



STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, September 17, 2014, from 9:05 am to 11:50 am
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 at the table, and the organizations or groups and caucuses they represent: **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Melva Hill** (Bainbridge Island), Local Governments; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments and the PSEMP Steering Committee Chair; **Katelyn Kinn** (Puget Soundkeeper Alliance), Environmental Groups; **Chris Konrad** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Kit Paulsen** (Bellevue), Local Governments; **Jim Simmonds** (King Co), Local Governments and the Work Group's Chair.

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

NEW AGRICULTURE REPRESENTATIVE NAMED

Shana Joy at the Washington Conservation Commission will be taking Carol Smith's seat at the table. Shana is not able to join us today and it is unclear whether she will take on Carol's role leading and staffing the agricultural runoff monitoring subgroup. Work group members expressed concern that without such staffing there is little likelihood that the work of that group will continue to progress.

WORK GROUP HEARS UPDATE ON RSMP IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING BY ECOLOGY

Chris Konrad was selected as the vice chair of the Pooled Resources Oversight Committee (PRO-Committee) over the summer and he will be the spokesperson of the committee along with Regional Stormwater Program (RSMP) Coordinator Brandi Lubliner.

The PRO-Committee received its first draft quarterly report from Ecology based on the specifications listed in the charter. Committee members gave Brandi and Karen Dinicola feedback on the format and content, and the report is near final. It will come in the form of a two-page document attached to a transmittal memo on Ecology letterhead. The report will be posted on the RSMP webpage and highlighted in the next SWG Reporter.

The SWG will design the annual reports based on the information provided in the quarterly reports. The first annual report will come out next summer.

Ecology is contracting with King, Skagit, and Thurston Counties, the USGS, and multiple laboratories to begin conducting RSMP streams sampling in January. King County and Manchester Environmental Laboratory are the main labs. Several labs throughout Puget Sound will analyze bacteria samples, and specialty labs will analyze pesticides and PCBs. Brandi is looking for another partner to conduct the monthly monitoring at the site on San Juan Island to reduce travel costs.

Contracting is moving forward on the first four effectiveness studies. The paired urban watershed retrofit study is being done in two stages, with the first project conducting a literature review and designing the approach.

WORK GROUP LEARNS ABOUT SITE ALLOCATION AND METRICS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN SW WA

Karen and Brandi gave work group members a brief update on progress toward a regional receiving water monitoring program for the permittees in southwestern Washington. Of the ten western Washington permittees located outside Puget Sound, eight are in the Lower Columbia River Basin (LCRB), six of which are in Clark County.

These eight permittees have been involved in a project funded by a Grant of Regional or Statewide Significance (GRSS) from Ecology to design a stormwater-relevant monitoring component nested in a larger habitat status and trends monitoring (HSTM) program that is more focused on salmon recovery in the LCRB. Over the past couple of years the group has explored strata, site allocation, and metrics for both the umbrella and nested components.

Karen and Brandi presented some slides that Derek Booth shared at the most recent HSTM Leadership Team meeting. Derek has added information to the master sample and done analyses to guide site allocation and hopefully help that region avoid the large failure rate the RSMP experienced when conducting the small streams site confirmation field work. The site allocation approach is focused on hydrologic stream reaches through urban areas rather than as discrete points spaced equally apart. The resulting set of sites reflects the way people think about stormwater.

Work group members were favorably impressed by the site allocation approach and had some feedback on the metrics that they asked Karen to share with the group:

- Continuous dissolved oxygen (D.O.) is likely to be very maintenance intensive and not cost-effective. Temperature will give a good idea of what's going on with D.O.
- Flow is very important. Consider a basic automated continuous flow/velocity recorder in lieu of the D.O. recorder.
- If continuous D.O. is collected, then measure basic field parameters (e.g., conductivity, turbidity, and pH) on the days that the D.O. meter is being maintained.
- Considering the effort required to collect sediment samples for analysis of three metals, the additional cost for more analytes is minimal. Three to four additional metals should be included. (The RSMP includes copper, chromium, zinc, lead, cadmium, silver, and arsenic.)
- Follow protocols that will result in sampling only the fine surface sediments.

Work group members look forward to getting an overview of the umbrella program at a later meeting. Puget Sound can learn from their work to find new efficiencies, better utilize long term data sets, and improve our data analysis approaches. Both regions will continue to learn from each other.

WORK GROUP IDENTIFIES GOALS FOR NEXT BIENNIAL WORK PLAN

After discussing the transition from work group to PRO-Committee direct oversight of RSMP implementation, work group members decided to focus on a review our *2010 Stormwater Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for the Puget Sound Region*. The purpose of this review is to evaluate what's being done and identify what is needed to move other goals forward to keep the strategy up to date and engage our broad group of stakeholders. This task was assigned to the Work Plan Subgroup.

Work group members also expressed interest in connecting to other stormwater monitoring and research efforts such as the ongoing work evaluating Low Impact Development methods, maintenance, and approaches. This could happen as part of our meetings or as brown bag presentations that follow. The latter has not worked as well in the past, but the Work Plan Subgroup will explore ideas for establishing an ongoing two-way exchange of findings and advancements in stormwater work.

The PSEMP Freshwater Workgroup will continue to provide guidance related to RSMP small streams status and trends monitoring and help develop the priorities and approach for analyzing these data. Questions to be explored include: what is learned from annual benthos sampling versus every three or five years? What is gained from establishing long-term sites versus rotating them? From random versus targeted sites? What are we learning from the LCRB's approach?

The RSMP marine nearshore monitoring is not falling to a single PSEMP workgroup. Mussels and sediment are most closely related to PSEMP Toxics Workgroup. The RSMP is buying into Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's Mussel Watch monitoring program. The PSEMP Marine Nearshore Workgroup is interested in the ancillary data collected during mussel sampling. The PSEMP Marine Water Quality Workgroup is the best place to help develop the priorities and approach for analyzing bacteria data.

The Effectiveness Subgroup will propose a new approach for gap analysis, literature review update, and identification of the next round of RSMP-funded studies. This work can begin in the second half of 2015.

The Source Identification Information Repository (SIDIR) Subgroup will evaluate what's being done toward accomplishing the goals of both components of SIDIR: the Results and Findings evaluation and analysis; and the Methods and Approaches library and online resources. The subgroup will also recommend what is needed to move the goals forward. The SIDIR Subgroup will meet in October and report back to the work group at our November meeting.

Karen will find out from Washington Conservation Commission (WCC) what possibilities exist for continuing the work of the Agricultural Runoff Subgroup since Carol Smith has left WCC to work for Ecology.

A session focused on roads and highways is planned for the statewide stormwater conference November 5-6. WSDOT should re-engage with the work group when they begin planning for their next permit-required effectiveness studies. Larry Schaffner has left WSDOT to work for Thurston County. Dick Gersib, who is WSDOT's representative on the work group, will keep us apprised of progress and timing. For now, however, there is not an anticipated need for a work plan section focused on roads and highways.

The updated work plan for 2015-2016 will focus on the following subgroups: Agricultural Runoff, Communication, Effectiveness, Pooled Resources, SIDIR, and Work Plan. The work plan will include more coordination and communication with the following PSEMP Workgroups: Freshwater, Marine Nearshore, Marine Water Quality, and Toxics.

OTHER UPDATES RELATED TO OUR WORK

- The next issue of our SWG Reporter will go out in mid-July and will include the following topics:
 - First RSMP quarterly report submitted by Ecology
 - Contracting underway to implement stream monitoring
 - Contracting underway for effectiveness studies
- The Ruckelshaus Center's PSEMP audit findings were shared in July. Steering Committee members are implementing the recommendations therein, and in particular clarifying the vision for PSEMP and the Steering Committee's goals and authority. They have a facilitator and minute taker, and conducted some voting on next steps at their last meeting.

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS

At all of our meetings, we will:

- Hear an update 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, November 12 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the USGS Office in Tacoma, we will also:

- Consider new recommendations from the PRO-Committee to provide direction for RSMP implementation
- Discuss draft recommendations from the Source Identification Information Repository (SIDIR) subgroup
- Hear an update on the findings of Ecology's analysis of Phase I permittees' outfall monitoring data
- Hear an update on plans to move forward with the agricultural runoff monitoring strategy
- Discuss proposed updates to our work plan for 2015-2016

At our first meeting in 2015 we will learn more about the effort to design a receiving water monitoring program for the Lower Columbia region. November 12 is the final work group meeting in 2014. Meetings in 2015 are scheduled on January 14; March 11; June 3; September 16; and November 18.