

Puget Sound Stormwater Work Group

January 2010 Briefing



Overview

- Who is the Stormwater Work Group?
- Why do we exist?
- What have we done so far?
- Recommendations for NPDES municipal stormwater permits in Puget Sound
- Cost Estimates
- Next steps

Stormwater Work Group

- Launched in October 2008
- Part of Puget Sound Partnership's effort to coordinate ecosystem monitoring
 - Work groups will be coordinated by an umbrella regional monitoring program
 - Each work group is focused on an ecosystem monitoring topic

Purpose

- Develop a regional stormwater monitoring and assessment strategy for Puget Sound
 - Comprehensive scientific framework
 - Prioritized implementation plan
 - Specific recommendations for NPDES municipal stormwater permits due in October 2010

Organization and Support

- Facilitated stakeholder decision-making and prioritization
- A caucus-based committee with broad representation
 - Federal agencies, state agencies, local jurisdictions, environmental groups, business groups, agriculture, ports, tribes
 - Nearly all recommendations by consensus
- Funded and staffed by Ecology

What Have We Done So Far

- 3 public workshops and 2 comment periods to gather input
- Peer review of draft scientific framework
- June 2010: 55 recommendations for creating a regional, strategic, coordinated, Stormwater Assessment and Monitoring Program for Puget Sound (SWAMPPS)
- Oct 2010: 33 more recommendations for municipal stormwater permit monitoring

Recommendations

- Pool resources: create “pay-in”
- Small streams status and trends monitoring
- Marine nearshore status and trends monitoring
- Source identification and diagnostic monitoring
- Effectiveness studies

Pool Resources

- Require all municipalities to contribute to regional monitoring program (“pay-in”)
- Ecology serve as administrative entity for next permit
- Contracts between Ecology and each permittee ensure funds are dedicated to monitoring
- Signing contract and paying invoices satisfies permit requirements for monitoring
- Stormwater Work Group in oversight role

Small Streams Status and Trends

- Ramp-up period before sampling begins at randomly selected sites in Puget Sound lowland wadeable streams
 - 50 sites in urban areas and 50 in rural areas
 - Monthly water quality sampling
 - Once per 5 years sediment chemistry sampling
 - Annual stream benthos sampling
- Stream gauging needs analysis and data management

Marine Nearshore Status and Trends

- Ramp-up period before sampling begins
 - To the extent possible, co-locate 30-50 sites in urban areas for:
 - Monthly bacteria sampling
 - Once per five years sediment chemistry sampling
 - Annual toxics in mussels
- Compare and contrast with ambient WDOH, PSAMP, Mussel Watch data

Source Identification and Diagnostic Monitoring

- Literature review
- On-line library of methods
- Repository to evaluate existing programs and share information
 - Design repository and reporting requirements to support regional analyses
- Goal: improve efforts

Effectiveness Studies

- Conduct studies in major programmatic areas of stormwater management
- Process and criteria to evaluate, rank, and select proposals
- Leverage ideas from permittees and others
- Literature review
- Standard methods, transferability

Paradigm Shift

➤ Emphasize:

- Regional collaborative approach focused on consensus-recommended priorities

➤ De-emphasize:

- Land use characterization
- Outfall monitoring
- Targeted ongoing monitoring of receiving waters of interest
- Site-scale BMP testing

Estimated Costs

➤ Working Draft

- Total cost: ~\$8.1M over 5 years
- Cost of effectiveness studies **NOT** included
 - Somewhere between \$1M/yr and \$6M/yr
- Likely to cost \$1,000 - \$900,000 per year per jurisdiction depending on:
 - Total cost of effectiveness studies
 - Allocation method

Key Next Steps

➤ Ecology

- Develop preliminary draft permit language: April 2011 (formal draft Oct '11, issue July '12)

➤ Stormwater Work Group

- Process and criteria to select effectiveness studies: completed by August 2011
- Oversee administration of pay-in: specify means by March 2011, begin in 2012
- Set priorities for addressing other permits, water bodies, monitoring programs: 2012