

## Stormwater Work Group (SWG) State Caucus

### Recommendations for the next municipal stormwater permit monitoring requirements for consideration by other caucuses at the January 13, 2016 SWG meeting

January 5, 2016

The Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP) was launched at the end of 2014 and is already showing a great deal of success. Effectiveness study results are coming in, stream data has been collected, and we are on the cusp of learning about the distribution and sources of illicit discharges. More studies are getting started, and there is a good process for identifying future studies. The Pooled Resources Oversight Committee (PRO-C) is satisfied with the work being done and the services provided by Ecology as the RSMP administrator.

The RSMP is intended to provide regionally relevant adaptive management information for permittees and other stakeholders.

The SWG State Caucus recommends that:

1. Ecology permit writers should not make major changes to the current permit special condition S8. Monitoring and Assessment requiring permittees to contribute to a pooled monitoring fund in reissuing the permit. The overall permit structure is working well.
2. The total dollar amount of the permittees' investment required in the current permit should be maintained (neither increased nor decreased) in the next permit.
  - a. Ecology's costs of administering the RSMP should be fully covered. The amount that is set aside (5% of the total RSMP budget for this permit cycle) for administrative costs should be increased as needed.
3. Ecology should eliminate or fix the opt-out approach for S8.B Status and Trends Monitoring in Puget Sound. The data are not nearly as useful for the regional roll-up as was intended when the last permit was written.
  - a. The best allocation of resources for regional monitoring is via the RSMP opt-in.
  - b. If the current opt-out approach is maintained, the permit should require those permittees to pay for analysis of their data.
4. All three components of the RSMP should be continued. The projects underway should all be completed and findings published before making any determination of their long-term utility.
  - a. State agencies are particularly interested in identifying opportunities to contribute to regional solutions to common IDDE problems permittees face.
5. Ecology as the RSMP Administrative Service Provider should continue to rely on the SWG and PRO-C to guide the priorities for expenditure of the pooled funds.
6. The RSMP Coordinator should continue to provide quarterly budget and progress reports to the PRO-C, SWG, and permittees.

An attached memo from WDFW provides additional information to support recommendations 3, 3a, and 3b. A separate attachment details state agency contributions to the RSMP and other regional monitoring relevant to understanding stormwater impacts and effectiveness of management practices.