

STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, April 18, 2012 9:05 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:

Neil Aaland (Assn. of WA Cities and WA Assn. of Counties), Local Governments; **Mark Biever** (Thurston Co.), Local Governments; **Shayne Cothorn** (WDNR), State Agencies; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Dana De Leon** (Tacoma), Local Governments; **Jonathan Frodge** (Seattle), Local Governments; **Dick Gersib** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Dino Marshalonis** (EPA), Federal Agencies; **Bill Moore** (Ecology), State Agencies; **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: **Cami Apfelbeck**, Bainbridge Island; **Kevin Buckley**, Seattle; **Mauro Heine**, Kitsap Co.; **Mindy Fohn**, Kitsap Co.; **Leska Fore** (Puget Sound Partnership); **Chris Konrad**, USGS; **Jennifer Lanksbury**, WDFW; **Mike Milne**, Brown and Caldwell; **Brian Penttila**, PPRC; **Bill Taylor**, Cardno TEC.

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

WORK GROUP HEARS FINDINGS OF STREAM GAUGING NETWORK ANALYSIS

A final USGS report analyzing of the Puget Sound stream gauging network is in production and will be available for public distribution within the coming month. The work was funded by EPA. Chris Konrad presented the results of the analysis. His PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the work group's webpage. Work group members appreciated the opportunity to learn about the study's findings.

Chris led a discussion about the gaps identified by the study and how best to fill them, and how well the current network can support the SWAMPSS Small Streams Status and Trends Monitoring. Most of the land area of the Puget Sound watershed and about half of the Puget Sound lowland area is gauged, but few of the smallest streams (i.e., less than second order) are gauged. It would take a lot of gauges to cover the ungauged area. The small streams that are not represented by the current gauging network are mainly in small coastal watersheds, islands and peninsulas, large river floodplains and deltas, and urban areas with engineered drainage networks.

There is good correlation between monthly mean flows at a large number of pairs of gauges in the basin. Chris recommended next steps for further analyses to identify high priority gauges and flow metrics, and to define a strategic stream gauging approach that will support SWAMPSS. Work group members suggested that a retrospective analysis of correlations between pairs of gages might be a helpful approach to status and trends.

Cami Apfelbeck noted that three Bainbridge Island stream gauges should be added to the inventory. The Small Streams Subgroup should make a recommendation to the work group as to how the inventory of stream gauges produced for this study should be maintained and updated in the long term.

WORK GROUP DISCUSSES CROSSWALK OF EFFECTIVENESS LITERATURE REVIEW AND STUDY TOPICS

Kevin Buckley led a discussion of challenges the Effectiveness Studies Subgroup is facing in its task to review and revise the recommended list of study topics pursuant to the findings of the literature review. Subgroup members have found it more difficult and time-consuming than expected to compare the findings to the topics, especially for articles that are not readily available to the public. Since RSMP effectiveness studies will not begin until August 2014 (per the draft permit) we have about two years to finalize the list of questions. Work group members directed the subgroup to focus on identifying two subsets of questions:

- 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.

In future steps the subgroup can prioritize synthesis work and recommend ways of sharing the most relevant information from past studies.

WORK GROUP CONSIDERS SWAMPPS EXPANSION TOPICS

At our last meeting we assigned the Work Plan Subgroup the task of qualitatively applying six considerations to each of four topics (roads and highways, industrial, lakes, and combined sewers) and recommending which SWAMPPS expansion topics should be pursued next. The Work Plan discussed the subgroup's recommendations to (1) launch a Roads and Highways Subgroup and (2) have interested parties tee up further discussions about industrial permit monitoring at future work group meetings. Work Group members tentatively agreed to these recommendations and also requested that interested parties tee up discussions about combined sewer overflow monitoring for future work group meetings.

The Roads and Highways Subgroup will be formally launched at our next work group meeting.

WORK GROUP ADVISES ECOLOGY ON PROJECT PRIORITIES FOR FY13 FUNDS

Ecology has up to \$200K available to support regional stormwater monitoring and keep momentum going to launch the RSMP. The funds must be spent by June 30, 2013. Draft agreements should be underway in advance of our next work group meeting.

Karen Dinicola presented a list of potential project ideas. Each idea would move forward with a specific SWAMPPS component. Two ideas were added to the list for further consideration: creation of a database for local stream gauging data and conducting an experiment or effectiveness study. Prior discussions in the meeting highlighted needs for further stream gauging network analysis, technical assistance for the effectiveness subgroup, and logistics and note-taking assistance for the new Roads and Highways Subgroup.

Each work group member voted for all of the ideas s/he thought were of the greatest need during this time period, and the results are listed in decreasing importance as follows: follow up on stream gauging network analysis (10 votes); technical assistance for the effectiveness subgroup (9 votes); Mussel Watch analyses (6 votes); organizational and note-taking support for a new Roads and Highways subgroup (6 votes); creation of a database for local stream gauging data (4 votes); next steps for the source identification information repository (2 votes); conducting an experiment or effectiveness study (1 vote); and hosting an effectiveness studies workshop (0 votes).

We did not have sufficient time to determine which streamflow gauging analysis project or which Mussel Watch analysis was collectively considered most important to work group members. Karen will create an on-line survey for work group members and subgroup members to indicate their preferences to advise Ecology on which projects to pursue.

WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT PSEMP AND OTHER MONITORING ACTIVITIES

At our last meeting we heard that many other work groups have been or are being formed by PSEMP. Five people are staffing these work groups, including stormwater, and are working to coordinate the evolving efforts. Leska Fore presented a brief summary of the recent decisions about scoping a new Freshwater Work Group. The group will start on vital signs for freshwater quantity, and discussions are underway to figure out how to do this work in parallel and not have redundant topics up for discussion at separate work group meetings. Leska and Kit Paulsen also attended a meeting of a subgroup of the Salmon Recovery Work Group. That group is in the beginning stages of figuring out questions and priorities for salmon habitat (including water quality) monitoring in Puget Sound.

UPCOMING WORK GROUP MEETINGS

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

- May 16 from 9-12: approve revised oversight committee charter; commission new Roads and Highways Subgroup; hear about the effectiveness subgroup's work to crosswalk the literature review with our recommended list of effectiveness study topics; hear results of the survey to identify top priorities for utilizing FY13 funds from Ecology; determine messages and timing for next SWG Reporter; hear status of implementing our work plan; hear from PSEMP Steering Committee and about other monitoring activities.
- June 13 from 9-12: hear Ecology's decisions about work in FY13 related to SWAMPPS implementation; discuss next steps for developing status and trends QAPPs; hear status of implementing our work plan; hear from PSEMP Steering Committee and about other monitoring activities, and in particular about the toxics work group.
- No meetings in July-August

ACTION ITEM

Work group members who would like to tee up discussions about industrial permit monitoring or combined sewer overflow monitoring: please contact project manager Karen Dinicola at karen.dinicola@ecy.wa.gov or 360.407.6550 to be added to the agenda at future meetings.