



## STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, November 13, 2013 9:10 AM – 12:35 PM  
USGS, 934 Broadway, Tacoma WA, 98402

# Draft Summary

OF THE MEETING'S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

*See the last page for a list of acronyms*

### ATTENDEES:

*Work Group Members and Alternates, and the Organizations or Groups and Caucuses they Represent:*

**Jennifer Adams** (Shoreline), Local Governments; **Bob Cusimano** (Ecology), State Agencies; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Rich Doenges** (Thurston Co), Local Governments; **Dick Gersib** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments; **Kit Paulsen** (Bellevue), Local Governments; **Tom Putnam** (Puget Soundkeeper Alliance), Environmental Groups and the Work Group's Vice Chair; **Jim Simmonds** (King Co), Local Governments and the Work Group's Chair; **Carol Smith** (WA Conservation Commission), Agriculture; **Bruce Wulkan** (Puget Sound Partnership), State Agencies.

*Others in attendance:* **Kirk Cook** (WSDA); **Mindy Fohn** (Kitsap Co); **Brandi Lubliner** (Ecology); **Curtis Nickerson** (CardnoTEC).

*Work Group Staff:* **Karen Dinicola** (Ecology)

### WORK GROUP WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

The local government caucus has selected a new representative Andy Rheaume (Redmond) and two new alternates Jennifer Adams (Shoreline) and Carla Vincent (Pierce County).

### WORK GROUP REVIEWS AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS

In previous meetings over the past year and a half we have approved monitoring recommendations for understanding impacts of livestock and agricultural pesticide use on receiving waters. Carol Smith presented two new sets of monitoring recommendations drafted by the SWG Agricultural Runoff Subgroup. Detailed notes from the work group's discussion are embedded in the briefing documents attached to this summary.

The first set of recommendations focused on nutrient and sediment runoff, building on the previously approved recommendations for monitoring related to impacts of runoff from cropland. Work group members requested more specific recommendations and descriptions of what to monitor where, how to analyze the data, and how the findings will fit into an adaptive management process.

The second set focused on effectiveness monitoring. The questions are divided into broadly and narrowly scoped questions. Work group members expressed opinions that this is a good list of questions.

Work group members thanked the subgroup members for their work, especially the inventory of ongoing monitoring and gap analyses.

### WORK GROUP AGREES TO SEND COMMENT LETTER ON WSDOT DRAFT PERMIT MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

At our last meeting we approved recommendations for monitoring related to runoff from roads and highways and included two recommendations regarding monitoring requirements in the next WSDOT permit. Work group members agreed by consensus that we should send Ecology a letter thanking them for seriously considering our recommendations and including our suggestions for the WSDOT permit. The formal draft permit was released on November 7 for a comment period through January 10, 2014.

- The draft permit language follows our recommendation that WSDOT continue and complete current permit-required studies, apply findings to their stormwater management program, and include the work

group in the process of identifying future permit-required studies. It also includes three alternative means by which WSDOT will participate in status and trends monitoring in Puget Sound as part of the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP).

- Work group members agreed that we should ask Ecology to improve the language WSDOT's second status and trends monitoring option to clarify that WSDOT may choose to fund the RSMP to collect and analyze these samples rather than sending their out own field crews.
- The current October deadline to for WSDOT to notify Ecology which status and trends monitoring option they have selected will make WSDOT's participation in the RSMP more challenging to include in RSMP planning and implementation. Work group members also agreed that we should ask Ecology to move WSDOT's notification date earlier in the summer.

Work group members agreed that Chair Jim Simmonds will draft a letter to Ecology conveying these comments. Jim will send it out to work group members for review before submitting it to Ecology.

Work group members raised questions about the proposed level of WSDOT's annual financial contribution should they elect the "pay-in" option. Because WSDOT does not have a population equivalency, this is a policy call. Work group members agreed not to include these concerns in our letter. Individual organizations may send their own comment letters conveying any additional concerns or suggested changes to the draft permit language.

#### **WORK GROUP PLANS TO CONVENE POOLED RESOURCES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE IN JANUARY**

All but one permittee so far have chosen to participate in the RSMP by paying into the pooled resources fund. Phase I permittees have already contributed \$70K to the account for status and trends monitoring. The Pooled Resources Oversight Committee will hear reports from Ecology and provide feedback on how well Ecology is implementing the work group's recommendations. This oversight is focused on budget and work products. At our next meeting we will learn the final RSMP budget and convene the committee. All caucuses are asked to nominate members for the committee.

#### **WORK GROUP DISCUSSES PRIORITY GAPS FOR PSEMP STEERING COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION**

The PSEMP Steering Committee is working on prioritization of ecosystem condition monitoring gaps across work groups. Work group members discussed the priorities in the memo drafted by work group staff Karen Dinicola, based on the one we submitted in June. Work group members agreed that flow monitoring is our top priority, followed by nearshore areas outside UGAs and pesticide sampling. WRIA-scale monitoring of small Puget Lowland streams per our original *2010 Strategy* design is fourth. Lake and groundwater monitoring are the lowest of our new group of six gaps, with groundwater dropping off the requested list of five.

#### **WORK GROUP DISCUSSES UPDATES TO OUR 2-YEAR WORK PLAN**

The work group operates on a 2-year work plan, with a detailed plan first year and more broadly outlined goals for the second year. Each year we update the work plan to add detail and look further into the future. Some broad ideas of interest for the coming year are investigating other funding sources to increase and balance the benefits of the RSMP sampling. Work group members also expressed interest in an ongoing effort to prioritize gaps in our regional *2010 Strategy*.

The SWG Effectiveness Subgroup presented its plan to move from the list of priority studies submitted to Ecology in June to proposals and study designs through a planned outreach effort and workshops. Bruce Wulkan brought up concerns about having dropped outreach and education effectiveness studies from the list. Work group members agreed that different sets of questions are being asked by permittees versus PSP and STORM, and the collective measurement of effectiveness at a regional scale via the social behavior index is needed.

The SWG SIDIR Subgroup presented its plan to (1) develop an online form for reporting on IDDE incidents in 2014, (2) identify approaches and support the 2015 analysis of the Results/Findings database, and (3) prioritize

needs for the Methods/Approaches library building on the Field Screening Manual. The subgroup will recommend how the S8.D pooled funds should be spent. Rich Doenges raised concerns about permittees with existing data bases being required to follow an extra step to use the online form. Karen restated that the form is voluntary. We will see how easy it is to get permittees' data into a format where it can be readily analyzed.

The SWG Reporter needs to go out more regularly. The next issue should include an announcement and plans for the upcoming workshops to identify sites for and design effectiveness studies.

#### **WORK GROUP AGREES TO LIMITED TRIAL OF REMOTE CONNECTIONS**

The federal caucus requested that one of its members be allowed to participate in meetings by webex over the coming year. Work group members agreed to try this approach for the next three meetings, although the work group could decide to discontinue if it's not working. Karen will see if it is possible for USGS to provide webex service for these meetings. Members are asked to contact Karen if they wish to be included in the webex.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NOT DISCUSSED**

We did not hear about efforts to coordinate a team to implement RSMP status and trends. We will discuss this at our next meeting, which will be longer than our usual three hours.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS**

Wednesday, January 15, 2013 from 9am to 3pm at the USGS Office in Tacoma:

- Approve agricultural runoff effectiveness study recommendations
- Discuss membership and plans to convene the Pooled Resources Oversight Committee
- Hear about permittees' collective decisions to participate in the RSMP, and discuss the final budget
- Hear about efforts to coordinate a team to implement RSMP status and trends
- Decide whether to use caged mussels for the RSMP marine nearshore monitoring
- Hear findings of a bacteria indicator research project in Kitsap County
- Hear status of implementing our 2013-2014 work plan and approve updates for a 2014-2015 work plan
- Determine messages and timing for next SWG Reporter
- Hear from PSEMP Steering Committee and other workgroups

Other work group meetings in 2014 are scheduled on March 19, June 11, September 17, and November 12.