

Stormwater Work Group Reporter

December 2013

Key news and information you need to stay current on the effort to create a regional stormwater monitoring and assessment strategy for Puget Sound

Effectiveness study workshops coming up

The SWG is beginning the process to move from our recommended list of effectiveness study topics and questions to pre-proposals and study designs. Our goal is to get people with similar interests sharing ideas and working together on pre-proposals. A webinar has been scheduled for January 28, 2014 from 1:30-2:30 pm to provide background and information about the process. Two workshops will follow, likely in March and May. Anyone wishing to be involved in regional stormwater management program effectiveness studies should plan to participate. More detailed information is coming in January.

More information

(www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/ps_monitoring_docs/SWworkgroupDOCS/June2013SWGltrEcyREffectstudieslist.pdf)

Database ready to track stormwater pollution incidents

An Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) incident tracking form was developed earlier this year to help municipal stormwater permittees report on their methods and findings to characterize, trace, and remove sources of stormwater pollution. The information will be analyzed to identify patterns and help reduce stormwater pollution by new educational, regulatory, and other regional efforts. An online form for voluntary use by permittees during the 2014 calendar year will be available soon. Permittees with their own databases will be able to export data directly to an Excel spreadsheet.

More information (www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/source.html)

Roads and highways monitoring strategy recommended

In September the SWG approved five overall recommendations for regional roads and highways monitoring and submitted them to Ecology and the Puget Sound Partnership. The SWG recommended that the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT), a municipal stormwater permittee, participate in Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP) status and trends monitoring in receiving waters in Puget Sound. Special Condition S7 of the draft permit for WSDOT, currently out for comment, includes three ways among which WSDOT may choose to participate in the RSMP. The SWG provided an official comment letter thanking Ecology for considering our recommendations and requesting some clarifications to improve monitoring coordination.

More information

(www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/ps_monitoring_docs/SWworkgroupDOCS/FinalLtrSWGRdHwyrecommends.pdf; www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/wsdot/2014permit.html)

Pooled resources oversight committee to be convened soon

More than 80 municipal stormwater permittees in Puget Sound, and another ten in southwestern Washington were required to inform Ecology by this month whether they planned to participate in regional monitoring via pooled funding or by conducting monitoring at sites in their jurisdictions. Three will conduct individual status and trends monitoring and two will conduct outfall monitoring in lieu of contributing to regional effectiveness studies; the other permittees all chose to contribute to a pooled fund for regional monitoring. The final budget for regional monitoring can now be determined and the process for contracting to conduct the monitoring activities can commence. The SWG will convene a committee in January to oversee Ecology's administration of the regional monitoring program.

More information (www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/rsmppdocs/pooledresources16may2012.pdf)

About the Stormwater Work Group

The Stormwater Work Group (SWG) is part of the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP). The SWG is a coalition of representatives of local, state, and federal governments, environmental and business organizations, tribes, and agriculture. The SWG formed in October 2008 to develop a Stormwater Assessment and Monitoring Program for Puget Sound (SWAMPPS) that provides a strategic, coordinated, and integrated approach to quantifying the stormwater problem in Puget Sound. SWAMPPS is intended to help us efficiently and effectively manage stormwater to reduce harm to the ecosystem. The SWG's many technical subgroups actively support SWAMPPS implementation. The Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP) implemented through the municipal stormwater permits is part of SWAMPPS.

More information (www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/swworkgroup.html)

Prior issues available for download

This is the sixteenth issue of the SWG Reporter. Previous issues are available for download at our website.

More information (sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/swg-reporter)