

STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, October 19, 2011 9:15 AM – 12:00 PM
USGS conference room
934 Broadway, Tacoma

Draft Summary

OF THE MEETING'S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

ATTENDEES:

Work Group Members and Alternates, and the Organizations or Groups and Caucuses they Represent:

Neil Aaland (AWC and WSAC), Local Governments; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Jonathan Frodge** (Seattle), Local Governments; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments; **Dino Marshalonis** (USEPA), Federal Agencies; **Bill Moore** (Ecology), State Agencies; **Mel Oleson** (Boeing), Business Groups; **Tony Paulson** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Tom Putnam** (Puget Soundkeeper Alliance), Environmental Groups; **Jim Simmonds** (King Co.), Local Governments and the Work Group's Chair; **Carol Smith** (WSCC), Agriculture; **Heather Trim** (People for Puget Sound), Environmental Groups.

Others in attendance: **Mindy Fohn**, Kitsap Co; **Dave Hallock**, Ecology; **Joy Rodriguez**, Puyallup; **Lisa Rozmyn**, Port of Tacoma; **Susan Saffery**, Seattle.

Work Group Staff: **Karen Dinicola** (Ecology), Project Manager.

WORK GROUP APPROVES REVISED OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE CHARTER FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Susan Saffery of Seattle, a member of the SWG Pooled Resources Oversight Subgroup, presented the revised draft oversight committee charter. Most of the changes were well-received by work group members. However, several members expressed concern about the subgroup's proposal that the new committee be authorized by the SWG to report directly to Ecology. Work group members were divided about this concept. Those in favor of the committee reporting directly to Ecology were concerned about timing, capacity, and efficiency. It could take two or more months to get committee recommendations approved. Those opposed were concerned about process. Direct reporting would miss an important step toward ensuring transparent oversight that would be provided by approval of recommendations by the more balanced membership of the work group. Ecology could work with either approach; the agency needs predictability along with transparency of the accountability function.

Work group members **agreed** that because the majority of members are in favor of having committee recommendations approved by the SWG rather than authorizing the committee to report directly to Ecology, the draft committee should be revised to reflect that position. Jim Simmonds, Susan Saffery, and Karen Dinicola will make the necessary edits and send out the revised charter for another round of public comment through February 3, 2012 (coincident with the public comment period of the formal draft permits released today by Ecology). The onscreen notes taken during today's discussion will be posted with the summary of today's meeting at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/mtgsummaries.html>

WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT ECOLOGY'S FRESHWATER MONITORING PROGRAMS

Dave Hallock of Ecology's Environmental Assessment Program spoke to the work group about Ecology's ambient freshwater monitoring programs, and in particular the Washington Water Quality Index (WQI) which is a key parameter of our proposed regional monitoring in Puget Sound lowland wadeable streams. His presentation is posted with the agenda for today's meeting at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/mtgsummaries.html>

Dave's presentation was the fourth in our series of speakers about other monitoring efforts that began earlier this year. We have heard about salmon recovery monitoring, toxics loading studies, and the Pacific Northwest

Ambient Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP). The work group should discuss at a future meeting whether and how to proceed in scheduling more speakers about other monitoring efforts.

SWG AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF SUBGROUP GIVES PROGRESS REPORT

The SWG Agricultural Runoff Subgroup has been working through important issues related to agricultural activities in Puget Sound. About 10 or 11 of the listed subgroup members are active participants. Carol Smith of the Washington State Conservation Commission is providing staff support to the subgroup. Carol presented their progress report, which is posted with the agenda for today's meeting at:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/mtgsummaries.html>

The subgroup likes the SWG's regional receiving water Status and Trends monitoring program. Rather than suggesting changes to that program they are considering recommending additional baseline monitoring and perhaps added parameters. The subgroup will make recommendations for effectiveness studies and source identification related to agricultural activities. The subgroup is not yet setting priorities. They plan to generate a full set of recommendations for all of the issues, prioritize them, and then identify funding sources (likely through partnerships and leveraging federal money). The subgroup's report includes a list of future topics to be addressed. Work group members affirmed the list and also requested that "pesticide sales data" be added to it.

Work group members appreciated the work done by Carol and her knowledgeable subgroup members. Their next meeting is on January 25, 2012 in Everett. They will bring recommendations to our meeting in February.

ECOLOGY HAS RELEASED FORMAL DRAFT PERMIT MONITORING LANGUAGE

Bill Moore of Ecology's Water Quality Program presented a summary of the monitoring language in the six formal draft municipal stormwater permits that were released today for a public comment period that will extend through February 3, 2012. Bill's talk focused on the new Puget Sound monitoring requirements in the 1-year Phase I permit and both the Phase I and Phase II 5-year permits. Accompanying fact sheet language has not yet been released but is expected no later than November 4. Bill's presentation is posted with the agenda for today's meeting at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/mtgsummaries.html>

Work group members discussed what types of comments the SWG might submit on this formal draft permit, considering that all members' home organizations will be submitting their own comments. Members agreed in general that the SWG should consider sending a letter in support of the paradigm shift to cooperative, regional monitoring and perhaps include technical recommendations on the details of Ecology's proposed language.

The nearshore subgroup's recommendations discussed at our last meeting will be discussed again at our next work group meeting in November. Karen Dinicola announced that the revised draft Small Streams Status and Trends Monitoring QAPP has been released and is referred to in the new scope of work in the boilerplate cost-sharing agreement. She will schedule a technical subgroup meeting to discuss the revised document.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The work group's upcoming meetings and expected discussion topics are:

- Wednesday, November 16, 2011 from 9am-noon at the USGS office in Tacoma: (1) discuss the monitoring requirements in the formal draft permit and discuss whether our technical subgroups should tee up recommendations for SWG approval at our next meeting; (2) provide direction to the SWG Work Plan subgroup to produce the next annual update of our work plan; (3) decide content for next SWG Reporter.
- No SWG meeting is scheduled for December.
- January 18, 2011 from 9am-noon at the USGS office in Tacoma: (1) approve SWG comments on the monitoring requirements in the formal draft permit; (2) discuss the SWG Work Plan Subgroup recommendations for the next annual update of our work plan; (3) decide content for next SWG Reporter.