

Stormwater Funding Program Stakeholders Work Group



Ecology Headquarters
Room ROA-05
September 24, 2014

DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Draft Meeting Notes

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|----|-------|------------|----------------------------------|----|---------|----------|--|
| VC | Andy | Rheume | City of Redmond | x | Jessica | Schwing | Ecology |
| VC | Anne | Dettelbach | Ecology | VC | Jon | Morrow | City of Ellensburg |
| | Bill | Moore | Ecology | x | Laura | Merrill | Washington State Association of Counties |
| x | Bruce | Wulkan | Puget Sound Partnership | x | Pat | Brommer | Ecology |
| x | Carl | Schroeder | Association of Washington Cities | x | Rebecca | Ponzio | Washington Environmental Council |
| x | Darcy | Nonemacher | Washington Environmental Council | | Rick | Romero | City of Spokane |
| x | Dave | Tucker | Kitsap County Public Works | | Ron | Wierenga | Clark County |
| x | Dawn | Anderson | Pierce County | | David | Knight | Ecology |
| vc | Bill | Lief | Snohomish County | TC | Gerry | O'Keefe | Washington Public Ports Association |
| | Nancy | Aldrich | West Richland | vc | Marcia | Davis | City of Spokane |
| x | Jeff | Nejedly | Ecology | | Janel | Bistrika | Ecology |
| x | Doug | Howie | Ecology | | Jodi | Gearon | Ecology |

Open discussion/concerns:

- Due to emails Jessica wants to confirm this is an advisory group.
- Ecology is taking input on:
 - \$66M comp. grants (short term program)
 - Guidelines development for the long-term program.
- Capacity grants
 - What can be funded?
 - Ecology is unsure if it'll receive \$8.9M each biennium. There's no guarantee.
- How do activities work long term? How to measure what water quality it improves. Is there a way to make activities more clear?
- Jon – Is the stormwater money that's earmarked for stormwater facility permits?
- Gerry – the cost of complying with permits will take some ports out of business and the ports are not well-positioned for loans.
- Carl and Laura stated that in order for them to support a new SW appropriation, capacity money would need to be included. Rebecca was open to the idea of supporting capacity money and was hoping to get there through the activities discussion.

Discussion of the two different budgets that provide local jurisdictions with SW funding

- **State Operating Budget (keeps the lights on):**
 - Funds Staff.
 - Goes to all programs within Ecology.
 - Capacity Grants and GROSS grants come from this budget

- **Capital Budget (2013 \$100M appropriation):**
 - Supports Environmental needs.
 - Includes the language that sets the sideboards \$66M
 - Not for permits, mitigation, orders.
- Jon –How’s a retrofit above and beyond? Sees complying with the permit and retrofit as the same language.
- Anne felt that Jon was doing himself a dis-service and the permit could be read more narrowly.
- Pat – Majority 2015-17 funding request is coming from bonds.
- Anne – Ecology does not require its permittees to retrofit. (*Correction: Phase II Permittees*)
- Why is there a big pot of money in Olympia when I have to up my fees?
 - Olympia doesn’t have to provide funding. However, due to big problems in local jurisdictions, we were able to show the need.
- We need to transition to a broader program. This group needs to develop the best program regardless of the color of money. Forget limits. We need to ask ourselves:
 - What’s the best WQ benefit?
 - How can we help communities?

Legislative/Budget Updates - Darcy, Carl, Jeff

Purpose/Goal: Keep group updated on budget/legislative process

Discussion on how to go about creating the long term program:

Carl- Proviso said come up with a broad-based plan for SW implementation – we have been focused on capital side but we should consider all elements and not limit our discussion based on funding sources.

Jeff –we should be creating the best program possible regardless fu budget source.

Darcy – we do need a realistic path to funding.

Rebecca- we do need to keep working on moving forward- Olympia does not have to support this work at all

Bruce- Utilities need to keep trying to raise rates and the sate need to bring more effort to bring federal dollars in – we will need a local, state and federal partnership

Darcy is hoping to get us out of the pattern of going back every two years for funds- this is going to be a very hard year to find funding.

- \$1.4B – Education added.
- This was a hard year to pass the operating budget.
 - 2015-17: Needed to find \$3.3B.
 - 2017-19: Need to find \$4.5B
- State had to create 15% budget cuts.
- Ecology’s funding continues to decrease:
 - 2007 - \$120M.
 - Current budget - \$50M.
- Capital Budget starts at \$0 ever two years.

- FY2015-17 - \$1.7B in stormwater was able to get funding. Leg over appropriated MTCA monies.
- \$150M out of MTCA is not bonded.
- Another big budget – Mental health services is on the rise (temporary).
- We need to work on designing a program that's defensible and exciting to get funding.

Carl- need to design a permanent funding program that does not ignore the challenges- it's not good to lock in a program that doesn't work for anyone.

*Future agenda item – Gerry and Ecology staff – overlap and obligations of Muni, Industrial, and Construction SW permits

Update on the opening of the 2014 SFY16 Combined Grant Program

Purpose/Goal: Share information and questions that have come up during the applicant workshops. Get feedback on updated guidelines and EAGL forms.

Tabled to leave more time to talk about activities.

Activities projects and how/if we will incorporate them into the long-term program.

Purpose/Goal: Complete and add to activities table which will inform future programs.

Andy- Would like to see a statewide or regional spill line and in-stream or buffer projects.

Planning Projects Discussion:

Doug- Master Plans for SW to prioritize capital projects.

Rebecca- how does that fit in with current program?

Doug/Dave- not very well.

Marcia- comprehensive plans are different than capital plans (6 yr) - SW master planning is helpful

Bill L.- Phase I permits require SW basin planning

Spill Hotline Discussion:

Jon- police and fire take calls – people should call 911

Andy- benefits include: decrease in response times, better public awareness, could be measured with a survey or gallons of SW removed from a drain

Group decided to re-review the activities tables and with enhanced instructions and discuss at our next meeting on **October 23, 2014**.