

STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, May 16, 2012 9:10 AM – 12:05 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 or Groups and Caucuses they Represent:

Mark Biever (Thurston Co.), Local Governments; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Shayne Cothorn** (WDNR), State Agencies; **Jonathan Frodge** (Seattle), Local Governments; **Dick Gersib** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Bill Moore** (Ecology), State Agencies; **Mel Oleson** (Boeing), Business Groups; **Kit Paulsen** (Bellevue), Local Governments; **Jim Simmonds** (King Co.), Local Governments and the Work Group's Chair; **Carol Smith** (WSCC), Agriculture; **Heather Trim** (People For Puget Sound), Environmental Groups; **Bruce Wulkan** (Puget Sound Partnership), State Agencies.

Others in attendance: **Brian Penttila**, PPRC; **Scott Redman**, Puget Sound Partnership; **David Tanner**, City of Bremerton.

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

WORK GROUP APPROVES POOLED RESOURCES OVERSIGHT CHARTER

The Pooled Resources Oversight Subgroup followed work group members' direction that was given at our March meeting following discussion of the public comments received on the draft Oversight Committee Charter. The revisions to the charter are aimed at ensuring transparency, focusing Committee activities on reviewing Ecology's reports, and addressing issues that arise during administration and implementation of the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP). The Committee will focus on the status of funding, the schedule, and scopes of work.

The decision-making role of the Committee has been removed, and the Committee reports simultaneously to Ecology and the SWG. The environmental groups' representative expressed concerns about the changes, wondering whether the remaining roles of the Committee are worth the investment of the Committee members if the Committee is not empowered to make decisions. Other work group members expressed concern about adding layers of red tape and transaction costs to the process that will make it difficult for Ecology to implement the RSMP. Several work group members expressed an interest in providing Ecology with feedback on draft requests for proposals and scopes of work prior to contract finalization. Work group members agreed that what is most needed is: a process to resolve disagreements in cases where Ecology for any reason is not implementing SWG recommendations; and knowledge and understanding of how mid-course corrections will be made.

Work group members added a statement to #10 in the list of responsibilities and duties that "The SWG and Ecology will use a standard conflict resolution process to work together to resolve any disagreements" and also added a statement to #12 in the list of responsibilities and duties that "The Committee will have a timely opportunity to review Requests for Proposals and Scopes of Work and compile comments on in order to support Ecology's contracting role." With these revisions, the Oversight Committee charter was approved by all members present, with the environmental groups' representative abstaining.

The business groups' representative suggested applying the charter to a series of scenarios to test its function. The first two years of using pooled resources to fund RSMP "ramp-up" activities should provide this opportunity.

WORK GROUP APPROVES SWAMPSS EXPANSION RECOMMENDATIONS

The work group approved the following recommendations for expanding activities of the Stormwater Assessment and Monitoring Program for Puget Sound (SWAMPSS):

- The work group will convene a Roads and Highways Monitoring Subgroup to develop recommendations for a comprehensive stormwater monitoring program for Puget Sound roads and highways, along with a subset of specific recommendations on monitoring to include in the next National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System stormwater permit for Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).
- The work group will further explore issues surrounding the industrial stormwater monitoring before deciding whether to convene an Industrial Stormwater Monitoring Subgroup. Issues to explore include level of commitment from business and industrial representatives, Pollution Control Hearing Board rulings, Ecology interests, and industrial permittee interests.
- The work group is open to interested parties doing additional work to tee up Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) and/or lakes for further exploration at future work group meetings.

The business representative noted that industrial permit discussions will likely be delayed at least several months. The Seattle representative noted that CSO discussions may happen soon.

WORK GROUP MEMBERS CONSIDER FORMAT AND CONTENT OF FUTURE SUBGROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

At previous meetings we have agreed that we need a common format and clear expectations for our subgroups to use in developing recommendations for work group approval. The Work Plan Subgroup developed two complementary boilerplate documents to be considered for use in developing, presenting, and documenting future subgroup recommendations. The first is in the form of a formal document with more explanation of content that can be developed over time in track changes, and the second is in the form of a cover sheet for a briefing to which detailed attachments are added. Both the detail provided in the more formal document and the ease of finding key information in the briefing document are desired. Work group members generally liked the idea of using a combination of the two, and expressed interest in developing a briefing sheet that can be entered into a searchable data base and also used for reporting among topical PSEMP work groups. Kit Paulsen and Karen Dinicola will work together to combine the two documents into a single document that reflects this feedback.

NEW ROADS AND HIGHWAYS SUBGROUP LAUNCHED

Larry Schaffner of WSDOT will lead the new SWG Roads and Highways Subgroup, and is recruiting broadly for members. Work group members are encouraged to send the contact information for possible members to Dick Gersib at [gersib@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:gर्सib@wsdot.wa.gov). The work group directed the subgroup to take a holistic approach to defining monitoring needs related to roads and highways across the full spectrum of urban to rural roads in Puget Sound, and to make specific recommendations as to how WSDOT's permit-required monitoring should address a subset of those needs. The big picture of monitoring needs should include status and trends monitoring, effectiveness studies, and source control. The subgroup is expected to brief the work group this fall with some background information and a work plan and schedule for communicating lessons learned and developing new recommendations.

WORK GROUP DISCUSSES NEXT STEPS FOR EFFECTIVENESS STUDY SELECTION

At our last meeting, having heard members of the Effectiveness Study Selection Subgroup describe the challenges they face in doing a “crosswalk” between the recommended list of topics and the literature review, we directed the Subgroup to divide list of topics/questions into two groups as follows:

- Questions for which there is apparently no relevant information in the literature review. The RSMP might begin with these questions.
- Questions that are part of a body of inquiry and for which relevant information can be synthesized and disseminated to local jurisdiction stormwater managers.

Subgroup members reported that none of the questions fall into the first category, and recommended that the next steps focus on a synthesis summary for each of the first ten or so topics, with the exception of the IDDE topics

being addressed by the Source Identification Information Repository work being done by the Washington Stormwater Center and King County's GROSS grant to create a field screening manual.

Work group members discussed the two distinct needs: to refine the questions, and to communicate what we've learned to local governments. The technical assistance support for the subgroup should accomplish both.

WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT ECOLOGY DECISIONS ON STATE-FUNDED RSMP PROJECTS

The work group continued the discussion at the last meeting advising Ecology on how to decide what projects to fund to maintain RSMP momentum and produce meaningful results. Overall, the survey requested by work group members confirmed the four broad project topic emphases that were identified by work group members at our last meeting:

- Stream gauging analyses,
- Technical assistance for the SWG Effectiveness Study Selection Subgroup,
- Mussel Watch analyses, and
- Logistical support for the new SWG Roads and Highways Subgroup.

For the specific project following up on the USGS stream gauging analyses presented at our last meeting, identifying the most important factors for correlation was preferred. For the specific Mussel Watch project, the survey respondents preferred a caged mussel study, and a seasonal study was the second preference. At our last meeting we unfortunately ran out of time to discuss the four proposed Mussel Watch projects. Ecology is concerned that two of the four, the caged mussel study and the oyster study, are not appropriate projects for this funding source (the local toxics account) for the following reasons: the projects investigate methods rather than providing a direct benefit to local governments for managing stormwater; and the funds should not be passed through to a state agency. These projects should be funded by other sources. Although similar concerns apply, the laboratory comparison study is included in the RSMP scope of work. The seasonal study, however, would be of direct local interest and relevance while also informing the RSMP status and trends design. Therefore, Ecology is currently planning to move forward with the seasonal study.

Some work group members indicated that they might have voted differently had they known about these issues. The laboratory study in particular might have ranked higher. Further, since the survey was taken by such a large number of "interested parties" more evaluation of the results is needed to identify the preference of the work group members who voted. Karen Dinicola apologized for the miscommunication and promises to make better use of the survey tool in the future. Ecology appreciates and values the work group's input on these projects.

Work group members pondered doing two Mussel Watch or two stream gauging analysis studies and cutting back on the technical assistance for the Effectiveness Subgroup, but generally expressed agreement with the proposed set of four projects:

- Identifying correlation factors among stream gauges in Puget Sound lowlands (approximately \$45-50K),
- Technical assistance for the SWG Effectiveness Study Selection Subgroup to (1) synthesize information from the literature review for the highest-ranked topics in a format that is useful to local governments and (2) identify gaps to address in RSMP studies (undetermined, likely between \$40 and \$75K),
- A small amount (less than \$10K) to provide for a local government member of the new Roads and Highways Subgroup that takes meeting notes and takes care of logistical support needs, and
- A seasonal Mussel Watch study to support our marine nearshore status and trends design (approximately \$45-50K).

Ecology is pursuing an agreement with Pierce County to manage all four projects, and additional funds will cover their overhead and staff time. Chair Jim Simmonds thanked Ecology for making the funds available for these projects, all of which will help move our work forward.

WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT PSEMP AND OTHER MONITORING ACTIVITIES

Scott Redman is the vice-chair of the new PSEMP Toxics Work Group. The chair is Mike Cox of EPA, and the members include Jay Davis and Heather Trim of this work group. The Toxics Work Group has had two meetings. Scott described the work group's efforts this year as focused on vital signs and toxics related indicators by (1) supporting the indicator leads and (2) compiling an inventory of relevant monitoring for gap analysis and priority-setting. The work group is approaching the inventory by first identifying what subject matter is most important and relevant. "Toxics" include organic chemicals and metals, but not pathogens or nutrients.

Like stormwater, the toxics topic touches many other topics addressed by the new PSEMP work groups. A goal is for each group to establish itself in a way that makes it easy for the overlapping issues to be addressed simultaneously, or in ways uniquely appropriate to each work group. The Toxics Work Group membership is less formal and intended to meet the needs and interests of its members – who are expected to do a fair amount of work.

The Stormwater Work Group is not directly responsible for any vital signs, and it is unclear who is the indicator lead for B-IBI. Scott suggested that toxics indicator leads might attend SWG status and trends subgroup meetings. Karen Dinicola has been invited to explain the SWG subgroups to the Toxics Work Group at its next meeting.

WORK GROUP HEARS UPDATES

Kit Paulsen shared news that a 4-year environmental stormwater degree under development at Bellevue Community College. Karen Dinicola will forward an informational message from Paul Bucich about the development of the program to work group members.

Mel Oleson informed the work group that Lisa Rozmyn (formerly of the Port of Tacoma, and Ecology prior to that) has taken a new position at the Washington Stormwater Center focused on outreach and technical assistance for businesses.

TWO AGENDA TOPICS NOT DISCUSSED

Due to time constraints, the work group did not discuss messages and timing for the next SWG Reporter update and did not hear updates from subgroups that were not otherwise on today's agenda.

UPCOMING WORK GROUP MEETINGS

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

- Wednesday, June 13, 2012 from 9am to noon at the USGS Office in Tacoma
 - Hear about scope of work for state-funded RSMP projects and deliverables in FY13
 - Approve a format for, and content of, future subgroup recommendations
 - Discuss data storage and sharing systems, SOPs, and technical assistance needs for SWAMPPS
 - Discuss improvements to make our web pages more useful to work group members, subgroup members, and interested parties
 - Determine messages and timing for next SWG Reporter
 - Roads and Highways Subgroup launched
 - State-funded RSMP projects underway
 - Data sharing recommendations being developed
 - Ecology plans to issue municipal stormwater permits in July
 - Pooled Resources Oversight Committee Charter finalized
 - Hear status of implementing our work plan and subgroup work to be accomplished this summer
 - Hear from PSEMP Steering Committee and about other monitoring activities
- No work group meetings in July or August; subgroup work will continue throughout the summer

- Wednesday, September 19, 2012 from 9am to noon at the USGS Office in Tacoma:
 - Discuss agricultural runoff nutrient and bacteria monitoring recommendations
 - Hear about initial work of the Roads and Highways Subgroup
 - Continue discussion of data storage/sharing systems, SOPs, technical assistance needs for SWAMPSS
 - Discuss the permits Ecology issued in July
 - Hear about webpage redesigns
 - Determine messages and timing for next SWG Reporter
 - Hear status of implementing our work plan and subgroup work to be accomplished this summer
 - Hear from PSEMP Steering Committee and about other monitoring activities

- Wednesday, October 17, 2012 from 9am to noon at the USGS Office in Tacoma:
 - Approve agricultural runoff nutrient and bacteria monitoring recommendations
 - Discuss nearshore biota and bacteria monitoring site selection recommendations
 - Discuss Source Identification Information Repository (SIDIR) findings and recommendations
 - Continue discussion of data storage/sharing systems, SOPs, technical assistance needs for SWAMPSS
 - Determine messages and timing for next SWG Reporter
 - Hear status of implementing our work plan and subgroup work to be accomplished this summer
 - Hear from PSEMP Steering Committee and about other monitoring activities