

PUGET SOUND MONITORING CONSORTIUM

STORMWATER WORK GROUP

FIRST MEETING OF THE “CORE” TEAM

Wednesday, 11 June 2008 9:30 AM – Noon
University of Washington Tacoma
The Tacoma Room (GWP Room 320)

FINAL SUMMARY

OF THE MEETING’S KEY DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

Attendees:

MEMBERS: **Allison Butcher** (Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties), Business Caucus; **Dick Gersib**, Washington State Department of Transportation; **Rashi Gupta** (Washington State Association of Counties), local government; **Bruce Jones**, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; **Dee Ann Kirkpatrick**, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries; **Andy Meyer** (Association of Washington Counties), local government; and **Gary Turney**, United States Geological Survey.

ALTERNATES: **Bruce Crawford**, NOAA Fisheries; **Kris Holm**, Business Caucus; **Ed O’Brien**, Washington State Department of Ecology; and **Kit Paulsen** (City of Bellevue), local government.

STAFF: **Karen Dinicola** (Ecology), Project Manager; and **Jim Reid**, facilitator.

CORE TEAM DEFINES THE STORMWATER WORK GROUP’S PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

At this first meeting of the “core team” of the Stormwater Work Group, the members tentatively agreed on a purpose or mission statement for the Work Group. It will be refined once the core team members have the opportunity to review the Work Group’s charter, including goals or objectives, decision-making process, ground rules, and priorities. For now the purpose statement that the core team developed, discussed, and agreed on is:

The purpose of the Stormwater Work Group is to develop a regional cooperative strategy and a monitoring plan that enables us to know whether or not we are reducing harm caused to Puget Sound by stormwater and other surface water sources.

Among the goals or objectives that the core team brainstormed are:

- Reduce the harmful impacts of land development on water quality and quantity and on habitat.
- Develop a sustainable, cooperative monitoring program that can be adopted by the Washington State Department of Ecology for NDPEs permits and is appropriate for the permit holders, provides meaningful management data, promotes greater understanding of

stormwater issues in the environment, and supports a larger, integrated effort to protect and restore Puget Sound.

- Develop a monitoring plan that will promote voluntary participation by a broad coalition of people and organizations that support and participate in improving the health of the Puget Sound.
- Ensure that the monitoring plan helps advance the Puget Sound Partnership's Action Agenda.
- Provide a monitoring framework that lets us know we are monitoring the right things to ensure that what is monitored is relevant, valuable, and useful to policy makers and others who are involved in cleaning up Puget Sound, and supports a system of benchmarks that lets us know shows whether our efforts are making a difference in the health of Puget Sound.

CORE TEAM MAKES ORGANIZATIONAL DECISIONS TO LAUNCH THIS EFFORT

Here are the organizational decisions agreed upon by members of the core team at this kick-off meeting:

- The larger stakeholder group of the Stormwater Work Group will be called the Oversight Committee.
- The smaller "Core Team" will be the working group that identifies, discusses, "vets," and recommends to the Oversight Committee ideas that address policy, technical, and organizational issues.
- The members of both groups need to make the commitment of time and energy to ensure that this effort is successful.
- Both groups will have formal memberships (designated members) that reflect the diverse interests, needs, and concerns of the parties who are involved in or affected by stormwater issues, and will operate according to ground rules that guide the process and, among other things, define how decisions are made. (Jim Reid is drafting a set of ground rules for core team members to review, comment on, and refine.)
- Through at least the end of 2008, the core team will meet monthly. Once established, the Oversight Committee is likely to meet every other month, at least during its first year. (Karen Dinicola and Jim will soon send to the Core Team proposed meeting dates through December or January, and once the Oversight Committee is established, they will work to get meeting dates identified for that group, too.)
- The Work Group will be flexible in its approach to meeting needs. "Ad hoc" subgroups may be periodically needed to address specific issues or projects; forums or workshops may be held to address issues or obtain input and advice from the public or key stakeholders.

In addition, and subject to further discussion at their meeting on July 9th, the core team members also discussed these issues:

- The qualities and characteristics of staff to the group, whether that is a facilitator and project manager or one individual who performs both roles or some other combination of skills and functional responsibilities.
- Whether or not the facilitator should have a background in stormwater and/or monitoring. This may depend on whether or not the group will be served by a project manager.
- Whether or not a chairperson should lead the Core Team and Oversight Committee.
- The proposed membership of the Oversight Committee, as presented by Karen, appeared to be agreeable to Core Team members, and there is a desire to continue to discuss the number of representatives from local governments, and whom those members would represent.
- Long-term funding (beyond the 2007-2009 biennium) for this effort. For the rest of this biennium (through 30 June 2009) the Department of Ecology has \$80,000 set aside to support this work. After that, sources of funding are not determined, although there are options, including funding provided by the legislature that is funneled through Ecology or the Puget Sound Partnership.

NEXT STEPS AND THE NEXT MEETING

The Core Team's next meeting is on 9 July from 1-3 p.m. in the Tacoma Room on the campus of the University of Washington, Tacoma.

Tentative agenda items will be: review of the draft charter, review and discussion of draft ground rules, finalization of the membership of each group, and a structured conversation about the qualities and characteristics, and roles and responsibilities of a project manager, facilitator, and chair, and of the relationship among them and between them and the Core Team and Oversight Committee members.

Between now and the July meeting, these next steps will be completed:

- Karen and Jim will develop and send to Core Team members the draft charter.
- Jim will produce a set of draft ground rules, and send it to them.
- Karen and Jim will work with them to schedule monthly meetings of the Core Team through the end of the year or through January 2009.
- Jim will develop the draft agenda for the July meeting, work with Karen to ensure it reflects the interests and needs of the Core Team, and send it to them for review and comment.
- Karen will send an email to the Core Team as soon as possible updating them on the status of the development of agency budgets for the next biennium so that if the Core Team needs to do anything to ensure long-term funding for this effort, it can.