

STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, January 19, 2011 9:10 AM – 12:05 PM
Tacoma CTP Visitor Center
2201 Portland Avenue, Tacoma

Draft Summary

OF THE MEETING'S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

ATTENDEES:

Work Group Members and Alternates, and the Organizations or Groups and Caucuses they Represent:
Neil Aaland (Assn of WA Cities and WA Assn of Counties), Local Governments; **Mark Biever** (Thurston Co.), Local Governments; **Shayne Cothorn** (WA Dept. of Natural Resources), State Agencies; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Dana de Leon** (Tacoma), Local Governments; **Tim Determan** (WDOH), State Agencies; **Ken Dzinbal** (Puget Sound Partnership), State Agencies; **Mindy Fohn** (Kitsap Co.), Local Governments; **Jonathan Frodge** (Seattle), Local Governments; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments; **Dino Marshalonis** (USEPA), Federal Agencies; **Kit Paulsen** (Bellevue), Local Governments; **Tony Paulson** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Tom Putnam** (Puget Soundkeeper Alliance), Environmental Groups; **Jim Simmonds** (King Co.), Local Governments and the Work Group's Chair; **Carol Smith** (WA Conservation Commission), Agriculture.

Work Group Staff: **Karen Dinicola** (Ecology), Project Manager

Others in Attendance: **Mike Milne**, Brown & Caldwell; **Lisa Rozmyn**, Port of Tacoma.

EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF SWG RECOMMENDATIONS IS UNDERWAY

The work group heard about several activities underway to assist in launching the Stormwater Assessment and Monitoring Program for Puget Sound (SWAMPPS). Since our October 2010 meeting: USEPA is funding USGS (Chris Konrad) to conduct the streamflow network analysis; the Puget Sound Partnership is finalizing agreements with Pierce County and WDFW to conduct the effectiveness study literature review (Pierce County and Everett are also contributing funding) and site selection and QAPPs for the Mussel Watch component of the marine nearshore status and trends monitoring; and Ecology Environmental Assessment Program staff are working on site selection and QAPPs for small stream and marine nearshore sediment status and trends monitoring under a technical assistance agreement with the municipal stormwater team in Ecology's Water Quality Program.

WORK GROUP APPROVES GENERAL PROCESS FOR SELECTING EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES

The Effectiveness Study Selection Subgroup presented its proposal for a three-step process for identifying what studies will be conducted using the pooled resources approach: (1) get ideas/topics/questions from all interested parties via the SWG's caucuses (including permittees); (2) rank the ideas/topics/questions according to SWG-approved evaluation criteria and weighting; and (3) solicit and evaluate RFPs for study designs for the top-ranked ideas/topics/questions. SWG members had minor suggestions for improving the format and content of the request for ideas/topics/questions and agreed with the criteria and weighting proposal presented by the subgroup. The subgroup will next meet on February 3rd to finalize the request for ideas/topics/questions and send it out as soon as possible thereafter. Meanwhile, SWG caucus leads should get their members thinking about ideas/topics/questions to submit via this process. The deadline is March 31, 2011.

The work group also agreed to task the Effectiveness Study Selection Subgroup with providing oversight for the literature review being undertaken by Brown & Caldwell under contract with Pierce County, with librarian assistance provided by WSDOT. The subgroup will work with the consultant to agree upon search parameters, and the desired scope of analysis and reporting of the results.

WORK GROUP APPROVES NEW COMMUNICATION MATERIALS

The Communication Subgroup has been working on products and actions aimed at educating local government elected officials and staff about SWG recommendations in advance of Ecology's planned release of preliminary draft permit language in late April. The PIO's for the Associations of Cities and Counties are helping. With minor edits, the work group approved: the subgroup's proposed communication work plan, a one-page summary of SWG recommendations, and "Frequently Asked Questions." The subgroup will next meet on January 31st.

WORK GROUP DISCUSSES WORK PLAN PRIORITIES FOR 2011-2012

The Work Plan Subgroup presented a draft work plan for 2011-2012 with priority tasks and a schedule based on the subgroup's recognition of the SWG's limited capacity and an early subgroup decision to focus on successfully implementing the October 2010 SWG recommendations before working on expanding the scope of SWAMPPS. Work group members expressed concern that we might lose participation of agencies interested in other land uses, water bodies, and stormwater permits that have not yet been addressed by the SWG's priority framework if we continue to focus on urban stormwater and do not address other topics before the last six months of this two-year period. Other subgroups to address SWAMPPS expansion might be formed at later meetings, depending on revisions to the draft work plan. Involving permittees outside Puget Sound in decision making is an implementation task that might be a lower priority than expanding to other topics.

Work group members agreed that the SWG does need to ensure that SWAMPPS is successfully launched and that we should explore ways to expand our capacity by involving other people. The subgroup should discuss whether changes to our bylaws are needed, including adding new members.

The work plan needs to include ample time for the SWG to consider, discuss, and buy into new proposals. The subgroup will next meet on Wednesday February 9th to discuss the feedback given by work group members today and adjust the tasks and timeline. Tim Determan, Tom Putnam, and Carol Smith will join the subgroup. Our goal is to approve the work plan at the next SWG meeting on February 16th. Proposed changes to the SWG's bylaws will be discussed on February 16th with the aim of approving revised bylaws at the SWG meeting on March 16th.

Work group members agreed that the committee should discuss and provide comments on preliminary draft permit language issued by Ecology during the proposed May 2011 comment period, and that we should request a longer comment period. Karen Dinicola will draft a letter from Jim Simmonds to Bill Moore making this request.

Beginning in March, work group members will hear from other monitoring work groups in brown bag presentations scheduled to follow most of our meetings. Send brown bag topic ideas to Karen Dinicola.

WORK GROUP TASKS NEW SUBGROUPS TO OVERSEE TWO KEY COMPONENTS OF SWAMPPS

Work group members volunteered to serve on two subgroups. The first will recommend means by which the SWG and Ecology will interact in administering the pooled resources approach, and specifically in making decisions about contracting out to conduct SWAMPPS work. The Pooled Resources Oversight Subgroup members will include: Dick Gersib (WSDOT), Heather Kibbey, Joyce Nichols (Bellevue), Mel Oleson (Boeing), Mark Palmer (Puyallup), Kit Paulsen, Tony Paulson, Susan Saffery (Seattle), and Bruce Wulkan (Partnership).

The second subgroup will help coordinate early and continued implementation of ramp-up activities for status and trends monitoring. The Status and Trends Subgroup members will include: Scott Collyard (Ecology), Curtis DeGasperi (King Co.), Tim Determan, Maggie Dutch (Ecology), Jonathan Frodge, Kit Paulsen, Rich Sheibley (USGS), Kim Stark (King Co.), Jim West (WDFW). Jonathan will serve as the subgroup's chair.

Karen Dinicola will set up the initial subgroup meetings and will send out a message to the entire SWG email list informing them of the upcoming meeting dates for all five subgroups and inviting others to participate.

WORK GROUP NOMINATES CANDIDATES FOR CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR THE COMING TWO YEARS

Jim Simmonds was nominated for a second term as Work Group Chair. Dick Gersib, Tom Putnam, and Bruce Wulkan were nominated for Vice Chair. Elections will be held at the next SWG meeting on February 16th. Other work group members interested in serving as chair or vice chair should inform Karen Dinicola as soon as possible.

WORK GROUP HEARS UPDATES ON RELATED ACTIVITIES

Ken Dzinbal, who now serves as executive coordinator of the Washington Forum on Monitoring Salmon Recovery and Watershed Health, will be transitioning into the Monitoring Program Director position at the Partnership. When she returns to work following maternity leave, Nathalie Hamel will transition into another monitoring program staff position at the Partnership.

The Partnership's Launch Committee recently released for comment a draft charter focused on roles, responsibilities, and organizational structure of the ecosystem monitoring program. The committee will meet twice more to finalize the draft charter and then a steering committee is envisioned to take the place of the launch committee. On February 3rd Nathalie Hamel and Rob Duff (Ecology, and the launch committee's chair) will present the proposal to the Ecosystem Coordination Board. The presentation will be followed by a discussion of the Leadership Council's tentative decision to "house" the monitoring program at the Partnership rather than at an independent, non-profit entity.

Washington SeaGrant has an RFP out to which a not-yet-formed "Funding Subgroup" of the SWG might consider responding. We will discuss forming such a subgroup at our next meeting on February 16th.

Training for sampling in small streams will be held early this summer; organizers are trying to gauge interest. Please let Karen Dinicola know if staff at your organization might wish to participate.

WORK GROUP WILL MEET ON THIRD WEDNESDAYS IN 2011

Work group members support the goal of maintaining a regular schedule of monthly, three-hour meetings. The work group's upcoming meetings and expected major discussion topics are:

- Wednesday February 16, 2011 from 9am-12pm at the Tacoma CTP Visitor Center: elect chair and vice-chair; discuss tasks to be done in 2011-2012, form necessary subgroups, and adopt the work plan; discuss possible changes to by-laws; confirm official SWG member list; hear about progress toward completing the effectiveness literature review; decide on messages and timing for next "SWG Reporter" email update to interested parties.
- Wednesday March 16, 2011 from 9am-12pm at the Tacoma CTP Visitor Center: approve changes to bylaws; hear about the streamflow network analysis; hear about progress on status and trends site selection and QAPPs; hear about Action Agenda updates and form a new subgroup to draft SWG input on stormwater and monitoring sections; discuss status of communication plan and assign action items for April outreach to elected officials. The meeting will be followed by the first in our series of brown bag presentations from other monitoring work groups, from noon-1pm.
- Wednesday April 20, 2011 from 9am-12pm at the USGS office in Tacoma: possible discussion on preliminary draft permit monitoring language; approval of SWG comments on Action Agenda updates; hear about initial findings of the effectiveness literature review; plan to implement effectiveness study topic ranking process. The meeting will be followed by the second in our series of brown bag presentations from other monitoring work groups, from noon-1pm.

Please note that the date scheduled for our May meeting (the 18th) might be changed to provide the SWG with adequate time and process to comment on Ecology's preliminary draft permit language, expected to be released in late April 2011.