

STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, September 19, 2012 9:10 AM – 11:40 AM
USGS, 934 Broadway, Tacoma WA, 98402

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; **Bob Cusimano** (Ecology), State Agencies; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Dana de Leon** (Tacoma), Local Governments; **Rich Doenges** (Thurston Co.), Local Governments; **Jonathan Frodge** (Seattle), Local Governments; **Dick Gersib** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments; **Chris Konrad** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Dino Marshalonis** (USEPA), Federal Agencies; **Mel Oleson** (Boeing), Business Groups; **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; **Bruce Wulkan** (Puget Sound Partnership), State Agencies.

Others in attendance: **Mindy Fohn**, Kitsap County; **Katelyn Kinn**, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance; **Lorna Mauren****, City of Tacoma; **Bill Taylor**, Cardno TEC.

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

* *present only for the discussion of agricultural runoff monitoring recommendations*

** *present only for the discussion of draft SIDIR report*

WORK GROUP WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS AND SAYS GOODBYE TO RETIRING MEMBERS

During introductions the work group members learned of some changes in our membership. Tim Determan of WDOH retired early this summer, and Tony Paulson of USGS is retiring at the end of this month. Chris Konrad of USGS is the new Federal Agencies representative. Ryan McReynolds of USFWS is a new alternate for the Federal Agencies. Ecology is transitioning from Water Quality Program representation (Bill Moore) to Environmental Assessment Program representation, and Bob Cusimano is the new State Agencies representative from Ecology. Fred Bergdolt of WSDOT is replacing Ken Stone as an alternate for State Agencies. We hope to hear about new representation from WDOH and/or WDFW at our meeting next month. With the end of People For Puget Sound, Heather Trim's future participation in the work group representing the Environmental Caucus is uncertain. Neil Aaland is no longer working on Puget Sound stormwater issues for AWC/WSAC.

WORK GROUP DISCUSSES NEW DRAFT AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS

The SWG's Agricultural Runoff Subgroup delivered a detailed paper with new recommendations for the work group to consider. This is the second of four sets of recommendations they plan to submit for work group consideration. The first set of recommendations addressed monitoring pesticides in runoff from croplands; this set addresses monitoring animal sources of nutrients and bacteria; the third set will address effectiveness monitoring; and the fourth set will address implementation, including funding. These four sets of recommendations will comprise a strategy for monitoring potential impacts of runoff from agricultural lands in Puget Sound.

This set of recommendations focuses on livestock operations with permit oversight (CAFOs and dairies) and other animal operations that are not overseen within a consistent regulatory framework. The subgroup is still working toward consensus on a couple of their recommendations and would like to have another discussion with the work group prior to asking for formal approval.

Work group members provided positive feedback on the recommendations, particularly its emphases on: monitoring receiving waters upstream and downstream of suspected hot spots during storms; communication, outreach, and technical and financial assistance; and locally-driven regulatory backstops. They asked the subgroup to discuss two additional potential priority monitoring gaps: nutrients from croplands, and pharmaceuticals (esp. antibiotics) in runoff from CAFOs and other animal operations.

Work group members also discussed how these recommendations “nest” or complement our strategy for SWAMPPS. The status and trends monitoring design is not land-use specific; the pesticide monitoring recommendations addressed how the designs dovetail. The source identification monitoring recommendations for agricultural animal sources are more specific than those for municipal stormwater sources.

WORK GROUP DISCUSSES DRAFT SIDIR REPORT

The scoping memo delivered by Joel Baker and Kurt Marx to the work group in February does a good job of describing SIDIR and the needs for a recommendations report to inform next steps in its creation. The SWG Source Identification and Diagnostic Monitoring Subgroup was then hoping to see a critical review of the strategies and tactics used to reduce sources of pollution, and recommendations for assessing the information resulting from these approaches.

Unfortunately, the August 17, 2012 draft SIDIR report by Valerie Monsey (working under the direction of Joel and Kurt) does not meet our expectations. It does not include a literature review, and focuses instead on a cataloguing a critique of the permit in a way that does not provide substantive new or useful information for creating the information repository. The report includes recommendations for designing and maintaining a website. However, what was needed and expected from this project is direction for prioritizing and sequencing the *content* of SIDIR, and in particular information about the known best approaches and most important results of IDDE efforts. Dana de Leon and Mindy Fohn provided input and direction to Joel, Kurt, and Valerie to help this project succeed, but their main concerns were not addressed or incorporated into the interview questions.

Joel has not yet offered a plan to respond to subgroup members’ feedback on the report. Ecology sent an official letter requesting a response as to the status and plans for adequate completion of this work. Work group members hope Joel, Kurt, and Valerie will either successfully complete the work or return the money to Ecology.

Work group members expressed concern about future problems with nonperforming RSMP contractors. The SWG Pooled Resources Subgroup and/or Work Plan Subgroup may meet soon to discuss recommendations for specific project management approaches to ensure good work is performed. Ecology is receptive to having the SWG develop a job description for the monitoring program manager. Ecology hopes to hire the program manager about one year in advance of the permittees’ required payments into the fund.

Work group members also expressed concern about impugned credibility of the Washington Stormwater Center. Despite the fact that this project did not involve WSC staff, the cover of the report states that the work was done “for the Washington Stormwater Center”.

The work group directed subgroup members to discuss next steps for SIDIR, and identify the expertise needed to fill key gaps. Work group members appreciated hearing that many constructive ideas have been offered by subgroup members.

WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT ECOLOGY-FUNDED RSMP PROJECTS

Following up on conversations at the last three work group meetings, Ecology is in the final routing stages of interagency agreements with (1) Association of Washington Cities for syntheses of the findings of the effectiveness literature review, next steps in stream gauging network analyses, and logistical support for the new SWG Roads and Highways Subgroup; and (2) Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department for a mussel contaminant gradient study. Of the \$200,000 available, \$16,800 is being left on the table. Ecology’s Water Quality Program is also funding development of the “urban nearshore” boundary needed for RSMP site selection; this task is estimated to cost about \$1,500.

Work group members expressed concern that administrative support for the SWG's subgroups continue to be provided by Ecology or other lead agencies and that these costs not be charged to RSMP pooled funds accounts. We have transitioned from working, product-developing SWG subgroups to guidance and oversight subgroups. Subgroup members will continue to provide input but Ecology's project managers are responsible for directing all of this work and ensuring it stays on track.

WORK GROUP DISCUSSES RECENTLY-ISSUED MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PERMIT MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Ecology issued final permits on August 1 that become effective July 1, 2013. The two main changes from the draft permits are: agreements between Ecology and each permittee are not required by the permit (but will be entered into upon permittees' request); and the opt-out for SIDIR was removed. Many smaller jurisdictions expressed anxiety about having to go through an annual contract renewal process with their councils.

The permits have been appealed. The main monitoring appeal issue is that the permit does not state where RSMP monitoring or studies will occur, how funds will be spent, and how the data will be used by Ecology. Some work group members expressed their jurisdictions' anxiety about not having a scope of work included in the permit, despite its inclusion in the fact sheet. Ecology will enter into agreements with any permittees who wish to have them, and those agreements will include the total amount of RSMP funding, the permittee's cost share, and the scope of work to be conducted under Ecology's administration of the pooled funds.

WORK GROUP AGREES ON MESSAGES FOR NEXT ISSUE OF SWG REPORTER

The next issue of the SWG Reporter will go out after the Ecology contracts with AWC and TPCHD are signed, and will announce that (1) the USGS stream gauging analysis report commissioned for the work group has been published and next steps are underway, (2) other Ecology-funded projects are moving regional stormwater monitoring forward in advance of the permits and anticipated pooled resources, (3) the municipal stormwater permits were issued largely following the work group's recommendations; we will know in late 2013 how much money will be contributed annually, (4) effectiveness literature review syntheses are coming this winter, (5) new agricultural runoff monitoring recommendations are under consideration, (6) SWG Roads and Highways Subgroup is being formed, and (7) King Co. and Herrera are working on an IDDE field screening manual.

The subgroups and their ongoing activities will be listed in the "About the SWG" item at the end of each SWG Reporter issue. A link to the current list of SWG members and alternates will also be included, and a request for interested parties to join the SWG or its subgroups.

WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT PSEMP AND OTHER MONITORING ACTIVITIES

Rob Duff, the PSEMP Steering Committee Chair, plans to attend our next meeting. PSEMP has issued its first reports on marine monitoring and viable salmon population monitoring. Salmon habitat monitoring discussions are underway, and some of our work group members participate in toxics, marine, and freshwater workgroups.

UPCOMING WORK GROUP MEETINGS

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

- Wednesday, October 17, 2012 from 9am to noon at the USGS Office in Tacoma:
 - Discuss recommended next steps for SIDIR from Source ID Subgroup
 - Discuss/approve? revised agricultural runoff animal operation monitoring recommendations
 - Discuss our meeting schedule and approach for 2013
 - Direct subgroups to propose 2013-2014 work plan updates and specify data management needs
 - Hear status of implementing our 2012-2013 work plan
 - Hear from PSEMP Steering Committee and other work groups

- Wednesday, November 14, 2012 from 9am to noon at the USGS Office in Tacoma:
 - Hear about initial work of the SWG Roads and Highways Subgroup
 - Discuss work plan updates proposed by subgroups
 - Discuss data management recommendations
 - Approve meeting schedule for 2013
 - Nominate new chair and vice chair (two-year term begins February 2013)
 - Determine messages and timing for next SWG Reporter
 - Hear status of implementing our 2012-2013 work plan
 - Hear from PSEMP Steering Committee and other work groups

Acronyms used in this meeting summary:

AWC: Association of WA Cities
 CAFO: Confined Animal Feeding Operation
 IDDE: Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
 PSEMP: Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program
 QAPP: Quality Assurance Project Plan
 RSMP: Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program
 SIDIR: Source Identification Information Repository
 SOP: Standard Operating Procedure (or Protocol)
 SWAMPPS: Stormwater Assessment and Monitoring Program for Puget Sound
 SWG: Stormwater Work Group
 TPCHD: Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
 USEPA: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 USFWS: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 USGS: U.S. Geological Survey
 WDFW: WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
 WDOH: WA Dept. of Health
 WSAC: WA State Association of Counties
 WSC: Washington Stormwater Center
 WSDOT: Washington State Dept. of Transportation