

Stormwater Work Group Reporter

April 2014

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 proposals being expanded; second workshop coming up

At a workshop held on March 20, sixty participants heard about 23 study ideas and narrowed the list to be expanded into full proposals. Permittees will be surveyed to rank the final list of ten study ideas. The full proposals and the results of the survey of permittees will be discussed at a second workshop to be held on Tuesday, May 6 in Renton.

More information (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/swgworkshop.html>)

Stream monitoring site confirmation underway with pooled resources

The first agreement to use the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP) pooled funding account was signed in March. The funds are from October 2013 contributions by Phase I permittees. The U.S. Geological Survey will visit all of the RSMP stream sites, work with local jurisdictions, and confirm that the sites are appropriate and viable for sampling to meet the goals of the status and trends monitoring. Meanwhile, the Pooled Resources Oversight Committee will consider whether any adjustments are needed to the scope of the monitoring based on the final RSMP budget.

More information (<https://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home/pooled-resources-oversight>)

Agricultural runoff monitoring recommendations for nutrients and sediment approved

In March the SWG approved new monitoring recommendations for nutrients and sediment in runoff from agricultural lands. In June the SWG is scheduled to approve recommendations for monitoring the effectiveness of agricultural best management practices (BMPs). Later this year, the SWG Agricultural Runoff Subgroup will develop a plan for implementing the recommendations.

More information (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/mtgsummaries.html>;

<https://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home/runoff-from-agricultural-lands>)

Database to track stormwater pollution incidents being used by permittees

A few permittees are using the new Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) incident tracking form to report on their methods and findings to characterize, trace, and remove sources of stormwater pollution during this calendar year. We hope that more permittees will begin to use it. The information will be analyzed to identify patterns and help reduce stormwater pollution by new educational, regulatory, and other regional efforts. Feedback on the form itself will be used to improve it for the 2015 calendar year.

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

New WSDOT permit includes options for participating in regional monitoring

The Department of Ecology re-issued the municipal stormwater NPDES permit for the Washington Department of Transportation. The permit was effective April 5. It includes options for WSDOT to participate in the RSMP by contributing pooled funds or monitoring additional sites. The permit also includes other changes recommended by the SWG and recognizes the need for a more open and inclusive process to define WSDOT's effectiveness studies.

More information (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/wsdot.html>)

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 eighteenth issue of the SWG Reporter. Previous issues are available for download at our website.

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