



2015-2016 WORK PLAN

PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES, AND KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS EXPECTED IN 2015-16

In 2010, the Stormwater Work Group (SWG) recommended a strategic scientific framework, priorities, and specific steps to implement a broad, comprehensive Stormwater Assessment and Monitoring Program for Puget Sound (SWAMPPS). The *2010 Strategy* is focused on enabling us to know whether or not our management actions are successfully reducing harm caused to Puget Sound by stormwater from developed and developing lands. This document is intended to guide the SWG's near-term role in implementing the strategy and continuing to expand the monitoring program activities.

The SWG's areas of focus for 2015 and 2016 are:

1. Continue to implement the *2010 Strategy*, our October 2010 *Recommendations for Municipal Stormwater Permit Monitoring*, and subsequent formal recommendations submitted to Ecology
 - a. Make additional decisions and provide guidance needed to implement our recommendations successfully
 - b. Get regular budget and progress reports from our Pooled Resources Oversight Committee (PRO-Committee) and provide the Washington Dept. of Ecology (Ecology) with input needed to successfully implement the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP)
 - c. Implement small streams monitoring in 2015 and develop a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) addendum to guide analysis, interpretation, and reporting on the data and develop recommendations for the next round of sampling
 - d. Finalize marine nearshore sediment and mussel sampling QAPPs and begin to confirm sites for sampling in 2015-2016
 - e. Oversee ten RSMP effectiveness studies and implement a process for soliciting proposals and selecting a second round of studies
 - f. Recommend specific next steps for both the Methods/Approaches and Results/Findings sides of the Source Identification Information Repository (SIDIR)
 - g. Approve recommendations for implementing regional monitoring of runoff from agricultural areas
2. Communicate and coordinate with policy makers, monitoring groups and other interested parties in Puget Sound.
 - a. Send out SWG Reporter issues at least 4 times each calendar year
 - b. Develop an annual report following the close of the state fiscal year on June 30, 2015
 - c. Educate elected officials, agency, city and county staff, and others about our recommendations and findings
 - d. Participate in PSEMP as a topical workgroup and engage with the other workgroups
 - e. Engage more interested parties in our subgroups
 - f. Learn about the proposed receiving water monitoring design for the Lower Columbia
3. Continue to discuss strategic expansions of the 2010 Strategy to other water bodies, types of NPDES-permitted activities, land uses, or geographic areas of Puget Sound
 - a. Advise Ecology, PSP, and others on monitoring activities conducted outside of the RSMP
 - b. Hear from experts on implementation of our recommendations
 - c. Hear from other topical work groups at regular SWG meetings
 - d. Review and set priorities for status and trends monitoring, effectiveness studies, source identification monitoring, and studies/research

This work plan lays out the proposed tasks that need to be completed, their timelines, and the roles and responsibilities of various parties in completing the work. This work plan is meant to be a starting point.



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<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/swworkgroup.html>

WORK PLAN TASKS

The following work plan tasks are proposed to be accomplished during 2015-2016:

- Task 1: Oversee Ecology's administration of the RSMP pooled resources account
- Task 2: Communicate with policy makers and other interested parties in Puget Sound
- Task 3: Oversee implementation of RSMP small streams status and trends monitoring and assessment
- Task 4: Oversee RSMP effectiveness studies and implement a well-defined process and criteria for selecting additional effectiveness studies
- Task 5: Oversee implementation of RSMP marine nearshore status and trends monitoring and assessment
- Task 6: Oversee implementation of a Source Identification Information Repository (SIDIR)
- Task 7: Approve recommendations for regional monitoring related to runoff from agricultural lands
- Task 8: Discuss, set priorities, and develop implementation plans for additional SWAMPPS activities
- Task 9: Participate fully in PSEMP; communicate and coordinate with other regional monitoring groups
- Task 10: Support, manage, staff, and lead implementation of SWAMPPS

ADVISORY SUBGROUPS AND COMMITTEES

As of the date of this work plan adoption the SWG is coordinating with numerous groups that are advising and supporting our recommendations for RSMP and SWAMPPS. In the past we have formed and provided direction to numerous SWG Subgroups; established a formal committee to oversee the pooled resources funding account; and have members and staff participating in other PSEMP workgroups as needed to coordinate SWAMPPS implementation. We will continue to interact with all of the groups listed below. This work plan articulates what we expect to ask from them in the coming year or two.

SWG Subgroups with open membership and participation:

- Agricultural Runoff
- Communication
- Effectiveness
- Source Identification Information Repository (SIDIR)
- Work Plan

Committees with formally assigned stakeholder representation:

- Pooled Resources Oversight Committee (PRO-Committee)

PSEMP Workgroups officially commissioned by the Steering Committee and related to our work:

- Freshwater
- Marine Nearshore
- Marine Water Quality
- Toxics

PROPOSED MEETING DATES

The SWG will meet five or six times per year depending upon the issues we need to discuss and decisions we need to make. All dates are Wednesdays, and all meetings begin at 9am and continue to noon or later as needed. We may occasionally extend the meeting time so work group members should have their calendars clear until 3pm. At least two weeks' notice will be given for an extended meeting time.

- In 2015: January 14, March 11, June 3, September 16, and November 18
- In 2016: January 13, March 16, June 1, September 14, and November 9

Advisory subgroup meeting dates will be scheduled as needed by subgroup chairs and SWG staff.



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TASK 1: Oversee Ecology’s administration of the RSMP pooled resources account

The SWG recommended that Ecology serve as the administrative entity for pooling NPDES municipal stormwater permittees’ funds and also recommended that the SWG have an oversight role. The SWG approved an oversight committee charter in 2012 and in 2014 Pooled Resources Oversight Committee (PRO-Committee) was established.

Ecology is regularly briefing the PRO-Committee as to the status of implementing the RSMP, and particularly in making contracting decisions to conduct monitoring and assessment activities.

The PRO-Committee will provide Ecology with feedback as to their overall assessment of Ecology’s approach to implementing SWG recommendations and consider whether additional recommendations from the SWG might be necessary or helpful.

The SWG may also evaluate and recommend other options for administering the funds for the subsequent permit as they become available, although this task is not envisioned to be conducted during the time period covered by this SWG work plan.

Advisory Subgroup: PRO-Committee

Timeline and Deliverables:

Ongoing	Ecology budget and progress reports to PRO-Committee PRO-Committee reports to SWG Advice on contracting decisions: scope, schedule, budget
TBD	Begin to discuss/evaluate administrative entity options

TASK 2: Communicate with policy makers and other interested parties in Puget Sound

The SWG has used caucuses to communicate our key decisions, and the reasons behind them, to staff members at a large number of organizations and entities across Puget Sound. To augment the communication and outreach that takes place through the caucuses represented by SWG members, the Communication Subgroup develops and reviews draft presentation and briefing materials for multiple audiences. A “lessons learned” document will be developed early during this work plan period.

Outreach to Elected Officials: The subgroup will continue to develop draft presentation and briefing materials and implement a communication strategy targeted to local elected officials.

“SWG Reporter” issues are emailed to 500-600 individuals. Subgroup members review in advance of distribution. The SWG will continue to send out SWG Reporters following most work group meetings, for a minimum of 4 times per year. All editions are archived on the SWG’s webpage

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/reporter.html>

Webpage: work group members will alert SWG staff to outdated content and propose improvements.

Workshops: The SWG has hosted “sprint” workshops of technical experts in 2009, and public workshops in 2009-2010, and two workshops in 2014. The Communication Subgroup will help the SWG identify needs for and plan future workshops to update interested parties and gather input on SWAMPPS implementation.

Advisory Subgroup: Communication

Timeline and Deliverables:

Early 2015	“Lessons Learned” document
After each SWG meeting	4-5 SWG Reporter Issues each year Web archives and content updates
As needed/TBD	Workshops and other briefings



TASK 3: Oversee implementation of RSMP small streams status and trends monitoring and assessment

The QAPP and contracting for conducting the stream monitoring were completed in December 2014 and monitoring begins in January 2015. The SWG made strategic recommendations to alter the scope of the monitoring and is making recommendations to guide the analysis, interpretation, and sharing of the findings. The highest priority for 2015-2016 is to complete data management, analysis, interpretation, and public reporting for this RSMP component that:

- Connects our work to other monitoring efforts in Puget Sound
- Makes recommendations for future RSMP data collection efforts
- Works with PSEMP Freshwater Workgroup to improve regional monitoring and analysis for key streamflow metrics
- Considers recommending stream gauging locations and a stream gauging program design to support SWAMPPS
- Provides and pursues ongoing opportunities to hear from experts on implementation of our recommendations

A QAPP Addendum Committee was formed in November 2014 and is developing a scope of work for a contract to write the RSMP Streams QAPP addendum. The addendum will identify the approach, roles and responsibilities for completing the analysis and reporting of the RSMP data.

Advisory Subgroups: PSEMP Freshwater Workgroup; QAPP Addendum Committee; PRO-Committee

Timeline and Deliverables:

Winter 2015	Scope of work and contract to write RSMP Streams QAPP Addendum
Late spring 2015	QAPP addendum approved
Ongoing	Briefings by lead implementers at SWG meetings
Summer 2015	Collect ancillary data and begin preparation for data analysis
September 2016	Reports and preliminary recommendations delivered to Ecology and SWG
November 2016	Approve recommendations for the next round of RSMP monitoring

TASK 4: Oversee RSMP effectiveness studies and implement a well-defined process and criteria for selecting additional effectiveness studies

In 2014 the SWG went through a process to identify a first round of ten RSMP effectiveness studies that answer priority questions we recommended in 2013. The first four of these studies are underway, and all ten should be underway by the end of 2015. Meanwhile, a gap analysis needs to be conducted and another round of studies identified to utilize the funds that remain available in the RMSP pooled resources account.

Also in the next 1-2 years, the Washington Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT) will complete permit-required effectiveness studies. The SWG will task a subgroup with reviewing WSDOT's monitoring reports and advise the work group as to more detailed and specific recommendations for future permit-required effectiveness monitoring and means of sharing their findings.

Advisory Subgroup: Effectiveness; PRO-Committee

Timeline and Deliverables:

Spring 2015	Complete remaining six RSMP Effectiveness Study SOWs and contracts
March 2015	Format/expectations for delivering 2-page summaries of findings of each study
June 2015	Recommendations for doing a gap analysis to inform next round of studies
November 2015	Approach for identifying a second round of studies
Ongoing	Connect our effectiveness studies to broader work and other monitoring activities



TASK 5: Oversee implementation of RSMP marine nearshore status and trends monitoring and assessment

The SWG has made numerous recommendations regarding monitoring activities in the marine nearshore. The first component of RSMP nearshore monitoring is contaminants in caged mussels in winter 2015-16; the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is leading that effort. Sediment chemistry sampling will take place in 2016. In 2014 the SWG recommended that bacteria monitoring not be conducted; an analysis of other programs' data will be conducted instead.

We need to complete data management, analysis, and public reporting plans for each RSMP marine nearshore status and trends component. The final numbers of sites and parameter lists must be confirmed. Site confirmation will begin in summer 2015. The PRO-Committee will oversee contracting and ensure that SWG recommendations are implemented. Specific needs in 2015-2016 include:

- Confirm number of sites to be sampled per the final RSMP budget amount
- Final QAPPs for sediment, mussels, and for the bacteria data analysis
 - Connect analysis and interpretation of our work to other monitoring efforts in Puget Sound
 - Ensure we will make recommendations for future RSMP data collection efforts
- Coordinated implementation plan for each component
- Coordination of data management for all components

The SWG should also provide and pursue ongoing opportunities to hear from experts on implementation of our recommendations.

Advisory Subgroups: PSEMP Toxics and Marine Water Quality Workgroups; PRO-Committee

Timeline and Deliverables:

March 2015	Decision as to final number of sites and priority sampling activities
Spring 2015	QAPPs and data management recommendations for mussels and sediment
June 2015	Site confirmation underway
November 2015	QAPP for analysis and interpretation of bacteria data
Ongoing	Briefings at SWG meetings by lead implementers

TASK 6: Oversee implementation of a Source Identification Information Repository (SIDIR)

In February 2012 the SWG approved a scoping memo that defined the Source Identification Information Repository (SIDIR) as having two main components: Methods and Approaches (an online library that is kept up to date), and Results and Findings (a permittee-populated database that is periodically analyzed). The memo also envisions a peer network for sharing information.

A [January 2013 report](#) with further recommendations provides a useful starting point for creating the methods library in a way that will be most useful to field staff. The Field Screening Manual developed by King County/Herrera will be a key entry in the methods library and a helpful starting point for identifying new guidance documents that need to be included or developed. Case studies should be included in the library, most appropriately housed on the Ecology webpage as a permittee resource. Other existing and evolving resources will continue to be reviewed and considered as well.

Permittees' program implementation will continue to evolve. The subgroup will make recommendations to the SWG, providing a foundation for the implementation of SIDIR in 2015.

The current NPDES permits include a requirement that permittees submit key information for each Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) incident with their annual reports. A voluntary on-line incident tracking reporting form that populates an electronic IDDE results database is available for use in 2014 for the 2015 annual reports but few permittees are using it, and it is unknown what data will be submitted to Ecology, in what format, with the 2015 annual reports. The SWG will encourage permittees



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to submit their information in a format that can be easily used for regional analysis. The SWG will also survey permittees about where they are focusing their IDDE efforts.

Further next steps on the Results/Findings side of SIDIR will be delayed until after the information is evaluated, in April-May 2015. The annual report data and the survey results will be used to design a “sprint” type workshop to be held in the summer to get folks together to brainstorm: What would help you? What has worked? Following the workshop, the SWG should decide whether to help Ecology improve the on-line report form or to determine a different approach and make recommendations about how to analyze the IDDE incident data for 2014.

Advisory Subgroup: Source Identification/SIDIR; PRO-Committee

Timeline and Deliverables:

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| Early 2015 | Make a recommendation of who should look at the info provided in the annual reports: summarize ways information was received, analyze the data |
| April 2015 | Survey Monkey of permittees’ top 3 problems. Assessment of IDDE incident tracking data submitted with annual reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ What are we getting?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ What analysis can be done based on the information provided?▪ How quickly can the data be reviewed?▪ What can we learn from the findings?▪ Do we have enough information to make and support recommendations to apply the findings to management programs and policy initiatives?▪ Recommendations for future data submittal approaches |
| Summer 2015 | Workshop built upon results of IDDE incident tracking data analysis. |
| 2016: | Following the workshop, as needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Recommendations for an on-line permittee resource for neighboring jurisdictions to share information about common problems▪ Recommendations for regional initiatives to support local programs.▪ Discussions about building on IDDE Field Screening Manual; recommend additional information to build the Methods/Approaches library; recommend library format that it will be most useful to field staff; recommend long-term management approach to ensure library is kept current▪ Ongoing projects to develop and build the methods library |

TASK 7: Approve recommendations for regional monitoring related to runoff from agricultural lands

Stormwater runoff from agricultural lands is partly addressed by the prior recommendations of the work group, but new recommendations are needed to address agricultural runoff issues in a broader, more comprehensive way. The SWG commissioned a subgroup in early 2011 to propose expanding the *2010 Strategy* and building upon the *Recommendations for Municipal Stormwater Permit Monitoring* and other efforts to address agricultural issues. This subgroup is supported by Washington State Conservation Commission staff. The subgroup assembled several interim packages of recommendations which the SWG discussed and approved in 2011-2014. The next step is to piece them together into a final implementation and funding plan. The subgroup will develop an implementation plan including collective recommendations for monitoring agricultural runoff.

Advisory Subgroup: Agricultural Runoff



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Timeline and Deliverables:

Fall 2015	Scientific framework, implementation plan, and funding approach
Winter 2015-16	Recommendations to PSP, WCCC, WSDA, and Ecology

TASK 8: Discuss, set priorities, and develop implementation plans for additional SWAMPPS activities

The *2010 Strategy* described a comprehensive regional framework and set priorities for early implementation. The October 2010 *Recommendations for Municipal Stormwater Permit Monitoring* further narrowed down monitoring activities to implement in Puget Sound. In the scientific framework and in our communications to others, we have emphasized the need to expand this framework and priorities to other water bodies (*i.e.*, lakes, groundwater, wetlands, open marine, rivers), land uses (*i.e.*, industrial, forested), permit types (*i.e.*, WSDOT, industrial, construction), combined sewers, and geographic areas in Puget Sound.

It is most important to successfully implement our 2010 recommendations in advance of expanding program implementation, but parallel processes can be launched using additional capacity and by recommending specific next steps including funding and implementation strategies to PSP and Ecology. Other permits, combined sewers, additional water bodies, more parameters are all possible expansions of the *2010 Strategy*. The work plan subgroup will tee up this discussion and invite interested parties to champion their issues. The SWG will set priorities for the next 12-24 months.

The SWG will consider what topics are being addressed by other PSEMP work groups and discuss how we can best support those efforts to expand SWAMPPS.

Advisory Subgroup: Work Plan, PSEMP staff, and interested work group members

Timeline and Deliverables:

Fall 2015	Updated description of implementation of SWAMPPS strategy
Winter 2015-16	Priorities for SWAMPPS expansion

TASK 9: Participate fully in PSEMP; communicate and coordinate with other regional monitoring groups

The SWG is one of many topical work groups that have been formally commissioned by the Steering Committee for the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP). The SWG will deliver regular briefings to the steering committee. In early 2012, the SWG designated an official spokesperson to deliver briefings to the steering committee in addition to the chair and staff. The chair, members, and staff continue to coordinate with the PSEMP workgroups and other technical groups. All PSEMP workgroups are expected to provide each other with opportunities to contribute to work in our areas of overlap.

The SWG and other work groups have been asked to:

- Take “ownership” of relevant dashboard indicators/targets,
- Identify/inventory the main monitoring efforts relevant to stormwater,
- Identify cross work-group and other sorts of questions beyond the dashboard,
- Identify monitoring gaps and priorities for ecosystem condition, effectiveness, and research, and
- Make recommendations for improving data-sharing, including what data streams need to be developed to make dashboard reporting easier.

The SWG will continue to coordinate with other work groups, particularly freshwater, toxics, salmon habitat, and marine waters as those groups develop new recommendations.

Continue to develop, improve, and expand our regional stormwater monitoring strategy and gather support:

- Improve coordination and effectiveness of current monitoring efforts



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- Hear regular updates about the work and decisions of the PSEMP Steering Committee
- Stay apprised of related work by other PSEMP workgroups
- Keep other PSEMP workgroups apprised of our work and findings
- Hear regular updates from the APWA stormwater coordination meetings on discussions related to our work

Advisory Subgroups: Rely on chair, vice chair, staff, and official delegates and alternates as liaisons to PSEMP Steering Committee and other workgroups.

Timeline and Deliverables:

All ongoing and/or standing agenda item for regular SWG meetings:

- Presentations and briefing materials
- Participation in PSEMP as a topical work group
- Exchange of information with related work groups
- Regular updates from Steering Committee

TASK 10: Support, manage, staff, and lead implementation of SWAMPPS

A broad, diverse membership has been used since 2008 to engage regional stakeholders in the process of developing a regional stormwater monitoring program. The SWG will continue to use their perspectives to implement SWAMPPS and demonstrate its success as a functional, meaningful, and cost-effective regional program. Ecology has assigned staff to support the work group. Participating entities and caucuses also provide support, expertise, and services.

A chair and vice chair for two year terms will be nominated in January and selected in March of odd-numbered years. The chair executes the duties described in the SWG’s bylaws.

Biennial work plan updates will be discussed in November and officially adopted by the SWG in January of each year. The SWG will continue to evaluate its progress and adapt the work plans as needed.

To implement this work plan, and full set of the SWG’s October 2010 recommendations, the SWG staff and members will pursue opportunities for additional funding and resources to implement SWAMPPS. Specifically, the SWG will continue to develop, improve, and expand our regional stormwater monitoring strategy and gather support by:

- Improving coordination and effectiveness of current monitoring efforts
 - Annually, as part of the effort to update this work plan, revisit our *2010 Strategy* and investigate our role in and capacity to involved in and understand other stormwater monitoring and research activities in the context of each component of the RSMP
 - Discuss what priorities envisioned in the *2010 Strategy* are/are not being implemented and consider what new initiatives we should undertake
 - Determine whether/when updates to the *2010 Strategy* are needed
- Setting priority topic areas for additional work group effort or incremental improvements

Advisory Subgroup: Work Plan, and chairs/staff of all other SWG advisory subgroups
SWG and PSEMP staff to coordinate and assist as needed

Timeline and Deliverables:

Ongoing	Pursue funding/leveraging opportunities as they become known/available
January 2015	Nominate SWG Chair and Vice Chair 2015-16 Work Plan adopted
March 2015	SWG Chair and Vice Chair selected for two year terms
Fall 2015	Annual update of two-year work plan
January 2016	2016-17 Work Plan adopted
Fall 2016	Annual update of two-year work plan