

# STORMWATER WORK GROUP

## “CORE GROUP” MEETING

Wednesday, November 12, 2008 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
University of Washington, Tacoma Room GWP 320

# DRAFT SUMMARY

## OF THE MEETING’S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS, AND AGREEMENTS

A number of Core Group members attending the last meeting were unavailable for this meeting, a number unavailable for last meeting attended this meeting, and a number attending this meeting were doing so for the first time.

### *Attendees and the organizations or groups they represent:*

**Emmett Dobey** (Mason County), Local Governments; **Dana deLeon** (Tacoma), Local Governments; **Jonathan Frodge** (Seattle), Local Governments; **Julie Hall** (Seattle), Local Governments; **Kris Holm** (Association of Washington Business), Business Groups; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments; **DeeAnn Kirkpatrick**, NOAA Fisheries; **Bill Moore**, Washington State Department of Ecology; **Kit Paulsen** (Bellevue), Local Governments; **Heather Trim** (People for Puget Sound), the Environmental Caucus; **Karen Dinicola** (Ecology), Project Manager; and **Damon Diessner** (Environmental Strategies in Action), Facilitator.

### **CORE GROUP CONTINUES ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS REFINEMENT**

The Core Group discussed the proposed refinements of the ambient status and trends questions and how to get these questions to a manageable level of detail for the Work Group to prioritize. After the Work Group identifies priorities, task groups will be assigned (per the work plan) with more fully developing monitoring strategies for each of the three monitoring categories.

The task groups will also be assigned with identifying how those strategies will be coordinated with efforts beyond stormwater. The monitoring strategies will be designed to address issues of concern to the Puget Sound Partnership.

The Core Group determined that the proposed questions should be modified to include:

- Groundwater
- Sediments
- Combined Sewer Overflows
- Impacts of piping (storm sewers)
- Landslides
- Septic systems
- Air (atmospheric deposition and transport of pollutants)
- Temperature
- Critical land areas (influences)
- Flooding
- Rainwater harvesting

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It was also agreed that monitoring should be of “Stormwater Management Practices” and not limited to “Best Management Practices”.

The Core Group discussed the role of future “task groups” in further developing monitoring strategies per the Stormwater Work Group work plan. The importance of Work Group members communicating the perspective of their caucuses was emphasized.

The idea of a (one day) session on issues addressed by (and on the work of) other groups (such as the group working on toxics) was also discussed for future consideration.

### **CORE GROUP CONSIDERS CRITERIA FOR RANKING/PRIORITIZING ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS**

The Core Group discussed a list of proposed criteria for prioritizing assessment questions. The criteria were pulled from those discussed at the 10/15 Core Group meeting, the draft Stormwater Work Group work plan, input from Group members, and criteria from the Technical Advisory Committee used for ranking pilot projects.

Suggestions for additions/changes to the proposed criteria included:

- Adding the “irreversibility” issues as well as “acute” and “chronic”
- Apply criteria to Puget Sound as a whole and later apply to more specific areas/times
- Criterion 1. to include public safety/health
- Criterion 3. (study length) to “second tier”
- Prioritization of monitoring questions should align with the "Guiding Principles for Ecosystem Management in Puget Sound" as identified in the Puget Sound Action Agenda on Question 3, Page 4.

The Group then discussed how to move forward in determining what monitoring to do by whom, and when, within a regional strategy.

### **KEY DECISIONS**

The Core Group agreed that the December 11 Work Group prioritization exercise is more likely to be successful if we apply criteria to ranking topics under each category, rather than the detailed questions. The Task Groups could then be assigned responsibility for proposing the assessment questions to be answered for the priority topic or topics. The Core Group decided to proceed with refining ranking/prioritization for:

- “Ambient Status and Trends of Water Quality, Quantity, Habitat, and Biota” and
- “Stormwater Characterization Status and Trends”

The Group decided to postpone refining ranking/prioritization for the “Management Effectiveness” category at this time, as the ranking criteria will be significantly different from the other two categories.

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### **NEXT STEPS**

A subcommittee will develop two matrices with the refined topics and ranking prioritization criteria for the Ambient Status and Trends and Characterization categories prior to the next Core Group meeting on November 25, where the Core Group will discuss the matrices and test the proposed approach to prioritizing the topics. The subcommittee will include Jonathan, Julie, DeeAnn, Heather, Karen, and Emmett (via email).

Jonathan and Julie will take the first cut at a draft, which the subcommittee will discuss in a conference call on the afternoon of Tuesday 11/18. A draft for Core Group consideration will be distributed 11/20 with discussion occurring at the Core Group 11/25 meeting.

The results of this effort are to prepare for the December 11 Stormwater Work Group meeting, at which assessment questions will be prioritized for the task groups to move forward in developing monitoring strategies for each of the three monitoring categories. *Work Group members communicating the perspective of their caucuses will be critical to the success of this effort.*

Damon will get small group contact information to Jonathan and Karen will send the subcommittee her notes from today's discussion of the criteria.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

The next Core Group meeting is from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday November 25 at the USGS Office, 934 Broadway, in Tacoma.

The Stormwater Work Group will have its next meeting on Thursday December 11, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Rhodes Center, Orcas Room, in Tacoma.