

STORMWATER WORK GROUP

Wednesday, April 20, 2011 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM
USGS, Columbia Room
934 Broadway, Tacoma

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:

Shayne Cothorn (WDNR), State Agencies; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Dana de Leon** (Tacoma), Local Governments; **Tim Determan** (WDOH), State Agencies; **Dick Gersib** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Heather Kibbey** (Everett), Local Governments; **Dino Marshalonis** (USEPA), Federal Agencies; **Bill Moore** (Ecology), State Agencies; **Mel Oleson** (Boeing), Business Groups; **Kit Paulsen** (Bellevue), Local Governments; **Tony Paulson** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Tom Putnam** (Puget Soundkeeper Alliance), Environmental Groups; **Jim Simmonds** (King Co.), Local Governments and the Work Group's Chair; **Carol Smith** (WA Conservation Commission), Agriculture; **Heather Trim** (People For Puget Sound), Environmental Groups; **Bruce Wulkan** (Puget Sound Partnership), State Agencies.

Others in attendance: **Joy Michaud**, Herrera; **Mike Milne**, Brown and Caldwell; **Mark Palmer**, City of Puyallup; **Bill Taylor**, TEC Inc.

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

Others in attendance to discuss the Washington Stormwater Center: **Joel Baker**, University of Washington, Tacoma; **John Stark**, Washington State University, Puyallup.

Others in attendance for the Toxics Loadings presentation: **Jack Barbash**, USGS; **Rick Dinicola**, USGS; **Chris Magirl**, USGS; **Randy Shuman**, King County; **Frank Voss**, USGS.

WORK GROUP PROVIDES FEEDBACK ON POOLED RESOURCES OVERSIGHT PROPOSAL

The SWG's Pooled Resources Oversight Subgroup proposes a formal committee to oversee the large amount of money that will be managed by Ecology to implement the regional monitoring program. The SWG will recommend that Ecology adopt the charter for this committee when it is finalized. The timing for adopting the charter should coincide with permit issuance. The charter will complement the contract between Ecology and the permittees so it will be important to see the permit language and contract and confirm that this charter is the right document. At our next meeting work group members will approve a version of the charter to go out for broader public comment and input.

Specific comments on the charter are included in the track-change document attached to this meeting summary. The subgroup will address the concerns raised, including: clarification of roles of Ecology versus roles of the committee, what authorities each has, and how they will collaborate; adding safeguards to ensure that the simple majority of committee members (who represent permittees obligated to contribute funds) cannot steamroll the committee; how cost overruns are managed; and how the RFP processes will be conducted.

WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT WASHINGTON STORMWATER CENTER PLANS AND POSSIBILITIES

John Stark and Joel Baker told work group members about the newly established Washington Stormwater Center, established by the Legislature and funded by an Ecology grant to provide technical assistance, research, and training to support NPDES permittees. The grant allowed WSU-Puyallup, UW-Tacoma, and the City of Puyallup to jointly establish the center as a non-profit joint venture. They have revived the TAP-E program (to evaluate private-domain and other emerging technologies for approval) which had been unstaffed at Ecology and established additional "arms" of the center to: help industrial permittees manage their stormwater and understand

permit requirements; provide an information clearinghouse for municipal permittees; and develop, evaluate, and promote LID techniques. They are partnering with others who have certification programs in place, and working to improve the language in and understanding of current BMP manuals to improve performance.

The center is using new approaches to training, for instance replacing pamphlets with youtube videos; and maintaining an events calendar focused on Washington but including conferences elsewhere. They are quickly becoming a national example of how to provide support and services for permittees. The current grant is coming to an end, and some new grant money is likely, but a long-term funding source is still needed in order to fully develop the center and hire experts to do the work. None of the \$4M from EPA for the Puget Sound Institute at UW-Tacoma is going to the center. The center's website is www.wastormwatercenter.org.

With respect to monitoring, the center could assist with effectiveness studies, and literature reviews, peer reviews, maintaining the information clearinghouse, and analysis and synthesis of existing information. They would like to assist in aggregating information collected by local governments to look at cumulative impacts and benefits at a regional scale. The center can also provide a peer network for permittees interested in learning about others' experiences with various systems, installers, or techniques. The center might also help to translate the results of the monitoring into training, and help develop new curricula.

The center is not likely to play a role in developing or running models. They might help evaluate and verify existing models and help improve their application, but they are not going to undertake the kind of work generally done by consultants. The work group members look forward to ongoing conversations with the center.

AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF SUBGROUP HAS FIRST MEETING

The first meeting of the SWG's Agricultural Runoff Subgroup was well attended. Participants included local governments, conservation districts, EPA, NRCS, WDOH, Ecology, and the Conservation Commission. Subgroup members were brought up to speed on the 2010 Strategy and the SWG's process and recommendations in general.

The subgroup plans tackle one component of the monitoring strategy at a time. They will next meet following the SWG's May 18 meeting to discuss probabilistic sampling with Phil Larsen of EPA. Carol Smith, staff to this subgroup, will work with SWG project manager Karen Dinicola to come up with a timing and strategy for the SWG to review sections and ultimately adopt, by the end of 2012, new recommendations and an implementation plan for monitoring agricultural runoff. Mel Oleson will work with Carol to identify business representatives to include on the subgroup.

NEARSHORE STATUS AND TRENDS SUBGROUP MOVES FORWARD WITH SITE SELECTION CRITERIA

The most recent subgroup meeting focused on the approach to bacteria monitoring but also made some key decisions about site selection for the nearshore status and trends monitoring as a whole. At the last SWG meeting, the subgroup was charged with deciding whether to try to locate nearshore monitoring sites near outfalls. The subgroup decided that it would be best to select sites randomly and collect the information about outfalls, and local current patterns, to interpret the data afterward. Work group members expressed agreement with this decision.

The subgroup was acting on the work group's direction from the March 16 SWG meeting that the nearshore monitoring focus on the 0-fathom depth below the mean level of water. The site selection approach moving forward at this time is based upon that decision. One member expressed concerns that there would not be sufficiently fine sediments to sample in these areas affected by wave action, and that useful data was unlikely to be generated. Others expressed confidence that data that has been collected at these depths; that pebble/cobble beaches will be disqualified as sampling sites; and that useful data would be generated.

Next steps are to have Maggie Dutch complete the analysis of PSAMP data in deeper (fathom-30m) waters inside and outside UGAs. Maggie might report her findings to us at our June 15 meeting.

EFFECTIVENESS STUDY SUBGROUP WORKS TOWARDS TOPIC SELECTION AND LITERATURE REVIEW

At our last work group meeting we decided to extend the period for accepting ideas for effectiveness studies, and also accept comments on the evaluation criteria. Phase II permittees have submitted their annual reports with ideas, and Karen will work to collate those ideas in the first two weeks of May. Karen will set up a doodle poll to schedule the next subgroup meeting (likely be in Bellevue during the third week of May) to process the Phase II permittees ideas and submissions by others and make assignments to groups to rank them. The subgroup will describe the universe of ideas for studies to help narrow the scope of the literature review. Karen will be on vacation, so Kit Paulsen will lead the meeting and Heather Trim will take notes.

WORK GROUP HEARS ABOUT TOXICS MONITORING

Randy Shuman of King County, and chair of the Toxics Loading Steering Committee, gave our second brown-bag presentation to learn about monitoring efforts of other groups; his slides will be posted on the SWG webpage. Randy walked the group through the reports that have been produced by the researchers on the committee that are posted on Ecology's webpage at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pstoxics/index.html>.

This committee was formed to oversee a pot of \$4M from EPA to provide a scientific basis for a toxics loadings reduction strategy. Phase 1 of this set of studies calculated initial loading estimates and identified gaps; Phase 2 improved Phase 1 estimates and included better information from treatment plants and other local sources; and Phase 3 targets primary sources for a reduction strategy and involved data collection and a synthesis report (due out this summer) with risk evaluation.

The committee and studies distinguished loadings v. sources v. pathways of toxic pollutants to help focus reduction strategies. The next step for these studies is on pathways (i.e. stormwater and atmospheric deposition) and attenuation. The committee's runoff study is currently in 3rd party review.

The next steps for the committee reflect the shift from this committee's role in overseeing EPA funds to last year's grant awards to new Lead Organizations (Ecology for toxics) overseeing the next big pot of money: in its current form and for its current role, the committee is winding down. Conversations will likely follow to identify how best to integrate toxics monitoring into the new ecosystem monitoring program's work groups.

WORK GROUP DECIDES TO HEAR FROM OTHER MONITORING GROUPS DURING REGULAR MEETINGS

Few work group members have remained after our regular meetings to listen to our guest speakers' brown-bag presentations. The group decided that after the May meeting, hearing from other monitoring groups will take place during regular meetings and not afterward.

WORK GROUP DECIDES TO PROVIDE A PHONE LINE FOR LISTENING ONLY

The work group discussed pros and cons of allowing members to participate via conference call. By a slim margin, the work group voted down the proposal to allow participation by conference call. However, the group agreed to experiment with providing a phone line by which members and others unable to attend in person can hear the discussions. The requirement for being on the phone will be that the caller's phone must remain muted.

AGENDA ITEMS NOT COVERED

The work group did not hear updates on PSP ecosystem monitoring, target-setting, or action agenda development.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The work group's upcoming meetings, expected major discussion topics, and scheduled brown-bag presentations are:

- Wednesday May 18, 2011 from 9am-1pm at the USGS office in Tacoma: review and discuss Ecology's preliminary draft monitoring language for NPDES municipal stormwater permits; approve revised Draft Pooled Resources Oversight Committee charter for release for review; determine messages and timing for next SWG Reporter. The meeting will be followed by the third in our series of brown bag presentations from other monitoring groups, from **noon-1pm: Jennifer Bayer and Phil Larsen on PNAMP** and by the second meeting of the agricultural runoff subgroup.
- Wednesday June 15, 2011 from 9am-12pm at the USGS office in Tacoma: hear about initial findings of the effectiveness literature review; hear findings of analysis of PSAMP sediment data; hear from another monitoring group: Dave Hallock on freshwater quality monitoring.
- Wednesday, July 20, 2011 from 9am-1pm at the Tacoma Central Treatment Plant Visitor Center: discuss initial rankings of effectiveness study topics; hear initial findings of streamflow gauging network analysis; and hear about the desktop survey of mussel populations in Puget Sound to support our nearshore status and trends monitoring; determine messages and timing for next SWG Reporter.