



## STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, November 18, 2015, from 9:05 am to 11:35 am  
USGS, 934 Broadway, Tacoma WA, 98402

# Draft Summary

OF THE MEETING'S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

*a list of acronyms is provided at the end of the document*

### ATTENDEES:

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

**Jess Archer** (Ecology EAP), State Agencies; **Abby Barnes** (WDNR), State Agencies, and the Work Group's Vice Chair; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Melva Hill** (Bainbridge Island), Local Governments; **Dana de Leon** (Tacoma), Local Governments; **Leska Fore** (PSP), State Agencies; **Dick Gersib** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Jennifer Lanksbury** (WDFW), State Agencies; **Andy Rheume** (Redmond), Local Governments; **Rich Sheibley** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Jim Simmonds** (King Co), Local Governments; **Carla Vincent** (Pierce Co), Local Governments.

*Others in attendance:* **Fred Bergdolt** (WSDOT), **Bryan Berkompas** (Cardno), **Doug Beyerlein** (Clear Creek Solutions), **Anne Cline** (Raedeke Ass. Inc.), **Jeremy Graham** (Olympia), **Ani Jayakaran** (WSU-Puyallup), **Curtis Nickerson** (Cardno), **Sarah Norberg** (Tacoma), **Bill Reilly** (Bellingham), **Jenny Saltonstall** (Associated Earth Sciences), **Bill Taylor** (Taylor Aquatic Science).

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

### CHANGES TO WORK GROUP REPRESENTATION

Melva Hill is retiring soon and this is her last work group meeting. Dan Smith has changed jobs. The local government caucus will identify new representatives. Kelly McLain of the Washington Department of Agriculture will join the table as a new state agency representative at our next meeting in January. Welcome Kelly, and best wishes to Melva and Dan!

### WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT BIORETENTION HYDROLOGIC PERFORMANCE STUDY

Bill Taylor presented the progress and next steps for evaluating the hydrologic performance of a wide range of real-world bioretention facilities located throughout Puget Sound. The first phase of the project focused on developing criteria for site selection and then visiting and confirming monitoring sites. The second phase of the study will monitor inflow, outflow, and ponding conditions at the ten selected sites. The study engages a large team of consultants and local jurisdiction personnel to assist with data collection and interpretation. Bill T's presentation will be posted with this meeting summary at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/mtgsummaries.html>.

Bill Reilly, the study sponsor, asked for feedback on the schedule and budget for the next (monitoring and analysis) phase of the project. The current schedule proposed in the draft QAPP is to begin monitoring as soon as possible, perhaps as early as January and continuing through June. Work group members suggested either adding sampling next fall to be certain to include a month like November, or perhaps delaying the sampling to span the October through April window specified by the Stormwater Management Manual for designing these facilities. Bill R proposes to scope out a few different scenarios for the Pooled Resources Oversight Committee to consider. He also requests that if anyone has monitoring equipment to contribute or loan, then that would help lower the study costs.

### WORK GROUP MOVES AHEAD WITH PROCESS TO IDENTIFY MORE RSMP EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES

At our last meeting we discussed the overall process for identifying future studies. The SWG Effectiveness Studies Subgroup developed a letter of intent, request for proposals, and a scoring approach. The current request for proposals is focused on getting answers to the SWG's priority questions that are not being addressed by any of the first round of studies. Some jurisdictions want to propose questions that are not on the SWG's approved list. Work group members agreed that other studies that are explicitly tied to stormwater management program requirements in the permit should be considered for funding in the next round. However, studies that answer questions not on the work group's current, well-vetted list will need to meet a much higher bar, and our priority remains answering questions that are on the current list.

The SWG's approved list was informed by an extensive literature review; the questions resulted directly from the synthesis of the findings of that literature review.

Work group members also agreed that it is appropriate to delay the proposed schedule for identifying another round of studies a bit further into 2016. We still have four studies from the first round to get under contract.

### **WORK GROUP UPDATED ON RSMP COORDINATION, IMPLEMENTATION, AND OVERSIGHT**

The PRO-Committee last met October 15 and will next meet January 26. Brandi Lubliner reported on RSMP projects and contracting. Jay Davis reported on the PRO-C discussion of Ecology's performance as RSMP administrator.

Small streams status and trends: Field crews visited over 200 sites to successfully sample 87 for benthos and sediment chemistry. Water quality monitoring will continue at 60 sites through December. The QAPP addendum to guide the data analysis, based on the SWG's priority questions for this RSMP component, is in Ecology's publication process. The analysis team is developing scopes of work for each agency's agreement.

Marine nearshore mussel monitoring status and trends: WDFW and volunteers installed 73 mussel cages at the 40 RSMP and 33 other sites (including Pierce County's 8 opt-out monitoring sites) around Puget Sound. Mussels were not available for another eight additional cages WDFW hoped to deploy. The report on this monitoring effort is due in June 2017.

Marine nearshore sediment status and trends: USGS is leading the marine nearshore sediment sampling and just submitted a proposed budget and scope of work. Brandi has not yet reviewed the proposal. The PRO-C will discuss it in January.

Marine nearshore bacteria: Data query is underway. Debby Sargent at EAP is leading this effort.

Effectiveness studies: Brandi and Karen met with the project leads for the three rain garden studies on the remaining list of studies identified in the first round. The projects can realize some efficiencies by sharing sites and sampling crews (for example, adding PCB sampling as part of the WSU bioretention mix project). All of these studies, plus the catch basin study, are in the process of developing scopes of work for Brandi and the PRO-C to review.

SIDIR: IDDE data compilation is underway and the draft memo and initial database will be ready after Thanksgiving.

RSMP oversight and budget reporting: A revised quarterly report for April through June was needed to reflect the state's end-of-fiscal-year budget reconciliation. The state applies payments in the first quarter of a new fiscal year to the previous fiscal year's budget for work that was done in that period. The revised report provided a correct starting point for the July through September quarterly report. At the same time, Ecology also applied the indirect overhead charge for the RSMP Coordinator position for the entire year, and we hope that in the future that charge will be applied quarterly. The PRO-C will discuss whether an initial and revised report will be desired for the last quarter of each fiscal year; both are posted on the RSMP administration webpage. Brandi and Karen also propose compiling the RSMP annual report in February or March for the prior calendar year rather than adding yet another report to be issued in October of each year.

RSMP administrator review: At the October 15 meeting the PRO-C discussed their assigned review of Ecology's performance in the role of RSMP Administrator. The PRO-C review will focus on how Ecology is performing and how to improve the service. The PRO-C plans to survey permittees, develop a report card, and send a letter to the SWG detailing its findings and highlighting what aspects of Ecology's service are going well. The PRO-C will continue to discuss whether to increase the budget for Ecology's administrative costs.

### **WORK PLAN UPDATES DISCUSSED, APPROVAL ANTICIPATED AT JANUARY MEETING**

The SWG has a biennial work plan that we update annually. After our last meeting, Karen sent out a proposed draft 2016-2017 work plan to our subgroup chairs and incorporated all of the feedback into the draft sent out with the meeting agenda. Work group members suggested calling out our plan to make recommendations for future permit monitoring and also adding the Washington Waters Task Force as an audience for the Communication Plan. We plan to approve the updated work plan at our meeting in January.

The state caucus is gathering information on agency expenditures toward the RSMP to share at the January SWG meeting. The federal caucus may also have information to share at that point. The local government caucus is looking forward to the federal and state agency reports on expenditures and in-kind contributions to the RSMP. The future discussions of the SWAMPSS strategy will include updates on other relevant monitoring efforts to underscore the balance between the RSMP (which permittees in 2010 insisted be meaningful as a stand-alone monitoring program) and broader strategy.

## **WORK GROUP CAUCUSES SHARE IDEAS FOR FUTURE NPDES MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PERMIT MONITORING**

At our last two meetings we have discussed how this collective stakeholder group will deliver recommendations for possible improvements to the permit structure for implementing the RSMP. The RSMP is implemented via Special Condition S8 Monitoring and Assessment of the municipal stormwater NPDES permits: S8.B is status and trends, S8.C is effectiveness studies, and S8.D is SIDIR. The SWG's caucuses were asked to continue to develop ideas for recommendations for the entire SWG stakeholder group to endorse and deliver to Ecology. Following today's discussion, each caucus was to articulate their ideas for recommendations in advance of the January meeting for a work group discussion in preparation for voting at the March meeting.

Jim Simmonds spoke on behalf of the the SWG's local government caucus. Jim reported that it will not be possible for the jurisdictions to submit a set of recommendations as a caucus. Permittees will instead be sending individual letters to Ecology, probably addressed to Bill Moore with a cc to Karen Dinicola. The caucus will not meet again until next spring.

Jennifer Lanksbury spoke on behalf of the SWG's state agency caucus. The state agency representatives are considering recommending maintaining the overall RSMP permit structure with the exception of the opt-out monitoring provisions, citing the problems WDFW has experienced with the mussel monitoring status and trends opt-out approach. The caucus will meet on December 1 and again in early January.

Jay Davis spoke on behalf of the SWG's federal agency caucus. The federal agency representatives think it would be best not to change the overall RSMP pay-in structure at this early stage, but rather focus on lessons learned and implement suggestions that come out of the PRO-C's report card. The caucus will meet again between SWG meetings.

The SWG will continue to discuss this topic at the next two meetings in January and March at which point we will finalize any recommendations we have to Ecology regarding the permit implementation structure. As part of these discussions, the work group would like to discuss any individual letters sent by permittees to Ecology within the timeframe for developing our collective stakeholder recommendations. Karen encouraged the local jurisdictions to renew their effort to provide recommendations for consideration by the entire work group.

## **TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT SWG REPORTER**

The last "SWG Reporter" went out in October. These brief updates on the RSMP and other SWG efforts are posted at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/reporter.html>. The next issue will go out in December. Topics to be included are:

- Bioretention hydrologic performance to be evaluated at ten sites around Puget Sound, and
- Mussel monitoring underway at 40 RSMP sites and 33 additional sites
  - *Karen will include a sentence about "why we care" and a link to the Bellingham Herald article, and*
- Considering recommendations to Ecology for next permit monitoring requirements, and
- New effectiveness studies will be identified in 2016, and
- Communication strategy for RSMP findings coming soon, and
- RSMP to be on agenda at Salish Sea conference, and
- Next RSMP quarterly report is due out in late January.

The SWG Reporter will continue to go out following SWG meetings. The RSMP quarterly reports will continue to be distributed to permittees via Ecology's permit managers and posted on the RSMP Administration webpage at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/rsmp/admin.html>. Our new communication strategy will focus on adding means to share RSMP findings with multiple audiences, but mainly stormwater program managers.

## **OTHER UPDATES RELATED TO OUR WORK**

The PSEMP Steering Committee has discussed interaction with and among workgroups at its last three meetings. They are considering convening a series of topical summits to enhance cross-workgroup coordination.

## **AGENDA ITEM NOT DISCUSSED: COMPILATION OF IDDE DATA**

The compilation of permittees' IDDE incident data was not completed in time for a November 16 SWG SIDIR Subgroup meeting. The meeting has been rescheduled to December 15 and this topic will be discussed at our meeting in January.

## **FUTURE MEETING DATES AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS**

At all of our meetings, we will:

- Hear feedback from the RSMP Coordinator and PRO-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, January 13, 2016 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the USGS Office in Tacoma, we will also:

- Approve updates to our work plan, and
- Continue to discuss recommendations for permit condition S8 Monitoring and Assessment, and
- Provide feedback on a draft implementation plan for agricultural runoff monitoring, and
- Hear about compilation and analysis of the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination incident data, and
- Hear about progress on a new communication strategy for sharing RSMP findings.

The meeting schedule for the remainder of 2016 is: March 16, June 1, September 14, and November 9.

### **ACRONYMS USED IN THIS MEETING SUMMARY:**

EAP – Ecology’s Environmental Assessment Program

IDDE – Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

PCB – Polychlorinated biphenyls

PRO-C or PRO-Committee – Pooled Resources Oversight Committee

PSEMP – Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program

PSP – Puget Sound Partnership

QAPP – Quality Assurance Project Plan

RSMP – Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program

SIDIR – Source Identification Information Repository

SWAMPSS – Stormwater Assessment and Monitoring Program for Puget Sound

SWG – Stormwater Work Group

USGS – U.S. Geological Survey

WDFW – Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

WDNR – Washington Dept. of Natural Resources

WQP – Water Quality Program

WSDOT – Washington Dept. of Transportation