

# STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, November 14, 2012 9:10 AM – 12:03 PM  
USGS, 934 Broadway, Tacoma WA, 98402

## Final 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:*

**Mark Biever** (Thurston Co.), Local Governments; **Rich Doenges** (Thurston Co.), Local Governments; **Rob Duff** (Ecology), State Agencies and the PSEMP Steering Committee Chair; **Jonathan Frodge** (Seattle), Local Governments; **Dick Gersib** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments; **Chris Konrad** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Chris Lyons** (WDNR), State Agencies; **Mel Oleson** (Boeing), Business Groups; **Kit Paulsen** (Bellevue), Local Governments; **Tom Putnam** (Puget Soundkeeper Alliance), Environmental Groups; **Jim Simmonds** (King Co.), Local Governments and the Work Group's Chair; **Carol Smith** (WA Conservation Commission), Agriculture.

*Others in attendance:* **Rebecca Dugopolski**, Herrera; **Kathleen Emmett**, Ecology; **Darrin Farmer**, GeoEngineers; **Katelyn Kinn**, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance; **Foroozan Labib**, Ecology; **Brandi Lubliner**, Ecology; **Larry Schaffner**, WSDOT; **Bill Taylor**, Independent Consultant.

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

### WORK GROUP APPROVES AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANIMAL OPS

At our last meeting we discussed the SWG Agricultural Runoff Subgroup's second set of recommendations that focus on monitoring animal sources of bacteria and nutrients ranging from hobby farms to CAFOs and dairies. Carol Smith presented the recommendations and highlighted changes from the previous document. The subgroup reached consensus on all of the recommendations. Carol noted that pharmaceuticals (esp. antibiotics) in runoff from animal operations can be added to this framework as a parameter to be investigated pursuant to the detailed source identification monitoring described in Appendix 2 for sites where they are suspected as causing a problem. Work group members unanimously approved the recommendations.

The subgroup plans to submit additional recommendations for work group consideration by the end of 2013. The future recommendations will address monitoring of nutrients from croplands, effectiveness monitoring, and implementation including funding. These sets of recommendations (including previously approved recommendations for monitoring pesticides from croplands and animal sources of bacteria and nutrients) will comprise a strategy for monitoring potential impacts of runoff from agricultural lands in Puget Sound.

### WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT INITIAL WORK TO FORM ROADS AND HIGHWAYS SUBGROUP

Larry Schaffner described the process the SWG Roads and Highways Subgroup is following to develop recommendations for monitoring related to runoff from roads and highways. The subgroup includes about twenty agency and local government representatives and two environmental representatives. The subgroup has not yet met and is currently identifying candidate assessment and research questions via email. Work group members suggest they look at the assessment questions the SWG developed for our 2010 Strategy and our Effectiveness Subgroup's ranking criteria. Larry expects the subgroup's recommendations to focus on cold weather stormwater management themes and effectiveness monitoring. The subgroup has expanded its geographic scope statewide but will discuss recommendations specifically related to the Puget Sound basin, particularly for receiving water monitoring.

Art Jenkins from the City of Spokane Valley will provide staff support to the subgroup. The subgroup will give another update at our March 20, 2013 meeting and will present draft recommendations at our June 12, 2013 meeting. Work group approval of the subgroup's recommendation is anticipated to happen at our September 18, 2013 meeting. Ecology permit managers present for the discussion approved this timeline.

### **WORK GROUP DEFERS DISCUSSION OF NEW DRAFT SIDIR RECOMMENDATIONS TO OUR NEXT MEETING**

Because no SWG Source Identification and Diagnostic Monitoring Subgroup members were present apart from work group staff, this discussion was very brief. Work group members reiterated concerns about not reinventing the wheel for the Methods/Approaches component of SIDIR and about making reporting requirements for local governments to populate the Results/Findings component of SIDIR as easy and meaningful as possible.

### **WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT PSEMP AND OTHER MONITORING ACTIVITIES**

Rob Duff, the PSEMP Steering Committee Chair, described the progress made over the past year to have workgroups compile inventories and identify priority gaps. Each workgroup will present its recommendations to the PSP Leadership Council. Rob recommends that SWG Chair Jim Simmonds and staff Karen Dinicola update the Leadership Council on our continued progress. The role of the Steering Committee will be to prioritize among the gaps recommended by the workgroups. The Leadership Council is committed to science-driven Puget Sound restoration and recovery efforts, and more project effectiveness monitoring is a likely future priority. The overall funding mechanism is yet to be identified, and PSEMP might or not oversee a centralized budget.

The SWG has been ahead of the other workgroups in that our 2010 recommendations are being implemented and we continue to identify and prioritize new monitoring gaps. Our new recommendations are being coordinated with other workgroups to the greatest possible extent at our own initiative in the absence of institutionalized cross-workgroup coordination. SWG members reminded Rob about the lessons learned from previous efforts to coordinate monitoring, and encourage the steering committee to institute cross-workgroup coordination soon.

Rob also discussed communication issues, *i.e.*, how to differentiate PSEMP's messages from PSP's.

### **NEXT ISSUE OF SWG REPORTER WILL GO OUT AFTER OUR JANUARY MEETING**

The most recent issue of the SWG Reporter went out October 29. The next issue will go out after our January meeting. The SWG Communications Subgroup will propose a list of topics for the update. We may consider adding the PSEMP logo to the SWG Reporter.

### **WORK GROUP DISCUSSES UPDATES TO OUR BIENNIAL WORK PLAN**

Many updates to our work plan were discussed in today's agenda items, and others were articulated in the agenda topic for briefing work group members on the progress of all of our subgroups. Karen will send our current work plan and subgroup member lists out with this meeting summary. Subgroup chairs are urged to convene or exchange emails as needed to propose updates for our 2013-2014 work plan before the end of the calendar year so that the SWG Work Plan Subgroup can compile them in advance of our January 16, 2013 meeting.

### **UPCOMING WORK GROUP MEETINGS AND SCHEDULE FOR 2013**

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

- Wednesday, January 16, 2013 from 9am to between noon and 2pm at the USGS Office in Tacoma:
  - Discuss data management needs and recommendations
  - Discuss work plan updates and hear status of implementing our work plan
  - Confirm work group member and alternate list
  - Select new chair and vice chair (two-year term begins February 2013)

- Determine messages and timing for next SWG Reporter
  - Hear from PSEMP Steering Committee and other work groups
- Wednesday, March 20, 2013 from 9am to between noon and 2pm at the USGS Office in Tacoma:
    - Hear an update from our Roads and Highways Subgroup
    - Hear status of implementing our 2013-2014 work plan
    - Determine messages and timing for next SWG Reporter
    - Hear from PSEMP Steering Committee and other work groups

Please hold May 1, 2013 for an additional meeting if we determine it is needed in advance of the subsequent meetings scheduled on June 12, 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.

### **WORK GROUP NOMINATES CURRENT CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR ANOTHER TWO-YEAR TERM**

Work group members nominated Chair Jim Simmonds and Vice Chair Tom Putnam for another two-year term beginning in February 2013. Both are willing to pass their roles on to other interested work group members, so if you would like to serve as chair or vice chair please contact staff Karen Dinicola. Official selection of the new chair and vice chair will take place at our next meeting on January 16, 2013.

#### *Acronyms used in this meeting summary:*

CAFO: Confined Animal Feeding Operation  
 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  
 WSDOT: Washington State Dept. of Transportation