

RSMP Effectiveness Studies Workshop 1

Report-out for Topic Table Performance and O & M

Proposal title: WSU Mesocosm Tracer Breakthrough Study (Knappenberger)

Management action to test: _____ bioretention bmps _____

Effectiveness will be measured for (a) implementation, or (b) **stress reduction**, or (c) improving habitat

Summary of feedback given during the Topic Table discussions

Why are permittees interested in getting this info? How are they going to use it?

There was significant confusion on the part of permittees about what question this proposal would answer. The tracer used for breakthrough is not proposed to meet the hydrologic characteristics of any specific pollutant. In general, participants agreed that the primary value would be to revise & update the performance characteristics of bioretention BMPs in hydrologic, hydraulic, and pollutant loading models.

What are the barriers or obstacles to getting the information, or concerns about its use? Is there anything missing?

Most concerns raised with this proposal emphasized the fact that it is laboratory-based, rather than in-field. Participants raised concerns about whether the pollutant concentration of influent would be representative. Another concern raised was simply that many permittees are interested in performance of BMPs in response to maintenance, which could not be measured by this proposal.

How will you make this proposal regionally relevant and/or informative?

Some proposed alterations to the study design included varying the pollutant concentration in the influent to simulate various parts of the state or various settings, potentially even forcing the failure of the mesocosm with very high TSS concentrations.