

STORMWATER WORK GROUP OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

October 9, 2008

Background and Summary of Core Team Activities to Date

A year ago, the Puget Sound Monitoring Consortium's Technical Advisory Committee began identifying "pilot projects" to demonstrate coordinated regional monitoring and assessment activities. A subgroup worked on a proposal to test drive a process to prioritize monitoring and assessment objectives for stormwater. This spring the Committee selected five projects, ranking this proposal highest and allocating modest funding while acknowledging that it should not be a pilot project, but rather an ongoing activity.

In April, Department of Ecology director Jay Manning sent a letter to the Consortium endorsing this activity and requesting a product by June 2010 in order to inform the next cycle of municipal stormwater NPDES permits.

In May, Puget Sound Science Panel chair Joel Baker requested that the Consortium launch the Stormwater Work Group and that the Consortium's Governance Committee also assist the Puget Sound Partnership in providing a venue for technical experts to inform the development of the monitoring component of the Biennial Science Work Plan. The Governance Committee hoped that the Stormwater Work Group would build from the Partnership's monitoring plan, but since then it has become apparent that these two programs will be developed somewhat out of sync. The Science Panel and Partnership staff agreed recently that the Stormwater Work Group should move ahead to develop a regional strategy and study designs for characterizing stormwater, calculating stormwater loads, assessing stormwater impacts, and evaluating efficacy of stormwater management actions.

The Stormwater Work Group's "Core Team" was then convened at the direction of the Governance Subcommittee, who also compiled a list of organizations to be represented on the Oversight Committee. The Core Team met five times between June and September 2008 and tasked three subcommittees that conducted their work by email and phone in August and September. The Core Team completed the following tasks to facilitate a successful kickoff effort:

1. Propose a structure, draft charter and bylaws, and work plan for the Stormwater Work Group.
2. Generate a list of preliminary assessment questions to guide stormwater monitoring efforts.*
3. Send invitation letters to the groups identified by the Governance Committee as parties that need to be represented on the Oversight Committee.
4. Develop a draft agenda for today's Oversight Committee meeting.
5. Select and hire a facilitator.

All of the work performed by the Core Team to date is considered preliminary, subject to the approval of the Oversight Committee, and is offered by the Core Team in the spirit of providing a productive and efficient working environment for the Oversight Committee.

** The list of preliminary assessment questions is included in the proposed Work Plan as Appendix 1. The Core Team expects the Oversight Committee to add to this list and prioritize the questions therein. The list was generated this summer at the request of the Puget Sound Science Panel and is being used by the Puget Sound Partnership, together with assessment questions developed by other groups to help set priorities for ecosystem recovery monitoring.*