STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Tuesday, September 29, 2009 9:00 AM – 12:05 PM
USGS Conference Room
934 Broadway, Tacoma

Draft Summary

OF THE MEETING'S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

ATTENDEES:

Work Group Members, and the organizations or groups they represent:

Neil Aaland (Washington State Assn of Counties), Local Governments; **Allison Butcher** (MBA of King and Snohomish Co.), Business Groups; **Shayne Cothern** (WA Dept of Natural Resources), State Agencies; **Jay Davis** (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Federal Agencies; **Dana de Leon** (City of Tacoma), Local Governments; **Tim Determan** (WA Dept of Health), State Agencies; **Emmett Dobey** (Mason Co.), Local Governments; **Jonathan Frodge** (City of Seattle), Local Governments; **Dick Gersib** (WA Dept of Transportation), State Agencies; **Heather Kibbey** (City of Everett), Local Governments; **DeeAnn Kirkpatrick** (NOAA Fisheries), Federal Agencies; **Bill Moore** (WA Dept of Ecology), State 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; **Gary Turney** (U.S. Geological Survey), Federal Agencies; and **Bruce Wulkan** (Puget Sound Partnership), State Agencies.

Work Group Staff:

Derek Booth (Stillwater Sciences), Technical Lead/Scientific Framework; **Karen Dinicola** (Ecology), Project Manager; **Leska Fore** (Statistical Design), Facilitator/Communication Lead; **John Lenth** (Herrera), Technical Lead/Experimental Design; and **Joy Michaud** (Herrera), Technical Team Staff.

Others in Attendance:

Abby Barnes, Kennedy/Jenks; **Mark Biever**, Thurston County.

WORK GROUP DISCUSSES COMMUNICATION STRATEGY AND AGREES TO START SENDING OUT REGULAR EMAIL UPDATES

The work group discussed key components of how a two-way communication strategy will help us achieve our goals: the website, email lists, talking points, briefings, and a regular monthly update to be widely distributed via email. The full spectrum groups to be targeted (i.e., the list generated at the 7/28 work group meeting) needs to be specified in the strategy. In addition to the briefings listed on the draft strategy, include APWA stormwater managers and STORM/PSSH communication efforts. The subgroup might also consider creating a display board for meetings.

Suggestions were made to revise the talking points to soften the message about stormwater harm and focus the message on the work group efforts. The work group liked the initial draft email update and is willing to have the subgroup try to send updates on a monthly basis if possible and sustainable. Tom Putnam and Neil Aaland will join this subgroup.

WORK GROUP PROVIDES FEEDBACK ON STRAW DOG EXPERIMENTAL APPROACH AND EARLY DRAFT STRATEGY DOCUMENT

The authors of the document presented the intent and status of the three main sections of the current draft: the introduction (which frames the purpose, intent, context, background, and history behind the document), scientific framework (which describes how the strategy is rooted in adaptive management, learns from other programs' efforts, and translates the assessment questions into a feasible set of testable hypotheses), and experimental design (which articulates the approach to testing the hypotheses and describes the investment in terms of the level of effort required).

The feedback provided during the ensuing discussion, summarized below, will help the subgroup and the document's authors to continue to complete a draft document in advance of the next work group meeting. Dick Gersib will join the subgroup. There is much still missing from the draft document: in particular, a combined, broad status and trends program for the region. The work group acknowledged the difficulty for the authors to complete this document, and the challenge they face in striking the correct balance between inclusivity and specificity.

- Ensure that we don't lose the regional context, the group's charge to create a program for broad assessment of stormwater problems and management practices. Show how each component of the initial experimental design fits into the big picture.
- We are providing an organizational structure as well as an initial starting point. Perhaps an umbrella with components underneath. Explain how we might ramp up, flesh out, add to this strategy in the future to tell a broader picture.
- Start from scientific foundation and what's known from past or ongoing efforts. Recommend acknowledging/mining/emphasizing how we are informed by existing data, or providing an explicit placeholder for doing so.
- Connect the stormwater status and trends strategy to Ecology's S&T program for creeks, and define the regional stormwater S&T approach for other water bodies. This is the broad-based regional strategy.
- Describe the nested nature of the strategic approach and design. We will learn different things at different scales, and can use the information differently. Site-specific hypotheses provide specific management drivers for permitting projects. We need enough upstream changes to see downstream signals.
- Articulate how what we learn at one site will transfer to other locations. Describe how the same efficacy study conducted at multiple sites will improve this power and tell a broader story.
- Many jurisdictions are faced with managing surface runoff from agricultural and forest lands. How will the strategy address, or connect to other efforts to address these issues?
- Continue the subgroup's efforts to identify priority efficacy hypotheses for each land use.
- Need to provide approach for local studies to tie into big picture, i.e. at minimum SOP's and data management, other consistencies.
- Suggest provide less detail for testing each hypothesis and leave for implementation plan.
- Clarify the line between the strategy and the implementation plan.
- Describe how this effort connects to other efforts, send message to other parties that we want to work with/alongside them in monitoring stormwater in Puget Sound. How is this a new way of doing business that will help recover Puget Sound? How will it succeed?
- Consider moving some sections to appendices and slimming down the document.

SUBGROUP TO FINALIZE PEER REVIEW PANEL

Two of the five members of the Peer Review Panel are confirmed: Rich Horner and Steve Weisberg. Subgroup members will make phone calls this week to fill the panel. The work group appreciates the subgroup's efforts to organize and select panel members from the extensive list of

highly qualified experts that were nominated. The subgroup also finalized and sent the peer review plan and letter to the Puget Sound Science Panel.

SUBGROUP TO CONTINUE TO PLAN NOVEMBER 10TH PUBLIC WORKSHOP

The subgroup articulated the workshop goals and a draft agenda for our second public workshop. The workgroup encouraged the subgroup to secure the Weyerhauser Aquatic Center venue in Federal Way and to continue planning the workshop, keeping logistical arrangements as simple as possible and assuring that sufficient time is allotted for participants to fully understand the strategy document. Draft handouts and final agenda will be discussed at the work group's next meeting.

PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP HIRING A MONITORING PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Partnership is hiring two full-time positions. Interviews will be held in mid-October. The science program manager will be on David Dicks's management team. The monitoring program coordinator will report to the science program manager and will begin to put together the Steering Committee for the coordinated ecosystem monitoring program after s/he is hired, likely in November.

PSP "RESULTS CHAINS" PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD IN NOVEMBER

The Partnership is in the process of articulating the open standards framework and accountability mechanism for Puget Sound recovery efforts. They are developing results chains (discussed at our prior work group meeting) to identify objectives for reducing threats and means to measure progress. The results chains will be included in the State of the Sound document that will be out for public review and comment in November. Work Group members are encouraged to email Bruce Wulkan with questions at bruce.wulkan@psp.wa.gov.

THE WORK GROUP'S UPCOMING MEETINGS WILL BE LONGER THAN PAST MEETINGS

TUESDAY, **OCTOBER 27**, from 9am-3pm at the USGS Office in Tacoma
<note that our 2nd public workshop is from 9-3 on Tuesday November 10th>
TUESDAY, **NOVEMBER 17**, from 9am-3pm at the USGS Office in Tacoma
TUESDAY, **DECEMBER 15**, from 9am-3pm at the USGS Office in Tacoma

OTHER ACTION ITEMS FROM TODAY'S MEETING:

- The communication subgroup will revise the talking points per today's discussion
- Carol Smith will send Karen Dinicola the email distribution list for the Washington Forum on Monitoring
- Bruce will try to pull "what success looks like" from PSP management as Karen has done at Ecology
- Karen will send out the recent written communication from Julie Lowe r.e. Ecology's permit team's expectations from the strategy document
- Karen will send Jon Frodge's comments to the work group
- John Lenth will send the efficacy hypotheses generated by the strategy document subgroup for each land use to Karen for distribution to the work group