

STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, November 16, 2011 9:10 AM – 11:45 AM

USGS conference room

934 Broadway, 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:

Mark Biever (Thurston Co.), Local Governments; **Shayne Cothorn** (WDNR), State Agencies; **Dana De Leon** (Tacoma), Local Governments; **Dick Gersib** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments; **Adam Lorio** (Samish Indian DNR), Tribes; **Dino Marshalonis** (USEPA), Federal Agencies; **Bill Moore** (Ecology), State Agencies; **Rich Sheibley** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Jim Simmonds** (King Co.), Local Governments and the Work Group's Chair; **Carol Smith** (WSCC), Agriculture; **Heather Trim** (People for Puget Sound), Environmental Groups.

Others in attendance: **Steve Carstens**, Puyallup; **Barb Wood**, Thurston Co.

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

WORK GROUP DISCUSSES ECOLOGY'S FORMAL DRAFT PERMIT MONITORING LANGUAGE

Work group members discussed a draft comment letter based on the discussion at our last meeting, where Bill Moore summarized the monitoring language in the formal draft municipal stormwater permits and changes from the preliminary draft language. The formal draft permits are out for public comment through February 3, 2012.

In general, work group members agreed that the letter was at the right level of detail in expressing our support of the paradigm shift to cooperative, regional monitoring. Work group members disagreed as to whether the SWG's recommended list of effectiveness study topics and questions should remain in the permit (attached to the scope of work for the draft cost sharing agreement) or if it would be more appropriate that the list be in the permit fact sheet. Work group members agreed that the letter should clarify that the list is still evolving, particularly because we expect some questions will come off the list per the findings of the literature review.

Work group members did not direct subgroups to develop specific technical recommendations on the details of Ecology's proposed language. The letter will be finalized at our next meeting in January.

Also in January, Ecology will be hosting public workshops to explain the new permit requirements. SWG members are invited to help present and answer questions about the process for developing our recommendations that provided the basis for the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program pay-in options in Special Condition S8 of the permit; Ecology staff will answer questions about the permit, and in particular about the opt-out requirements. Karen Dinicola will coordinate the work group members who volunteered for each workshop date.

Jim Simmonds and Dana de Leon offered to provide some cost estimates for the opt-out requirements. Work group members expressed concern that it be clear that the SWG did not recommend the opt-out requirements, and that only the "option 1" sections of each monitoring component in the permit (and "option 3" for Phase I effectiveness studies) are based on SWG recommendations.

SOURCE IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION REPOSITORY LITERATURE REVIEW UNDERWAY

The Washington Stormwater Center (WSC) has some National Estuary Program funding to undertake the first task in scoping and creating the Source Identification and Diagnostic Monitoring Information Repository component of our regional stormwater monitoring strategy. Dana de Leon and Mindy Fohn are co-chairing the new SWG subgroup and providing information and guidance to WSC staff doing the work.

The literature review is not limited to published information, it will include interviews of inspectors and other local government staff working on source control and eliminating illicit discharges from storm sewer systems. The WSC will write a scoping document for the subgroup to review in late January or early February; the work group will discuss this at our meeting in January. The literature review and recommended next steps for creating the information repository should be completed in October 2012.

SUBGROUPS TO PROPOSE UPDATES TO OUR WORK PLAN

Work group members reviewed our accomplishments over the past year and discussed the need to update our work plan for 2012 and extend it out into 2013. Karen presented an initial list of updates to consider (see Attachment 1 to this summary). Work group members agreed to assign the task of proposing detailed updates to tasks, deliverables, and timelines to the subgroup chairs. Subgroup chairs will send updates to the Work Plan Subgroup by the first of the year so that subgroup can compile them into a proposed revised work plan for discussion at the January SWG meeting and approval at the following meeting.

It will also be helpful for the work group to review the composition of the subgroups and discuss whether additional members from other organizations or with other skills should be recruited to join specific groups. Karen will send an email to each subgroup chair with information about which tasks they should update and what additional information is requested. Jim Simmonds volunteered to draft updates for the Pooled Resources and Marine Nearshore Status and Trends subgroups; Rich Sheibley volunteered to do this for Small Streams.

WORK GROUP AGREES ON MESSAGES FOR NEXT SWG REPORTER ISSUE

Work group members agreed that we should distribute a summary of our accomplishments over the past year in our first SWG Reporter next year. This can be based on the list Karen proposed as part of updating the work plan. In the meantime, work group members agreed that a Reporter should be sent out in the next couple of weeks including: a reminder to comment on the permit and oversight charter and list of effectiveness studies (including a clarification that only “option 1” in the permits is based on SWG recommendations; and a clarification that the list of effectiveness study topic is evolving); the source ID literature review is underway; and the SWG was formally recognized as the first work group of the coordinated ecosystem monitoring program. The steering committee members should be on our distribution list.

WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT PSP’S PLANS FOR ECOSYSTEM MONITORING WORK GROUPS

Karen Dinicola shared an email update from Ken Dzinbal (see Attachment 2 to this summary). Ken is the Partnership’s ecosystem monitoring and assessment program coordinator. His update was further information on the Steering Committee’s decisions to commission a total of five initial topical work groups: stormwater, toxics, salmon, marine water quality, and food webs and forage fish – and the Partnership’s plans to staff them. Work group members are interested learning more about the timelines for developing work plans for these new topical work groups. We want to ensure that our work plans complement and support each other as much as possible.

Work group members will designate an official representative to the steering Committee at our next meeting in January. Our chair Jim Simmonds is not on the committee, but Heather Kibbey and Heather Trim are. We will also consider drafting a regular briefing paper for the steering committee so that it might be delivered by anyone.

WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT ECOLOGY’S BUDGET FOR THE COMING YEAR

Bill Moore shared what is known about Ecology’s budget, which will be finalized in the coming months. His summary focused on plans for the \$8.9M in local toxics money slated for capacity grants, and projects including those of regional or statewide significance. Ecology’s plans are similar to the previous biennium, but it is not yet known whether some of this money will be “swept” as part of balancing the state budget. If the funds are available, some of this money will be available for projects to advance the regional stormwater monitoring program. Bill will look into the possibility of funding one or two SWG public workshops on monitoring.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND PLANNED MEETING DATES FOR 2012

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

- No SWG meeting is scheduled for December 2011.
- January 18, 2012 from 9am-noon at the USGS office in Tacoma: (1) approve SWG comments on the monitoring requirements in the formal draft permit; (2) approve a one-page summary of our accomplishments in 2011; (3) discuss the SWG Work Plan Subgroup recommendations for the next annual update of our work plan, including plans for better coordination with the ecosystem monitoring program; (4) identify the SWG's representative to PSP's ecosystem monitoring program steering committee; (5) decide content for next SWG Reporter.
- February 15, 2012 from 9am-noon at the USGS office in Tacoma: (1) approve our updated work plan; (2) review document from source identification subgroup; (3) hear from agricultural runoff subgroup.
- Further meeting dates and locations: March 21 at USGS, April 18 at USGS, May 16 at USGS, June 13 at USGS, September 19 TBD, October 17 TBD, and November 14 TBD.
- No SWG meetings are scheduled in July, August, or December 2012.

ATTACHMENT 1: DRAFT SWG WORK PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STATUS AND SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING 2011

Items in red were added during work group discussion on November 16, 2011

Stated Work Plan Goals for 2011-2012

1. Implement October 2010 recommendations:
 - a. Recommend process, criteria, and list of effectiveness study topics and questions: DONE
 - b. Oversee creation and administration of pooled resources approach: wrote 2 draft committee charters for public review
 - Have Ecology brief us on status and contracting decisions: subgroups involved in oversight of early implementation tasks
 - Review preliminary draft permit language: DONE
 - Review formal draft permit language: underway
 - c. Engage other stakeholders
 - included southwest Washington permittees in effectiveness and source ID
 - d. Oversee RSMP implementation
 - six early implementation tasks: literature reviews for effectiveness studies and source identification, QAPP for small stream monitoring component, and new data analyses to inform development of stream gauging, sediment chemistry, and mussel sampling components of RSMP
2. Communicate with policy makers, interested parties, and other monitoring groups:
 - a. Educate elected officials and staff: Sent 4 SWG Reporter email updates and additional notifications; created materials
 - b. Participate in PSP's ecosystem monitoring program: formally recognized as first topical work group of five commissioned so far
 - c. Hear from other monitoring efforts at regular meetings: four presentations (salmon recovery, toxics loading, PNAMP, WQI); plus PSAMP sediment and Mussel Watch monitoring as part of further development of the nearshore RSMP component
 - d. Engage in Action Agenda development: SWG members participated in PSP's small group addressing stormwater management and monitoring
3. Discuss expansions of the regional stormwater monitoring program to other water bodies, permits, land uses: began discussions to frame agricultural runoff monitoring

Tasks for 2012

- Continue to implement our 2010 Recommendations
 - Develop new recommendations to provide more detail, direction, and specificity as needed
 - Assess how subgroups are functioning; balance of membership, goals
- Better integration with ecosystem monitoring program
 - Consider layer of approval that's appropriate for steering committee to give
- Develop agricultural runoff monitoring recommendations
- Begin to consider new areas for expanding our recommendations: lakes? groundwater? industrial or construction permits?

Current work plan tasks and recommended work plan updates

Task 1: Support, manage, staff, and lead the SWG in implementing the Stormwater Assessment and Monitoring Program for Puget Sound (SWAMPPS)

- *ongoing; update deliverables*

Task 2: Recommend and implement a well-defined process and criteria for selecting effectiveness studies to be conducted by SWAMPPS in the next 5 or more years

- *done except for RFP process; work plan update should focus on RFP process*

Task 3: Oversee creation and administration of the pooled resources approach

- *ongoing; update deliverables*

Task 4: Oversee implementation of SWAMPPS status and trends components

- *ongoing; split into 4a streams and 4b nearshore, and update deliverables*

Task 5: Engage stakeholders outside of the Puget Sound region in deciding whether and how to expand some SWAMPPS activities (geographically)

- *done*

Task 6: Communicate and coordinate with policy makers and other interested parties in Puget Sound

- *ongoing; possible need to add state legislators*

Task 7: Communicate and coordinate with other monitoring groups in Puget Sound

- *ongoing; update to reflect that the steering committee chose to abolish the technical committee; schedule new topical work groups to brief SWG during, not after, regular meetings*

Task 8: Engage in development of stormwater and monitoring sections of the Action Agenda update

- *discuss; need updated timeline and process check*

Task 9: Begin to discuss expansions of SWAMPPS

- *update should propose scheduling discussion topics into regular SWG meetings*
 - What would a monitoring plan that informs stormwater management at industrial and/or construction sites look like?
 - What are the next priority water bodies to address and what would be the means for implementing status and trends monitoring in these water bodies?
 - What effectiveness studies should be done in addition to evaluating municipal stormwater management programs?
 - What are other priority parameters or media that should be included in SWAMPPS based on our discussions with other work groups in the past months?
 - WSDOT permit?
 - Data management – theme for the year? How to connect this to PSP ecosystem monitoring? Include QA/QC
 - Citizen science? Starting with Mussel Watch and bacteria; what other gaps could be addressed?
 - Articulate what SWAMPPS components are being implemented by whom and gaps that remain
 - How to id someone to run the program, not just contractually. Can't be done by committee. What are staffing needs beyond current program/project manager?

Task 10: Expand the SWAMPPS framework to address agricultural lands and issues

- *ongoing; update schedule and deliverables*

Task 11: Oversee implementation of source identification and diagnostic monitoring

- *ongoing; work plan update should refine this task description and define deliverables*

ATTACHMENT 2: EMAIL FROM KEN DZINBAL TO KAREN DINICOLA WITH UPDATES ON ECOSYSTEM MONITORING TOPICAL WORK GROUPS

November 15, 2011 email

Hi Karen,

I'd be happy to provide a more complete update on where the larger monitoring program is maybe at your next meeting since I won't be making this one. In a quick nutshell though, here are a few quick bullet-points you're welcome to pass along:

1) Yes - we've now commissioned 5 work groups, counting yours. I'm working with Rob and Kate to draft initial guidelines for the Work Groups - getting to the second part of your question first, around what specifically are we expecting them to produce? In general, I think we can assume that work groups will first be asked to build a 1-year workplan that will probably include the bullets in this following short list:

- take some ownership around their relevant dashboard indicators/targets - including what data streams need to be developed to make reporting easier.
- identify/inventory the main monitoring efforts relevant to their topic areas
- Think through what other questions (besides the dashboard indicators) are relevant (some groups may want to approach this through the Open Standards process) - include in this cross work-group sorts of questions.
- Cross-tab the inventory with the longer list of relevant questions to identify monitoring gaps and priorities
- Think about/make recommendations around how to improve data-sharing
- I'm sure there will be more - this is a pretty basic list and the SC may want to add/refine this

2) Staffing: I'll take on support for 1 or 2 work groups. We're assuming you'll continue supporting the SWG. Nathalie is back part time and will be supporting at least Birds & Mammals and probably one other Work Group (so that's five). I'm currently filling out paperwork to establish 2 temporary part-time positions (most expedient way for now; we'll run these as 1 or possibly 2-year temps if we can) - at something like .25 - .35 FTE each. That will add capacity to support 2-4 additional work groups (some work-groups will be demanding but others not so much. We'll likely mix and match one demanding and one not-so-demanding WG per person). And then we have some thoughts about assigning one or two internal PSP staff .1 - .2 FTE each to support additional WGs. That's a start, and then we want to assess our needs from there.

3) BTW - Our Google site has some limitations, but I wanted to mention that we've just started to build-out pages for the new workgroups. For SWG - I pretty much used some existing preamble and then am just linking to your web-site. I hope that's o.k. with you? Here's the link to the site: click on the stormwater tab on the left...

<https://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundmonitoring/home>

4) I think (hope) you were on the earlier distributions but note that our next SC meeting is scheduled for Dec 15th in Seattle. Directions are also on the Google site.

5) Finally - Heather has been to all our meetings (!) and can also offer an update/observations on our latest activities if you wish.

Cheers - and thanks for the invite to come and do an update. If I wasn't previously committed to these meetings in Oly I'd be happy to.

- Ken

Ken Dzinbal

Senior Monitoring Program Coordinator

PUGETSOUNDPARTNERSHIP

360.464.1222 | ken.dzinbal@psp.wa.gov

326 East D Street | Tacoma, WA 98421-1801