



STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, January 14, 2015, from 9:05 am to 12:00 pm
USGS, 934 Broadway, Tacoma WA, 98402

Draft Summary

OF THE MEETING'S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

ATTENDEES:

Work Group members and alternates, and the organizations and caucuses they represent:

Cami Apfelbeck (Bainbridge Island), Local Governments; **Jess Archer** (Ecology), State Agencies; **Abby Barnes** (WDNR), State Agencies; **Jenee Colton** (King Co), Local Governments; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Dick Gersib** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Melva Hill** (Bainbridge Island), Local Governments; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments and the PSEMP Steering Committee Chair; **Chris Konrad** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Bill Moore** (Ecology), State Agencies; **Ben Parrish** (Covington), Local Governments; **Jim Simmonds** (King Co), Local Governments and the Work Group's Chair.

Attending by phone: **Dino Marshalonis** (USEPA), Federal Agencies; **Chris May** (Kitsap Co), Local Governments.

Others in attendance: **Lincoln Loehr** (retired); **Curtis Nickerson** (Cardno-TEC); **Carol Smith** (WA Dept. of Ecology).

Work Group staff: **Karen Dinicola** (Ecology, SWG Staff); **Brandi Lubliner** (Ecology, RSMP Coordinator).

WORK GROUP AFFIRMS PROCESS TO DEFINE RSMP STREAM MONITORING ANALYSIS

At our last meeting, we assigned a small subcommittee to flesh out a process define the RSMP stream monitoring analysis priorities and approach and reporting for our key questions. The new subcommittee discussed the work group's feedback on December 9 and on January 13 they decided on an approach for completing the necessary QAPP addendum. Work group members expressed support for getting this work underway as quickly as possible and appreciation that this particular group of people is undertaking it.

A contract is not needed write the QAPP addendum, expected to be 12-15 pages. Brandi and Karen will compile the contributions of the technical folks and work through the formal approval process. The subcommittee will review the QAPP addendum and help write the scope of work and budget for the contract(s) to do the analyses and report writing. Multi-agency reports are envisioned, focused on the findings most useful to stormwater managers.

The assessment questions will be answered in 2 or 3 reports as follows:

- Questions about what percent of streams support designated uses will use the same ancillary data sets, have same post-stratifications, and result should be in one integrated report that tells the over-arching story.
 - The questions about how status, effectiveness, and source control support each other will be answered either as an additional chapter of this first report or as a separate report.
 - A relative risk or CADDIS analysis for stressor identification will be more holistic and helpful to answer stormwater managers' questions and provides a better framework than correlation or just percent meeting water quality standards.
 - Use SIDIR to generate a GIS source control issues/incidents layer that can be used to see if these incidents explain what the status assessment found in a particular basin.
- For the final RSMP streams report/product, answer questions about comparisons to other programs and what data are most important for trends in order to provide good recommendations for the next round of RSMP sampling.
 - Learn from the Lower Columbia habitat status and trends monitoring design approach.
 - Make recommendations for flow, parameters, and overall level of effort.

WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT THE PROCESS TO PRIORITIZE CEC MONITORING

Andy James of the Puget Sound Institute at the University of Washington, Tacoma is staff to the PSEMP Toxics Workgroup. Contaminants of emerging concern pose tremendous monitoring challenges. Andy described the process the workgroup will follow to prioritize CEC monitoring; the process will be revisited every 4-6 years. Andy's presentation will be posted with the meeting summary at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/mtgsummaries.html> .

WORK GROUP DISCUSSES RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS AND WORK PLAN FOR SIDIR

The SWG's SIDIR subgroup met by phone/webex on December 3 and discussed the proposed work plan and approach to next steps that the work group discussed at our last meeting on November 12. The permittees are required to submit key information for each IDDE incident with their annual reports, and data for 2014 is due on March 31. This information will be used to populate the Results and Findings component of SIDIR. Work group members recommended making an effort to find out what is available from ERTS and health departments, etc. as well as from the See-Click-Fix application.

The SWG will encourage permittees to submit their IDDE incident tracking information in a spreadsheet format that can be easily used for regional analysis. The SIDIR subgroup recommends having a third party available to analyze the data once it comes in. After the annual reports are due, the SWG will also survey permittees about where they are focusing their IDDE efforts. The information from the annual reports and the survey will help frame a workshop later in the year to identify priorities and next steps for the Methods and Approaches side of SIDIR. Work group members recognized that many things are evolving in IDDE and agreed with this proposed approach to moving SIDIR forward this year.

WORK GROUP APPROVES UPDATED BIENNIAL WORK PLAN FOR 2015-2016

With a few minor edits regarding the timing for getting more RSMP effectiveness studies underway and also reflecting the discussion of next steps for SIDIR, the work group formally **approved** the updated 2015-16 work plan. The approved work plan will be posted at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/swgworkplans.html> and the next "SWG Reporter" will encourage interested parties to take a look at it.

WORK GROUP CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR NOMINEES NAMED FOR TWO YEAR TERM BEGINNING IN MARCH 2015

Jim Simmonds is stepping down from his position as work group Chair at the end of this term. Jim told the group that one indicator of a functional committee is its ability to handle change and transition leadership. The duties of Chair are much reduced from the work group's early days. Some terrific candidates were nominated for this leadership role:

- For Chair: Cami Apfelbeck (Bainbridge Island), Ben Parrish (Covington), Andy Rheume (Redmond)
- For Vice Chair: Abby Barnes (WDNR), Dick Gersib (WSDOT), Tom Putnam (Puget Soundkeeper Alliance)

Each of these nominees will confirm that their home agencies support their taking on these roles and inform Karen by the end of February whether they will remain on the ballot. We will vote at the beginning of the March 11 meeting.

TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT SWG REPORTER

Our last SWG Reporter issue went out in October 2014. Work group members suggested that these updates not talk about "process" but instead focus on showing folks the progress we continue to make. Topics for the next issue:

- Stream monitoring has begun; contracts finalized under guidance of PRO-Committee
- Effectiveness studies starting, and working on SOWs for more effectiveness studies
- SWG encourages permittees to submit SIDIR data in electronic format
- Next RSMP quarterly report due out at the end of January
- Recruiting new members from our caucuses and for our subgroups
- New chair and vice chair to be selected in March
- Take a look at our updated work plan

UPDATES ON RSMP IMPLEMENTATION, OVERSIGHT, AND OTHER TOPICS RELATED TO OUR WORK

Field crews are out collecting RSMP stream data. Contracts for stream monitoring and effectiveness studies totaling about \$3 million have been signed at the highest levels of Ecology's management. The Pooled Resources Oversight Committee will meet again in late January or early February to discuss upcoming scopes of work for more effectiveness studies, streams data analysis, mussel monitoring, overall project management, and review of RSMP deliverables. Brandi has mapped out a schedule of anticipated costs so that RSMP spending is not in deficit awaiting annual permittee payments.

Mussel Watch findings may also be informed by source control results and findings. Lincoln Loehr briefly updated the group on some findings in Snohomish County where particulate loadings from surface runoff may explain elevated concentrations of contaminants. Lincoln also suggested a modification to the mussel processing approach, specifically removing sand from the tissue prior to analysis.

The January PSEMP Steering Committee meeting was cancelled. They are working on a funding plan for the top monitoring gaps identified by workgroups and responding to the findings and recommendations of the Ruckelshaus report. They hope to see the PSEMP logo on more products.

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS

At all of our meetings, we will:

- Hear feedback from the Pooled Resources Oversight Committee on RSMP implementation,
- Hear from our subgroups about the status of implementing our current work plan,
- Hear from the PSEMP Steering Committee and other PSEMP workgroups, and
- Determine messages and timing for the next SWG Reporter issue

At our next meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the USGS Office in Tacoma, we will also:

- Select our new chair and vice chair
- Hear about the findings of Ecology's analysis of Phase I permittees' outfall monitoring data
- Approve proposed updates to our work plan for 2015-2016
- Nominate candidates for chair and vice chair of our work group for a 2-year term

Work group members are encouraged to participate in a workshop on January 29, 2015 to finalize the study design for status and trends monitoring in streams in the Lower Columbia River Basin. The workshop will be in Vancouver but webex participation will be facilitated.

Meetings for the remainder of 2015 are scheduled on June 3; September 16; and November 18. Please put these dates on your calendars.

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS MEETING SUMMARY:

CADDIS – Causal Analysis/Diagnosis Decision Information System

CEC – Contaminants of Emerging Concern

ERTS – Environmental Report Tracking System

GIS – Geographic Information System

IDDE – Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

PSEMP – Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program

QAPP – Quality Assurance Project Plan

RSMP – Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program

SIDIR – Source Identification Information Repository

SWG – Stormwater Work Group

USEPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

USFWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS – U.S. Geological Survey

WDNR – Washington Dept. of Natural Resources

WSDOT – Washington Dept. of Transportation