

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, 14 October 2008 9:30 AM – 12:20 PM  
Tacoma Nature Center, 1919 S Tyler, Tacoma

# Final Summary

OF THE MEETING'S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

**ATTENDED:** Chris Burke, City of Tacoma; Luanne Coachman, King County; Bob Cusimano, Washington State Department of Ecology; Dana de Leon, City of Tacoma; Gary Gill, PNNL; Julie Lowe, Ecology; Doug Navetski, King County; Andy Rheaume, City of Redmond; Jim Simmonds, King County; Heather Trim, People for Puget Sound; Project Manager Karen Dinicola (Ecology); and Facilitator Jim Reid.

### COMMITTEE IS BRIEFED ON THE STATUS OF THE "PILOT PROJECTS"

The Technical Advisory Committee was briefed on the status of five "pilot projects." The first three that were discussed were: 1) the Stream Benthos Gap Analysis, Coordination, and Data Management Program; 2) the Standardized Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPS) for Stormwater; and 3) the In-Line Ditch Stormwater Treatment Best Management Practices Program.

Based on the briefings, the common message about these three pilot projects is that they are moving forward with great coordination because interest in each one is high. This message will be conveyed to the Legislature in the Puget Sound Monitoring Consortium's report that will be issued in early December.

Key points communicated by Jim Simmonds of King County about the Stream Benthos Gap Analysis, Coordination, and Data Management Program were:

- The project's goal is to expand and improve the data management system for stream benthos by standardizing the methodology for collecting, organizing and analyzing the information.
- In addition to the four jurisdictions that launched this project, King, Pierce and Snohomish Counties and the City of Seattle, others, such as Clallam County Streamkeepers, and the cities of Federal Way, Everett, and Redmond, are very interested in it and seeking to be involved.
- The first phase of the pilot project, the gap analysis, will commence in January 2009. Data will be compiled about what each jurisdiction has done or is doing, which will help them determine what gaps exist.
- 2006 data from the four jurisdictions that launched the project has already been loaded; 2007 data that they provided is currently being loaded. In the future, labs, rather than individual

jurisdictions, will load the data. The goal is to have data that can be shared among jurisdictions, and which can be published.

- Developing protocols regarding how long it takes to put data on-line should be a result or product of this project. It was suggested that ideally it should take no more than a year to bring information on-line.
- The bulk of work on this pilot will be undertaken during the first half of 2009.

Technical Advisory Committee discussed the possibility of field training as a product of this pilot project. Bob Cusimano stated that the Department of Ecology will conduct two training sessions next year. Heather Trim suggested that the group may want to apply for an EPA grant to help fund training programs over a five-year period.

Doug Navetski of King County reported on the In-Line Ditch Stormwater Treatment Best Management Practices Program. Highlights of his comments were:

- The intent of the pilot project is to develop Best Management Practices (BMPs) for local stormwater treatment ditches.
- There are four stages or designs in the project: 1) enlarge the number of BMPs in “the tool box” for infiltration and filtration, depending on the type of contaminant; 2) conduct a literature search to identify additional BMPs; 3) conduct outreach to government agencies and interested organizations to encourage involvement; and 4) identify key lessons on how to maintain and expand the BMPs.
- The first deliverable—the literature search—is expected on November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- King County received a grant from another source to look at eight sites. At each site a structure will be installed and performance measurements will be used and evaluated to assess the results.
- Jurisdictions currently involved include King, Pierce, Snohomish and Clark Counties, and the cities of Burien, Kent, Seattle and Tacoma.

One of the goals of this program is to develop new approaches to research and development. Heather Trim suggested that to develop genuine innovations, the group may want to invite volunteers, such as retired engineers or university students, to participate in brainstorming sessions.

Chris Burke and Dana de Leon of Tacoma updated the group about the status of the Standardized Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPS) for Stormwater. In summary, they said:

- The project’s goal is to expand stormwater SOPs for any agency conducting monitoring, and to have a broadly available library of SOPs that could be easily referenced and used.
- At the first meeting of interested stakeholders, the group brainstormed twenty-five procedures for stormwater that need to be standardized. The first one selected was automated sampling.
- The four selected Standard Operating Procedures will be developed cooperatively. Then they will be “handed off” to people not involved in developing them so that they can be field-tested “cold.” The goal is to then assess whether or not the SOPs were implemented with limited problems or issues, and to identify the reactions to the SOPs by folks not familiar with their development.
- Ecology is interested in this pilot project because it will allow the agency to do things a bit differently and to collaborate with other agencies and jurisdictions.

- A Sharepoint web site is being set up for collecting, organizing and maintaining data and the SOPs. The website will endure beyond the June 2009 deadline for this pilot project, and it is likely the Washington Monitoring Forum would be the keeper of information. A field manual may also be a vehicle for maintaining information about SOPs and helping to communicate them to a large audience.
- Private entities, including businesses such as Boeing, are interested in how the SOPs will be communicated for their use as well.

After reviewing progress on three of the pilot projects, the Committee heard that contract negotiations related to the Laboratory Inter-Calibration Study have delayed the launching of this project. The Committee agreed that the goal of this project—develop more comparability and consistency among laboratories—is still of great interest to jurisdictions throughout the Puget Sound.

Therefore, The Department of Ecology and King County agreed to work together to try to reach agreement on a contract that will allow the project to commence in November. Bob Cusimano of Ecology and Jim Simmonds of King County will take leadership roles in working to launch the project.

The last project is the Stormwater Work Group, and Karen Dinicola reported that the group held its first meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup> to review its proposed charter, bylaws and work plan. The Work Group is developing and prioritizing monitoring assessment questions for a regional stormwater monitoring and assessment strategy. While the work plan of this group is neither targeted at nor confined to permitting, its work will inform the next round of NPDES permits for Phase I and Phase II jurisdictions. This Work Group will be an ongoing activity.

The Consortium's report to the Legislature will include the recommendation to support and fund the continuing work of the Stormwater Work Group, as well as establishing and supporting other work groups needed to help implement the coordinated monitoring program for Puget Sound.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Committee members requested that the Committee be convened on a quarterly basis to hear updates about the pilot projects. Project manager Karen Dinicola will propose dates in January, April, and late June or early July 2009 for the Committee to convene to be updated on the progress of the pilots.