSES SWG REPORTER TOPICS

The current list of members of each of our subgroups is posted on the Google webpage. Several additions and other changes were noted during today's discussion.

The Agricultural Runoff Subgroup is reviewing existing monitoring and identifying data gaps. At their next meeting on July 11 they will be working on effectiveness monitoring recommendations to bring to the work group in September.

The Communication Subgroup does not have a chair. Karen requested more effort by subgroup members to review and improve SWG Reporter issues. Abby Barnes joined the subgroup. The next SWG Reporter will also include a reminder that the work group will discuss Roads and Highways monitoring recommendations in June.

The Marine Nearshore Subgroup has not met in a long time. The subgroup has not really been functioning and still needs a chair. Jay Davis and Heather Trim will ask the Toxics Workgroup members at their next meeting on May 9 to include a placeholder for the subgroup's discussions in its subsequent meeting agendas. Bacteria sampling might not be discussed. Alternatively, the subgroup might meet following Toxics Workgroup meetings, which are generally held on the second Thursdays. If this is agreeable to the Toxics Workgroup members and the Marine Nearshore Subgroup members, an agenda will be developed for a discussion/meeting on June 13.

The current membership of the Pooled Resources Oversight Subgroup does not reflect the composition defined in the charter the work group finalized and approved in May 2012. At our September meeting the work group should discuss appointment and confirmation of Oversight Committee members.

The Roads and Highways Subgroup met last week and now has about 20 proposals under consideration. Thirteen that were shared before the April 23 meeting are currently posted on Ecology's webpage for the subgroup.

PSEMP TOXICS WORKGROUP AND PSP LEADERSHIP COUNCIL BRIEFED ON RSMP

Karen Dinicola briefed the Toxics Workgroup about the RSMP and emphasized opportunities for them to leverage the RSMP in their recommendations future toxics monitoring. Jay Davis is the liaison between the SWG and that workgroup.

The PSP Leadership Council held a "Report Card Forum" on stormwater that included reports on the vital signs, a description of how monitoring and studies are being used in adaptive management of our approaches to reduce stormwater pollution, and reports on the Near-Term Actions for stormwater. Karen worked with Leska Fore and Nathalie Hamel to develop the vital signs and adaptive management presentation. Bruce Wulkan started the accountability discussion that followed.

The Leadership Council also agreed to an approach and schedule for a peer review and assessment of the initial efforts to create PSEMP. The SWG is likely to be involved in that review.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS

Wednesday, June 12, 2013 from 9am to between noon and 2pm at the USGS Office in Tacoma:

- Approve revised list of RSMP effectiveness studies
- Hear findings of USGS streamflow gaging network analysis
- Discuss recommendations for monitoring runoff from roads and highways
- Hear status of implementing our 2013-2014 work plan
- Determine messages and timing for next SWG Reporter
- Hear from PSEMP Steering Committee and other workgroups

Subsequent meetings this year are scheduled September 18 and November 13. We will try to have all meetings end by noon, but because we are planning to meet less frequently, we ask that work group members be flexible with meetings occasionally lasting until 1pm or even 2 pm.

Acronyms used in this meeting summary:

ERTS: Environmental Report Tracking System

IDDE: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

PPRC: Pacific NW Pollution Prevention Resource Center

PSEMP: Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program

PSP: Puget Sound Partnership

RSMP: Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program

SIDIR: Source Identification Information Repository

SWG: Stormwater Work Group

USGS: United States Geological Survey

WDNR: Washington Dept. of Natural Resources

WSCC: Washington State Conservation Commission