

SWG Effectiveness Subgroup meeting

October 8, 2013 from 10:05-11:50

Seattle King St Center, room 2B

Attending: Heather Kibbey, Leska Fore, Josh Johnson, Kit Paulsen, James Packman, Tom Putnam, Doug Hutchinson, Bill Taylor, Dylan Ahearn, Curtis Hinman, Andy Rheaume, Lincoln Loehr, Karen Dinicola

The subgroup is working to transition from the list of studies the SWG recommended to Ecology in June 2013 to proposals and study designs. To do this, we are planning a workshop and communication strategy to get folks with similar interests sharing ideas and working together on pre-proposals. Studies will be implemented through IAAs between Ecology and local governments. We encourage partnerships with consultants and academics to effectively use the full capacity of the region to answer our most important questions. Total maximum budget for this permit cycle: \$1.8M/yr for 4 years if all permittees opt in. We will know the budget before the end of December 2013. Ecology contract manager on board soon (sharing a FTE with statewide LID contracting needs).

The subgroup agreed on a five-step process between now and August 2014 when the first payments come in, a couple-few contracts would be in place, and work on studies (i.e., writing QAPPs and purchasing equipment) can start. Outreach and communication would take place at key points between the steps.

First step: develop a template and criteria for folks to submit ideas. *Leska, Heather, and Karen will work on this* – starting with what we did a couple years ago and adding specifics/refining as needed. Connect idea to specific question on list.

Outreach: SWG Reporter describing the concept; conversations at APWA, permit coordinator mtgs, etc.

Second step: webinar (in November 2013?) to set the context and sideboards, and to get folks up to speed and willing to share ideas and work together. Give folks the history (how we got here, to this list). Give them a common format and clear guidelines. Remind them we want to gather information to evaluate practices, not sites. (Regional relevance and feasibility.) No funding available for capital construction costs. Not doing research. Share intent to dovetail with or complement other scientific work in the region via TAP-E, research, statewide LID work, STORM. Get folks talking.

Outreach: encourage folks to submit ideas following 1-2pp template. We'll use these to design the first workshop.

Third step: first workshop (in early 2014, Jan?) – a structured conversation, mix of presentations and open discussion. “Sprint” style meet and greet, organic, self-organizing. Leave forum open for new ideas, give folks opportunities to participate in discussion on multiple topics. Who is interested in each question? Who is willing to work together? What sites are feasible? About how much would it cost? Outcome is advisory level input, and folks “assigned” to work together on 6-10pp pre-proposals with more details about what data would be collected when and where.

Outreach: share results of first workshop. SWG discussion. Process design step in advance of the second workshop.

Fourth step: second workshop (by mid-May 2014) – expanded study designs discussed, evaluated, and refined

Outreach: share outcome of process. Recommendations forwarded to SWG for stakeholder approval in June 2014 and initiation of contracting process on priority (or first-in-sequence) proposals

Fifth step: Team meetings to develop full proposals, roles and responsibilities, budgets, and scopes of work for contracts. August 15, 2014: first year money comes in from permittees and work can begin writing QAPPs and purchasing equipment as needed. Ecology have folks teed up to provide reasonably fast turn-around on QAPP review and approval.

Outreach: what studies are being done, how will inform permittees' stormwater management programs and activities.