

STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, January 16, 2013 9:12 AM – 12:02 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; **Shayne Cothorn** (WDNR), State Agencies; **Bob Cusimano** (Ecology), State Agencies; **Jay Davis** (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Federal Agencies; **Jonathan Frodge** (Seattle), Local Governments; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments; **Katelyn Kinn** (Puget Soundkeeper Alliance), Environmental Groups; **Rich Sheibley** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Mel Oleson** (Boeing), Business Groups; **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** (WA Conservation Commission), Agriculture, **Bruce Wulkan** (Puget Sound Partnership), State Agencies.

Others in attendance: **Mindy Fohn** (Kitsap Co); **Melva Hill** (Bainbridge Island); **Curtis Nickerson**, CardnoTEC; **Brian Penttila** (Public Policy Research Group); **Phyllis Varner** (Bellevue).

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

WORK GROUP WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS AND RE-ELECTS CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Work group members reviewed the list of members and alternates and made corrections as needed. Abby Barnes is the new representative for WDNR and will also be taking Shayne Cothorn's place on subgroups. Mel Oleson announced that this is his last SWG meeting and AWB is searching for a new business caucus representative. The Local government caucus has named four new alternates. Caucus leads were reminded to keep SWG staff Karen Dinicola informed of changes in representation.

Jim Simmonds and Tom Putnam were unanimously confirmed for another two years as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. These new terms end in February 2015. Thank you Jim and Tom for your service!

WORK GROUP APPROVES WORK PLAN UPDATES FOR 2013-2014

The SWG has a two-year work plan that we update annually. During the last calendar year we shifted from the overall model of having our subgroups produce information and products to guide creation of the RSMP to having our subgroups review documents and provide input. At the same time we do have two new subgroups actively developing recommendations for monitoring runoff from agriculture and from roads and highways. At our last meeting we directed all of our nine subgroups to compile updates to our two-year work plan that reflect our capacity and priorities. Karen incorporated the changes into a revised document. Work group members **approved** the updated work plan with minor edits.

WORK GROUP AGREES WITH PROPOSED PATH FORWARD FOR SIDIR

Mindy Fohn, former co-chair of the SWG Source Identification Subgroup, presented recommendations developed by the subgroup last October. SIDIR will provide an excellent opportunity to reduce or eliminate pollution in stormwater. Many smaller jurisdictions need IDDE guidance. The state can provide support to reduce pollution sources that local governments cannot control, like copper in brake pads. Being able to quantify pollutant reduction helps communicate the value of IDDE programs to policy makers and the public.

The King Co/Herrera field screening guidance document development has been a good public process with clear sideboards; much work remains outside of those sideboards to provide information about methods for eliminating sources. Case studies in SIDIR will include both successful and unsuccessful efforts.

Work group members requested clarification as to what is meant by “data” to be included in SIDIR. We are not looking for diagnostic field screening data, which is of lower quality than most environmental data and is more useful as an internal benchmark for determining next steps. Estimations of the amounts of pollutants removed from the system are of more interest and should be provided where possible. Effectiveness studies might provide better data for calculating pollutant removal amounts. The subgroup will review a draft IDDE reporting form and recommend improvements; the form should be available to permittees before the end of this calendar year.

Work group members agreed with the subgroup’s overall recommendations for moving SIDIR forward and suggested the subgroup come up with an “elevator talk” for SIDIR.

WORK GROUP DISCUSSES DATA MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEEDS

Work group members reviewed a memo outlining data management recommendations for RSMP status and trends that was submitted by Ecology’s Environmental Assessment Program in November 2011. Although Ecology’s EIM database is not a perfect system, it is well supported and adequate for our needs. We should focus on building a good access portal and data retrieval tools to ensure easy access to RSMP data. Later this year, the work group should discuss an updated schedule and budget for developing these tools. Interested work group members may consider attending upcoming EIM trainings to get a better idea of the system’s capabilities.

Effectiveness studies that collect environmental data will submit to EIM but easy access to the reports of study findings is needed, rather than a new data management system. The SIDIR data management platform(s) will be pursued separately through the development of the repository and overseen by the Source ID subgroup.

WORK GROUP DIRECTS SUBGROUPS TO RECOMMEND RSMP STATUS AND TRENDS PROGRAM DETAILS

Small streams: Work group members discussed some considerations of aligning the status and trends monitoring with the state monitoring round in 2017 and directed the technical subgroup to outline the pros and cons and make a recommendation to the work group at our next meeting. Concerns include maintaining consistency with our recommendation to leverage ongoing efforts and timeliness of adequate monitoring to provide feedback to influence the next round of permits. Existing data also need to be analyzed.

Mussels: Work group members look forward to hearing more about the state survey sampling effort that WDFW just completed and will make a recommendation to Ecology at our next meeting whether to use caged or native mussels for the RSMP. The Marine Nearshore Subgroup should make a recommendation to the work group.

WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT PSEMP AND OTHER MONITORING ACTIVITIES

Because neither Dave Peeler nor Michael Cox attended today’s meeting, coordination with the PSEMP Toxics Workgroup was not discussed specifically. Heather Kibbey reported on the Steering Committee whose recent discussions have focused on PSP indicators. Karen shared a draft SWG report on Vital Sign Indicators that the RSMP will help inform; all PSEMP workgroups are making these reports to the Steering Committee. No edits to the draft SWG report were suggested. Karen will spend less time attending other workgroup meetings but will continue coordinating with PSEMP staff at PSP. Heather and other SWG members will carry the message that the RSMP is a core PSEMP monitoring activity that other workgroups should leverage and build upon.

NEXT ISSUE OF SWG REPORTER COMING SOON

The most recent issue of the SWG Reporter went out October 29. The next issue will go out as soon as possible. Karen will draft an issue that includes key elements of our updated work plan, a call for more involvement in our subgroups, and repeats of past issues of SWG Reporter news items that are still relevant. The Communication

Subgroup will be given an opportunity to review the Reporter prior to it being sent out. Jim Simmonds will provide Karen a list of permit coordinators to add to the distribution list.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS

Wednesday, March 20, 2013 from 9am to between noon and 2pm at the USGS Office in Tacoma:

- Hear findings of the syntheses of the effectiveness literature review
- Discuss possible revisions to our recommended list of effectiveness studies
- Hear an update from our Roads and Highways Subgroup
- Recommend whether to align the RSMP small streams sampling with State Salmon Recovery monitoring
- Recommend whether to use caged or native mussels for the RSMP
- 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 are scheduled May 1, 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.

Acronyms used in this meeting summary:

AWB: Association of Washington Business
EIM: Environmental Information Management
IDDE: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
PSEMP: Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program
RSMP: Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program
SIDIR: Source Identification Information Repository
SWG: Stormwater Work Group
USGS: United States Geological Survey
WDFW: Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
WDNR: Washington Dept. of Natural Resources