

# STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, Sept 21, 2011 9:10 AM – 12:05 PM  
Tacoma Central Treatment Plant Visitor Center  
2201 Portland Avenue, Tacoma

## Revised 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** (AWC and WSAC), Local Governments; **Mark Biever** (Thurston Co.), Local Governments; **Shayne Cothorn** (WDNR), State Agencies; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Dana de Leon** (Tacoma), Local Governments; **Rich Doenges** (Thurston Co.), Local Governments; **Jonathan Frodge** (Seattle), Local Governments; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments; **Adam Lorio** (Samish Indian Nation), Tribes; **Dino Marshalonis** (USEPA), Federal Agencies; **Bill Moore** (Ecology), State 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** (WSCC), Agriculture; **Bruce Wulkan** (Puget Sound Partnership), State Agencies.

*Others in attendance:* **Kevin Buckley**, Seattle; **Mindy Fohn**, Kitsap Co; **Jennifer Lanksbury**, WDFW; **Mike Milne**, Brown and Caldwell; **Bill Taylor**, TEC; **Dan Wrye**, Pierce Co.

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

### WORK GROUP APPROVES RANKED LIST OF EFFECTIVENESS STUDY TOPICS TO SUBMIT TO ECOLOGY

The SWG Effectiveness Study Selection Subgroup revised the list of topics per the input from the SWG at its last meeting in July. With minor edits, the work group approved the list. Jim will submit the revised list to Ecology following today's meeting. The submittal will include information about how many entities asked each question.

Bruce Wulkan expressed concern that this list does not include enough studies designed to help achieve the Puget Sound Partnership's recovery target of improving 30 streams from fair to good condition by 2020.

The subgroup will next work on an RFP process for the top-ranked topics and questions.

### WORK GROUP PROVIDES DIRECTION TO POOLED RESOURCES OVERSIGHT SUBGROUP

Work Group members discussed comments received in July on the draft oversight committee charter. The most important revision will be clarification of the new committee's purpose and expectations. The purpose of the committee is to provide meaningful project management oversight of Ecology's technical implementation of the regional stormwater monitoring program. The committee will make recommendations to Ecology (not decisions). The committee will track budget and deliverables but will not focus on accounting. The committee work should be as streamlined as possible, with a standing agenda item at SWG meetings but probably only annual reporting. There will also be quarterly accountability reporting for the Action Agenda.

Permittees will remain a majority of the committee but the committee will continue to include diverse membership. Interagency agreements between permittees and Ecology will include accountability functions and ensure the funds are used for regional stormwater monitoring. The IAA, committee charter, and permit are three complementary documents for establishing and implementing the new monitoring program.

This subgroup, and other efforts that work group members know of, were unable to achieve a consensus recommendation for cost allocations from local governments.

The subgroup will meet and revise the charter in advance of our next meeting. Jim Simmonds and Rich Doenges will join the subgroup.

## **WORK GROUP CONSIDERS NEARSHORE STATUS & TRENDS MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Marine Nearshore Status and Trends Oversight Subgroup delivered two sets of recommendations to the work group for consideration: one for sediment chemistry and one for mussel tissue sampling. The work group did not approve any changes to the October 2010 recommendations but might approve some at the next meeting October 19. Discussion points included:

- We need to clarify that the recommendations for the permit are only implementing a portion of the June 2010 Strategy recommendations. Specifically:
  - The permittees are expected to fund only sediment chemistry (not the toxicity triad) and potentially limited chemical analyses in both sediments and mussels (focused on PAHs and metals). The Mussel Watch sampling is initial work to inform future status and trends design.
  - The permittees are expected to fund only nearshore sampling that is conducted inside UGA boundaries.
  - More work is needed to demonstrate and further leverage contributions of existing programs to fill in implementation gaps. Other types of permittees should contribute as well.
- Work group members are supportive overall of an exploratory round of monitoring to inform future status and trends monitoring of mussels. [Work group members discussed pros and cons of maintaining consistency with the overarching monitoring program design in moving forward with nearshore biota monitoring.](#) Several work group members are concerned about using best professional judgment to select sites rather than selecting them randomly, but the idea of reducing the variation within the UGA by taking into consideration the land use condition represented had general support for a first round of sampling. Work group members appreciated the analyses done by WDFW staff to move the Mussel Watch concept forward.
- More analysis of existing information is needed. Especially recent ENVVEST (Navy in Bremerton area) and Snohomish County Mussel Watch sampling efforts.

Karen Dinicola shared the most recent status and trends cost estimates based on subgroup discussions and work by staff at Ecology to refine the estimates the SWG provided a year ago.

## **EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION: WORK GROUP APPROVES TOPICS FOR NEXT SWG REPORTER**

The Communication Subgroup will send out a new email update on recent work by the SWG, Ecology, and the local government caucus toward implementing a new regional stormwater monitoring program via the permits.

AWC and WSAC continue to work on educating elected officials about the new monitoring program recommendations and expected permit requirements.

## **PUGET SOUND COORDINATED MONITORING PROGRAM FORMALLY RECOGNIZES SWG**

The Steering Committee for the new regional ecosystem monitoring and assessment program has officially included the SWG in its structure as the first topical work group. The SWG process helped them get underway.

## **PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP ACTION AGENDA REVISIONS CONTINUE**

Bruce Wulkan asked SWG members to stay engaged in development of the next Action Agenda and keep informed of revisions, comment periods, and workshops via PSP's website. The next workshops will be in October. The current draft includes monitoring Near Term Actions. SWG members should contact Bruce if interested in developing a list of strategic and prioritized stormwater science needs.

## **AGENDA ITEM NOT DISCUSSED**

The Small Stream Status and Trends Subgroup has not met since our last meeting and did not have any new recommendations to discuss. The revised QAPP is expected to be released in the next few weeks.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

The work group's upcoming meetings and expected discussion topics are:

- Wednesday, October 19, 2011 from 9am-noon at the USGS office in Tacoma: (1) approve a revised draft Oversight Committee charter for another round of public comment; (2) hear about Water Quality Index Monitoring; (3) discuss the work of the agricultural runoff subgroup; (4) discuss new recommendations for status and trends monitoring; (5) discuss Ecology's budget and what is known about the level of support and funding available for the SWG.
- Wednesday, November 16, 2011 from 9am-noon at the USGS office in Tacoma: (1) discuss the monitoring requirements in the formal draft permit and direct a subgroup to tee up recommendations for SWG approval at our next meeting; (2) provide direction to the SWG Work Plan subgroup to produce the next annual update of our work plan; (3) decide content for next SWG Reporter.
- No SWG meeting is scheduled for December.
- January 18, 2011 from 9am-noon at the USGS office in Tacoma: (1) approve SWG comments on the monitoring requirements in the formal draft permit; (2) discuss the SWG Work Plan Subgroup recommendations for the next annual update of our work plan; (3) decide content for next SWG Reporter.