

# STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, March 20, 2013 9:05 AM – 12:25 PM  
USGS, 934 Broadway, Tacoma WA, 98402

## Revised 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** (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Federal Agencies; **Rich Doenges** (Thurston Co), Local Governments; **Jonathan Frodge** (Seattle), Local Governments; **Dick Gersib** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments; **Katelyn Kinn** (Puget Soundkeeper Alliance), Environmental Groups; **Chris Konrad** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **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; **Bruce Wulkan** (Puget Sound Partnership), State Agencies.

*Others in attendance:* **Leska Fore** (Statistical Design); **Michelle Harvey** (Assn. of WA Cities); **Andy Meyer** (Assn. of WA Cities); **Melva Hill** (Bainbridge Island); **Jennifer Lanksbury** (WDFW); **John Lenth** (Herrera); **James Packman** (CardnoTEC); **Dave Peeler** (Puget Sound Partnership); **Brian Penttila** (Pacific Northwest Pollution Prevention Resource Center); **Larry Schaffner** (WSDOT); **Bill Taylor** (Taylor Aquatic Science and Policy); **Jim West** (WDFW); **Phyllis Varner** (Bellevue).

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

### WORK GROUP DISCUSSES FINDINGS OF EFFECTIVENESS LITERATURE REVIEW SYNTHESSES

James Packman, Leska Fore, and Bill Taylor presented their findings which are summarized in the handouts provided with the agenda. SWG Effectiveness Subgroup chair Heather Kibbey provided background and context for how the project was scoped and what is planned for the findings. The previous study topics came from Phase II permittees' annual reports and a broad request for additional ideas. The subgroup categorized and ranked them, and the work group approved the list and sent it to Ecology in September 2011. The literature review and the synthesis project were scoped by the list. The findings of the synthesis project will be shared with stormwater program managers via the AWC webpage. The recommended study topics will be considered by the subgroup in revising the list of recommended RSMP study topics.

Work group members underscored the need for RSMP studies to provide useful and important information for large numbers of permittees. RSMP studies should be new or add key information to the existing body of knowledge. Work group members appreciated the progress made by the synthesis project and appreciated the challenge of sifting through the large volume of information to help meet the work group's needs to recommend good studies and provide relevant findings to stormwater managers. They asked many questions of the consultants who did the work. Additional targeted, in-depth literature reviews may be required for most RSMP studies. Standard data collection procedures should be established wherever possible.

Next steps: The draft synthesis papers are available for comment through March 22. Because the deadline has already been extended, late comments will not be accepted. Final papers are due April 12. The subgroup will meet in mid-April to revise the list of study topics for work group discussion on May 1; the list of "null hypotheses" and associated questions is the main tool they will use for that effort. The work group needs to approve a new list at the June 12 meeting to submit to Ecology so that the new list is available for permittees to see when the permit becomes effective.

Work group members hope that stormwater managers will use the findings to make improvements in their programs. The Association of Washington Cities is working to distill the technical findings for distribution on their website. Andy Meyer and Michelle Harvey are looking for local government staff to help target key messages about the findings to the intended audience of stormwater managers and public work directors, and also elected officials. Melva Hill, Phyllis Varner, and Heather volunteered.

James Packman and Bill Taylor offered to provide more in-depth presentations of their findings to other groups who are interested.

### **WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT THE ROADS AND HIGHWAYS SUBGROUP**

Larry Schaffner is encouraging collaborative subgroup member participation across diverse agency and stakeholder backgrounds and geographic settings. Larry shared the approach the subgroup is taking to develop a shared understanding of monitoring and research lessons learned (*i.e.*, some great study ideas are difficult to implement in road and highway settings). The ranking spreadsheet that was distributed with the meeting agenda shows results from the subgroup's initial polling and reveals clusters of monitoring ideas of high interest. The subgroup agreed to use a template tool but research proposals submitted by subgroup members to date have not necessarily reflected the priorities in the spreadsheet. While Larry did not describe the draft proposals, he has sent them to Karen Dinicola who will post them on the website for work group members to review. The subgroup is still in the early stages of working on developing priority proposals. Dick Gersib explained that WSDOT staff is willing to flesh out incomplete proposal submittals. The subgroup's draft recommendations are due to Karen a week in advance of the June 12, 2013 SWG meeting.

### **WORK GROUP TENTATIVELY APPROVES USE OF CAGED MUSSELS FOR RSMP SAMPLING**

Jim West and Jennifer Lanksbury reviewed the history of Mussel Watch in Puget Sound and described the state survey sampling effort that WDFW just completed. They provided a comparison of advantages and disadvantages of using caged versus native mussels and recommended that the RSMP use caged mussels for the RSMP to align with efforts to further broaden their sampling program. The cost of the mussels and equipment are higher but less staff time is needed and the resulting data has less variability and more statistical power.

The approved QAPP for the WDFW study describes the method. Ecology is considering requiring opt-out permittees to use caged mussels. The majority of work group members agreed that opt-out permittees should use caged mussels; some members expressed concern that the work group should not make recommendations regarding opt-out requirements, but the opt-out data should complement the RSMP. All but one work group member also agreed that, pending a cost analysis and a review of the sampling results of the WDFW survey (due this fall), the RSMP should plan to use caged mussels.

### **WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT PSEMP TOXICS WORKGROUP**

Dave Peeler is part-time staff for the PSEMP Toxics Workgroup. The workgroup has nearly completed an inventory of toxics monitoring and found that most of the toxics information is for biota and sediment in marine areas. They have focused on the food web rather than pressures, and specifically vital sign reporting and identifying priority gaps in toxics monitoring. They also are looking at Chemicals of Emerging Concern to evaluate the lists of parameters and propose changes.

Their priority gap recommendations are due to the PSEMP Steering Committee at the end of June. Work group members asked Jay Davis, a member of both work groups, to describe the RSMP and broader [2010 Strategy](#) to the Toxics Workgroup. We asked both Dave and Jay to encourage the RSMP for stormwater monitoring and assessment in setting priorities for using new funds and making changes to existing programs. Sites or parameters can be strategically added to the RSMP. Any stormwater-related toxics monitoring gaps should be shared with the SWG for our timely consideration.

## **AGENDA ITEMS NOT DISCUSSED**

The following items included in today's draft agenda were not discussed: timing of small streams sampling; status of our work plan implementation; and SWG Reporter.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Wednesday, May 1, 2013 from 9am to between noon and 2pm at the USGS Office in Tacoma:

- Discuss revised list of proposed RSMP effectiveness studies
- Discuss proposed IDDE annual report form and content to inform SIDIR Results/Findings
- Discuss next steps and process to determine priorities for SIDIR Methods/Approaches
- Discuss Ecology's proposed Program Manager hiring and cost sharing agreement
- 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 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:*

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