



STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, January 15, 2015 9:05 AM – 12:00 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 present, and the organizations or groups and caucuses they represent:

Jennifer Adams (Shoreline), Local Governments; **Abby Barnes** (WDNR), State Agencies; **Bob Cusimano** (Ecology), State Agencies; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Dick Gersib** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments; **Bill Moore** (Ecology), State Agencies; **Tom Putnam** (Puget Soundkeeper Alliance), Environmental Groups and the Work Group's Vice Chair; **Rich Sheibley** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Jim Simmonds** (King Co), Local Governments and the Work Group's Chair; **Carla Vincent** (Pierce County), Local Governments.

Other Work Group Members and Alternates on the phone/webex: **Dino Marshalonis** (USEPA), Federal Agencies; **Kit Paulsen** (Bellevue), Local Governments; **Bruce Wulkan** (Puget Sound Partnership), State Agencies.

Others in attendance: **Karen Bartlett** (Tacoma); **Bryan Berkompas** (Cardno TEC); **Jonathan Frodge** (Seattle); **Jennifer Lanksbury** (WDFW); **Lincoln Loehr** (Stoel Reeves); **Brandi Lubliner** (Ecology); **Justin Miller-Schulze** (UW Tacoma); **Ken Srilofung** (Maple Valley); **Bill Taylor** (Taylor Aquatic Science); **Shawn Ultican** (Kitsap Co); **Jim West** (WDFW).

On the phone/webex: **Cathy Craver** (Whatcom Co); **Josh Johnson** (Longview); **Katelynn Kinn** (Puget Soundkeeper Alliance); **Matt Prasek** (Port of Seattle);

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

WORK GROUP ACKNOWLEDGES THE PASSING OF CHARTER MEMBER EMMETT DOBEY

Emmett passed away on December 23, 2013. He provided key support that made it possible for us to successfully complete our early work and come to such broad agreement on our 88 recommendations in 2010 for creating a new, regional stormwater monitoring program. We're grateful to have worked with Emmett.

WORK GROUP CONVENES POOLED RESOURCES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Permittees have now informed Ecology of their decisions to participate in the new Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP). All permittees are participating in either status and trends or the effectiveness studies component, and the vast majority are participating in both. The RSMP budget is over \$10 million. It is time for Ecology as the RSMP administrator to begin making scope of work and contracting decisions to implement the RSMP. The cashiering account has \$70K from Phase I permittees that should be put to use confirming sites and finishing QAPPs for the streams status and trends monitoring that begins in January 2015.

The Pooled Resources Oversight Committee should have its first meeting in early February. The committee is expected to meet quarterly and provide input on contracting decisions; later it will review scope, schedule, and quality of deliverables. The committee will not audit the RSMP.

Work group caucuses nominated and the work group unanimously approved the following 7 individuals (and 2 alternates) to serve as interim members of the committee for its first meeting. Long-term members will be confirmed at our next meeting on March 19. For local governments/permittees: Will Appleton, Federal Way; Phyllis Varner (or Kit Paulsen), Bellevue; Jim Simmonds, King County; Heather Kibbey, Everett. For other groups: Tom Putnam, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance; Bruce Wulkan, PSP (or Abby Barnes, WDNR); Jay Davis, USFWS.

The first oversight committee meeting agenda will include the following topics: overview of RSMP scope and budget; status of implementation; issues and decisions on which Ecology needs the committee's input. There will be a standing agenda item for updates on the status of each of the RSMP components on future committee agendas. A doodle poll and draft agenda will go out to the interim members for a meeting in early February. The committee's meetings will be open to all who wish to attend.

WORK GROUP APPROVES UPDATES TO OUR 2-YEAR WORK PLAN

Our work plan is updated every year, with detail for the immediate year ahead and more of an outline for the following year. The work group heard updates on the work of our subgroups and unanimously approved the proposed 2014-2015 work plan with one minor edit. The work group's focus during this calendar year is on: transitioning from the list of effectiveness study topics to study designs and contracts; creating SIDIR's *Methods and Approaches* library; gathering SIDIR's *Results and Findings* data for analysis in the following year; and ramping up to implement status and trends monitoring. The updated work plan will be posted on our [webpage](#).

WORK GROUP AGREES TO RECOMMEND SAMPLING OF CAGED MUSSELS

Jennifer Lanksbury presented preliminary findings of the Puget Sound Mussel Survey funded by the National Estuary Program. Her PowerPoint will be posted on our [webpage](#). The project succeeded by inviting partners to add sites and help transport, deploy, and process the mussels. Only three of 108 cages were lost and none were vandalized. Almost 20% of concentration variability for PAHs and some of the metals can be explained by the percent impervious surface of the small, upland watershed units. More correlative factors will be explored as the data are analyzed further.

Limited data comparing caged and wild mussels did not reveal an obvious pattern; the variation might be caused by proximity of the mussels to sediments. WDFW staff recommend that the RSMP use caged mussels for the RSMP because they are of controlled and uniform size/age/spawning cycle, and therefore provide a better comparison from site to site, and they can be deployed just about anywhere.

Work group members unanimously agreed to recommend that the RSMP use caged mussels. Budget details will be discussed at the Pooled Resources Oversight Committee meeting.

WORK GROUP LEARNS ABOUT BACTERIA INDICATOR RESEARCH PROJECT

Shawn Ultican presented preliminary findings of a joint project of Kitsap County and UW Tacoma funded by the Russell Foundation. His PowerPoint will be posted on our [webpage](#). The study investigated a mix of known and unknown sources of contamination for 19 chemicals of emerging concern associated with by human activities, including veterinary antibiotics and specific herbicides and pesticides (but no estrogenic compounds). Ibuprofen and metabolites of nicotine and caffeine at about five times background levels seem likely to serve as a useful indicator group. E coli is likely a better indicator than fecal coliform, with fewer false positives for human activities/sources. No single compound is likely to be of use in all situations, and urban and rural watersheds may need different groups of compounds to identify sources.

PSEMP STEERING COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO DISCUSS ECOSYSTEM MONITORING GAPS AND PRIORITIES

The PSEMP Steering Committee is struggling to prioritize the ecosystem condition monitoring gaps submitted by workgroups. They will convene an all-day workshop on February 4 to try to come to consensus on a short list of priorities (perhaps in several categories, to be determined) for which to seek new funding sources.

A brief summary of our work group's status and trends monitoring priorities was submitted to the Steering Committee last June and a short list of five ecosystem condition monitoring gaps was submitted following our meeting in November. (Flow monitoring in small streams is our top priority, followed by nearshore areas outside UGAs and then pesticide sampling. WRIA-scale monitoring of small Puget Lowland streams per our original *2010 Strategy* design is fourth. Lake and groundwater monitoring are our fifth and sixth priorities.) We are also

concerned about discontinuation of WDOH's status and trends bacteria monitoring and the uncertain future of NOAA's Mussel Watch program.

Karen Dinicola participates in PSEMP staff meetings and has initiated coordination and joint discussions with the PSEMP Toxics, Freshwater, and Salmon Habitat Workgroups. The PSEMP Nearshore Workgroup is just forming and she will also work towards coordinating with them.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS

Wednesday, March 19, 2014 from 9am to noon at the USGS Office in Tacoma:

- Approve agricultural runoff monitoring recommendations for nutrients and sediment and effectiveness
- Hear about the first meeting of the Pooled Resources Oversight Committee and RSMP implementation
- Hear about effectiveness study webinar outcomes, the pre-proposals that were submitted, and plans for the first workshop on March 20
- Hear from our subgroups about the status of implementing our 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 June 11, September 17, and November 12.

LIST OF ACRONYMS USED IN THIS MEETING SUMMARY

NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

PAHs: Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons

PSEMP: Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program

PSP: Puget Sound Partnership

QAPP: Quality Assurance Project Plan

RSMP: Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program

SWG: Stormwater Work Group

USEPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency

USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS: United States Geological Survey

UW Tacoma: University of Washington, Tacoma

WDFW: Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

WDNR: Washington Dept. of Natural Resources

WDOH: Washington Dept. of Health

WRIA: Water Resource Inventory Area

WSDOT: Washington Dept. of Transportation