

STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Tuesday, October 26, 2010 9:10 AM – 2:35 PM
Tacoma CTP Visitor Center
2201 Portland Avenue, Tacoma

Draft Summary

OF THE MEETING'S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

ATTENDEES:

Work Group Members and Alternates, and the Organizations or Groups and Caucuses they Represent:

Neil Aaland (WA Assn of Counties), Local Governments; **Shayne Cothorn** (WA Dept. of Natural Resources), State Agencies; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Dana de Leon** (Tacoma), Local Governments; **Dick Gersib** (WA Dept. of Transportation), State Agencies; **Nathalie Hamel*** (Puget Sound Partnership), State Agencies; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments; **DeeAnn Kirkpatrick** (NOAA Fisheries), Federal Agencies; **Julie Lowe*** (WA Dept. of Ecology), State Agencies; **Bill Moore** (WA Dept. of Ecology), State Agencies; **Andy Meyer** (Assn. of WA Cities), Local Governments; **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; **Heather Trim** (People for Puget Sound), Environmental Groups; **Bruce Wulkan** (Puget Sound Partnership), State Agencies.

* not voting today

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

Others in Attendance: **Eric Thomas**, JLARC; **Phyllis Varner**, Bellevue.

WORK GROUP FINALIZES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES

The work group came to consensus on these recommendations:

1. The Stormwater Work Group should articulate a recommended process and criteria by which studies will be selected from among those ideas submitted by Phase I and Phase II jurisdictions in their annual reports due March 31, 2011 along with other ideas submitted by members of the caucuses of the Stormwater Work Group. This process should be informed by the findings of the literature review. The process is envisioned to be ongoing in order to learn and adapt and continue to select and conduct future studies.
2. Once the studies are selected, a list of needed SOPs should be identified and developed.
3. Studies should be outcome-based, and focus on evaluating each of the six permit-required programmatic stormwater management elements: public education and outreach; illicit discharge detection and elimination; controlling runoff from new and re-development; pollution prevention/operations and maintenance; structural stormwater controls (retrofits); and source control.
4. Permittees should plan to continue to fund effectiveness studies in future permit terms.

The work group endorsed but did not come to consensus on the following recommendation. One member considered endorsing a recommendation without an associated dollar amount to be "signing a blank check."

5. Permittees should contribute funds in years 2-5 of the 2012-2017 permit term to support effectiveness studies, a literature review, and associated development of SOPs. Majority agreement; one dissent: can't sign a blank check.

WORK GROUP REVISITS SOME RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AT OUR PREVIOUS MEETING

Some work group members wished to edit previously-voted-and-agreed-upon recommendations in the report. After discussing the implications and downsides of this departure from our agreed-upon process, the following changes were accepted by consensus of the voting members present today:

For the Pay-in Option:

7. There should be an independent review of the administrative entity in advance of the 2017-2022 permit term; the review should include a survey of participants as to their satisfaction with ~~Ecology as the service provider the~~ administrative entity, in meeting the characteristics noted in #2 above. There might also be an and an evaluation of the readiness of ~~another organizations~~ to serve as the entity.

11. If the permit reissuance schedule remains as currently anticipated, then Ecology should serve as the administrative entity for the 2012-2017 permit term. If the schedule is extended, then other options should be reevaluated and reconsidered. The SWG agreed that Ecology is the only viable option to serve as the administrative entity at this time.

For Small Streams Status and Trends:

2.c We support using the Water Quality Index as recommended in the 2010 Strategy. However, it might be reasonable to scale back other constituents in the water column parameter list and/or increase the frequency to provide a better connection between instream conditions and stormwater inputs. We support Ecology facilitating these discussions prior to finalizing the sampling design and associated QAPPs.

2.g Continuous flow monitoring might not be conducted. An analysis is needed to determine to what extent questions about loading, stream flashiness, etc. relevant to stormwater management can be answered with existing data, and to recommend what existing gages need to be maintained and ~~what whether~~ new gages need to be added to the network. Permittee pay-in contributions should fund the analysis ~~and contribute to installing new gages if needed.~~

For Source Identification and Diagnostic Monitoring:

3. SWAMPPS will contribute standard methods and tools, analysis of existing information and dissemination of lessons learned. SWAMPPS status and trends data will be a credible data source for informing S4.F Compliance with Standards investigations of problems identified by other monitoring.

4. In the 2012-2017 permit term, permittees should contribute funding to: conduct a literature review, develop a QAPP library with DQOs and report templates, build a repository for information to evaluate current source identification programs, and design a database and reporting requirements to support Puget Sound scale analyses to identify problems that can be addressed by regional-wide source control initiatives (i.e., product substitutions).

WORK GROUP MEMBERS REQUEST MEETING WITH ECOLOGY DIRECTOR TED STURDEVANT

The work group members agreed to request a meeting with Ecology's director to underscore the milestone achievements of the SWG. The following members will represent the SWG's caucuses at that meeting: Jim Simmonds, Neil Aaland, Andy Meyer, Dick Gersib, Tom Putnam, Jay Davis or DeeAnn Kirkpatrick, and, if she is available and willing, Allison Butcher. Bill Moore will request and organize the meeting.

WORK GROUP DISCUSSES DRAFT REPORT AND AGREES ON PROCESS TO SUBMIT IT TO ECOLOGY

The work group discussed the draft report and cover letter sent out by Karen Dinicola last Tuesday and edits sent out by work group Member Kit Paulsen yesterday. In addition to edits to recommendations agreed upon at today's meeting, the work group members requested language clarifying and explaining the lack of consensus around the recommendations for the pay-in option. Work group members agreed to delete the Permit Monitoring Elements and Context Subgroup Report from the final report (with the exception of the explanation of the decision to scale back the small streams status and trends design) but to keep the Costs and Pay-in Option

Subgroup Report in the final report to Ecology. Karen will edit the report to incorporate today's decisions and input; she will send out the new section on Context and Detail for Effectiveness Studies as soon as possible for a quick review by work group members.

Jim Simmonds will rewrite the cover letter to Ecology Director Ted Sturdevant to address the following points: (1) Who we are, why we were brought together, what we've accomplished, and strong support of concept; (2) Focus of our work since June: explain the focus on permits and highlight shared elements of cost; (3) Layman summary of recommendations: new type of monitoring in the permits; (4) Looking forward to meeting with you; (5) Next steps: we're not done, looking forward to working with the launch committee and the Partnership.

Jim will mail hard copies of the report and cover letter to Ted Sturdevant, David Dicks (Executive Director of the Partnership), and Bill Wilkerson (Chair of the Washington Forum on Monitoring) on Friday afternoon. Karen will send out the next issue of the Stormwater Work Group Reporter either Friday or Monday.

WORK GROUP AGREES TO MESSAGES FOR NEXT SWG REPORTER

The work group members agreed that the same topics that need to be addressed in the cover letter to Ecology Director Ted Sturdevant should be addressed in our next email update announcing the submission of our final report to Ecology. Karen will see if Allison Butcher is available and willing to help her, Neil Aaland, and Andy Meyer to write this next issue.

WORK GROUP TASKS TWO SUBGROUPS TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS BETWEEN NOW AND JANUARY

Work group members volunteered to serve on two subgroups. The first will develop a work plan for 2011 and beyond to address our communication plan for sharing the results of our work to date (and what messages to emphasize for local elected officials) as well as articulate our vision and priorities for continuing progress toward a comprehensive stormwater monitoring and assessment program for the Puget Sound region; the work plan needs to address the SWG's reduced future capacity for frequent, all-day meetings. The second subgroup will define and clarify the criteria and process for selecting effectiveness studies that will be conducted during the next NPDES municipal stormwater permit term and beyond. Subgroup meeting agendas and materials will be posted on our Google website. Karen will set up the initial subgroup meetings.

The SWG Work Plan Subgroup members include: Neil Aaland, Karen Dinicola, Dick Gersib, Andy Meyer, Jim Simmonds, and Bruce Wulkan.

The SWG Effectiveness Study Selection Subgroup members include: Fred Bergdolt, Dana de Leon, Karen Dinicola, Heather Kibbey, Julie Lowe, Kit Paulsen, Jim Simmonds, Carol Smith, and Bruce Wulkan.

WORK GROUP DECIDES TO MEET ON THIRD WEDNESDAYS IN 2011

The work group's next scheduled meetings and major discussion topics are:

Wednesday January 19, 2011 from 9am-12pm at the Tacoma CTP Visitor Center at 2201 Portland Avenue, Tacoma WA, 98421: nominations for chair and vice-chair; discuss future work plan; and discuss criteria and process for selecting effectiveness studies.

Wednesday February 16, 2011 from 9am-12pm at the Tacoma CTP Visitor Center: elect chair and vice-chair; finalize SWG member list; adopt work plan; finalize criteria and process for selecting effectiveness studies.

Wednesday March 16, 2011 from 9am-12pm at the Tacoma CTP Visitor Center: topics for this and future meetings will be set per the new SWG work plan.

Wednesday April 20, 2011 from 9am-12pm at the USGS office at 934 Broadway, Tacoma WA, 98402.

Wednesday May 18, 2011 from 9am-12pm at the USGS office in Tacoma.

Wednesday June 15, 2011 from 9am-12pm at the USGS office in Tacoma.