



STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, March 19, 2016 from 9:08 am to 12:07 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; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Dick Gersib** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments; **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.

Other Work Group Members and Alternates on the phone/webex: **Dino Marshalonis** (USEPA), Federal Agencies.

Others in attendance: **Lawrence Sullivan** (Thurston Co).

On the phone/webex: **Andy James** (UW Tacoma and staff to the PSEMP Toxics Workgroup).

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

WORK GROUP WELCOMES RSMP COORDINATOR BRANDI LUBLINER

Brandi Lubliner has worked at Ecology on stormwater monitoring projects for over nine years and in consulting prior to that. She is looking forward to helping implement the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP) by managing budget, contracting, data management and quality, and other decisions that need to be made and work implemented. Brandi and SWG Staff Karen Dinicola have complementary skills and are in the process of defining roles and responsibilities. We are fortunate to have staff of Brandi's caliber helping launch the RSMP, and to have her on board in advance of RSMP funding from the permittees. Welcome to the table!

WORK GROUP APPROVES NEW INTERIM MEMBER LIST FOR POOLED RESOURCES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

At our last meeting we approved a list of interim Pooled Resources Oversight Committee (PROC) members that held their first meeting on February 10. At the next meeting of the PROC in late March or April, members will discuss the budget for RSMP status and trends monitoring and consider how best to allocate funds within the established budget. They will make recommendations to the work group as to how to best accomplish the objectives of our October 2010 recommendations. The PROC will also discuss the outcomes of the Effectiveness Studies Workshop 1.

Each caucus brought a list of proposed permanent PROC members to today's meeting. Work group members expressed concerns about status and trends "opt-out" permittees participating in making recommendations about the scope of those RSMP components in which they are not vested, or about which they might have concerns that are different from the local government permittees that chose to participate in the RSMP Status and Trends pooled resources approach. Work group members discussed a possible amendment to the charter directing that these members would recuse themselves from voting on decisions regarding expenditures of RSMP Status and Trends monitoring funds; they would only vote on decisions regarding RSMP Effectiveness Studies and SIDIR. This could also be addressed within the caucus.

Because there are a number of key RSMP Status and Trends monitoring scope questions that need to be addressed in the coming four months, work group members suggested that the current interim local government representative members of the PROC continue to serve through the coming months, and that the new local government members be approved as alternates. The approved new interim PROC member and alternate list is:

- Local governments: Will Appleton, Heather Kibbey, Kit Paulsen, and Jim Simmonds are members. Patrick Harbison, Ben Parrish, Bill Reilly, Kelly Uhacz, Phyllis Varner, and Carla Vincent are alternates.
- Federal agencies: Chris Konrad is the member and Jay Davis is the alternate.
- State agencies: Bruce Wulkan is the member and Abby Barnes is the alternate.
- Environmental groups: Tom Putnam is the member and Katelyn Kinn is the alternate.

All PROC members and alternates are encouraged to attend the upcoming meetings in April and May. The meetings are also open to the public. The role of the PROC is to provide transparency and feedback on project management type decisions regarding scope, schedule, budget, and quality to help Ecology administer the RSMP in a way that is meeting the objectives the work group has agreed upon. The work group will consider recommendations from the PROC concerning the RSMP Status and Trends monitoring budget and scope at the next two work group meetings in May and June.

WORK GROUP AGREES ON PROCESS FOR DECIDING WHICH RSMP EFFECTIVENESS STUDIES WILL BE DONE

At our last two meetings we discussed the process envisioned by the SWG Effectiveness Studies Selection Subgroup for moving from the June 2013 recommended list of effectiveness study topics and questions to study designs and scopes of work for RSMP-funded studies.

Karen described the structure and desired outcomes of RSMP Effectiveness Studies Workshop 1 being held March 20, the day following the work group meeting. We received 23 pre-proposals that will be discussed at the workshop. All but three are focused on LID and retrofit topics. The “bottom line” outcome of Workshop 1 is to know what proposals will be expanded to full proposals that will be presented at RSMP Effectiveness Studies Workshop 2, scheduled to take place on May 6, 2014. We want to focus folks’ effort on proposals that are likely to receive funding. The evolved role of the SWG Effectiveness Studies Selection Subgroup is focused on planning the workshops where the recommendations will be made; they are not making these recommendations, as there are so many subgroup members who are also project proponents.

Work group members expressed concern about not seeing a preliminary prioritized list of expanded study proposals until our next scheduled meeting in June. Work group members agreed to the following amendments to the previously scheduled and sequenced process: SWG members should provide input to their PROC representatives as to concerns about the list of expanded proposals resulting from Workshop 1 well in advance of Workshop 2. The Effectiveness Studies Selection Subgroup will have a combined meeting with the PROC between the two workshops. Attendance at this meeting will be open to the public.

The work group will make the final decision on which RSMP Effectiveness Studies will move forward for a contracting process at Ecology during the work group the meeting on June 11.

Important action items from this discussion:

- Work group members will review the outcomes of RSMP Effectiveness Studies Workshop 1 on March 20 and communicate any concerns to their representatives on the PROC.
- SWG staff will schedule a combined meeting of the Effectiveness Subgroup and the PROC in April and another SWG meeting in mid-May.

WORK GROUP APPROVES CROPLAND NUTRIENT AND SEDIMENT MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS

At our meeting in December work group members gave feedback to the Agricultural Runoff Subgroup on its recommendations for monitoring nutrients and sediment from cropland areas. Heather Kibbey presented the changes the subgroup made following consideration of our feedback. With a minor edit, work group members approved the revised recommendations which focus on leveraging existing monitoring of cropland areas and adding a project to inventory and map ditches and tile drains to help identify and prioritize problem areas.

Work group members look forward to seeing the combined recommendations from the subgroup, where gaps in topics such as manure application to cropland areas, or effects of seasonal ditches, may become apparent.

Work group members also noted potential overlap of this general topic with other PSEMP workgroups, particularly Freshwater and Toxics. Both of those groups have seen the pesticide recommendations.

PORTION OF AGRICULTURAL MONITORING RECOMMENDATIONS AGENDA ITEM NOT DISCUSSED

Because we went over the amount of time allotted to the first two items on our agenda, the work group did not discuss the effectiveness monitoring recommendations of the SWG Agricultural Runoff Subgroup. We will consider approval of those revised recommendations at our next meeting, to be scheduled in May.

WORK GROUP HEARS UPDATES RELATED TO OUR WORK AND OUR SUBGROUPS

- Lisa Stiffler’s Sightline article is posted on our Google page with the SWG Reporters.
- Chris Konrad announced that the Puget-Willamette region of the Pacific Northwest was selected as a 2015 National Water Quality Assessment study of the USGS. The study will likely focus on agricultural and urban areas and might place an emphasis on downstream impacts of stormwater. A total of 50 sites in Washington and 50 sites in Oregon will be sampled for contaminants, nutrients, sediment, and flow. This project provides an opportunity to leverage the RSMP Status and Trends sampling. Recommendations from our Small Streams Subgroup (i.e., the PSEMP Freshwater Workgroup) as to local interests and priorities will help USGS plan the study. It would be an especially great example of coordinated monitoring if we could publish a multi-agency report on the findings of the RSMP/NAWQA study of small lowland streams. Lessons learned from both studies will be applied to future rounds of RSMP sampling.
 - This topic should be included in the next SWG Reporter, coming out in April.
- Ecology re-issued the WSDOT permit. The new permit, effective April 5, includes the option for WSDOT to participate in the RSMP. It also includes the clarification changes recommended by the work group. It also recognizes the need for a more open and inclusive process to determine the next effectiveness studies to be undertaken.
 - This topic should also be included in the next SWG Reporter.
- Seven or eight jurisdictions so far have used the online IDDE incident tracking form that is what we hope will be the primary means of providing data for the SIDIR Results and Findings analysis. We hope that more jurisdictions will try it and provide feedback for improving it! A new form will be developed for permittees’ use next calendar year.
- WSDOT has been working on coordinating spill response between their maintenance folks and the Washington State Patrol. They piloted a reporting system in King County where Ecology and the local government were automatically notified of every accident and potential spill. Now they are working on statewide expansion of this reporting and notification system.
- Heather Kibbey is the new Chair of PSEMP Steering Committee. Congratulations Heather!

NEXT MEETING DATE AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS

Wednesday, May 14 from 9:00 am – 11:30 am at the USGS Office in Tacoma:

- Discuss approval of agricultural effectiveness monitoring recommendations
- Hear about the combined meeting of the Pooled Resources Oversight Committee and the SWG Effectiveness Studies Selection Subgroup
 - Discuss outcomes and recommendations from RSMP Effectiveness Study Workshops 1 and 2
 - Discuss recommendations for RSMP Status and Trends scope
- 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

NAWQA: National Water Quality Assessment
PROC: Pooled Resources Oversight Committee
PSEMP: Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program
RSMP: Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program
SWG: Stormwater Work Group
TBD: To be determined
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
WSDOT: Washington Dept. of Transportation