

STORMWATER WORK GROUP

“CORE TEAM” MEETING

Thursday, September 18, 2008 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
U.S. Geological Survey office in Tacoma

Draft Summary

OF THE MEETING’S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS, AND AGREEMENTS

Attendees and the organizations or groups they represent:

Allison Butcher (Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties), the Business Caucus; **Bruce Crawford**, NOAA; **Dick Gersib**, Washington State Department of Transportation; **Andy Meyer** (Association of Washington Cities), Local Governments; **Bill Moore**, Washington State Department of Ecology; **Mel Oleson** (the Boeing Company), the Business Caucus; **Gary Turney**, U.S. Geological Survey; **Heather Trim** (People for Puget Sound), the Environmental Caucus; **Bruce Wulkan**, Puget Sound Partnership; **Karen Dinicola** (Ecology), Project Manager; and **Damon Diessner** (ESAction), the Oversight Committee’s Facilitator.

CORE TEAM SELECTS FACILITATOR FOR OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The subcommittee formed at the last Core Team meeting selected Damon Diessner to serve as the independent Facilitator of the Stormwater Work Group. Ecology is finalizing an Interagency Agreement with the City of Seattle who will hire Damon to provide the facilitation services needed by the Oversight Committee and Core Team (or other, reformulated subcommittee). For today, Damon is listening and learning, Interim Chair Dick Gersib is running the meeting, and Project Manager Karen Dinicola is responsible for preparing the meeting summary. Karen will send Damon’s Scope of Work to the Core Team.

CORE TEAM AGREES ON A DRAFT WORK PLAN TO PROPOSE TO THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The Subcommittee of Julie Hall (Seattle), Gary Turney, Dick and Karen revised the draft work plan to include seven tasks and a very ambitious schedule to complete them. The Core Team agreed to the overall list of tasks and discussed several revisions. Of primary concern is that this new Stormwater Work Group not perpetuate the problems of regional work being done in topical “silos” that are not connected to and integrated with related activities. More active language regarding context and coordination are needed in the work plan.

The Core Team had been hoping that the Partnership would have set some priorities for ecosystem recovery monitoring and perhaps even put some more detailed plans in place for us to build from in addressing stormwater questions. The September 15 monitoring workshop was postponed indefinitely. Karen shared some draft language from the Puget Sound Science Panel’s work on their Biennial Science Work Plan (attached as an appendix to this meeting summary) that may help the Oversight Committee identify priority areas to begin working on. Stormwater is one of four areas of

PUGET SOUND MONITORING CONSORTIUM
STORMWATER WORK GROUP

specific investigation that the Panel has identified for the coming biennium. The attached language may change but the group should take it as initial feedback on priority areas of interest.

Karen will revise the work plan and send it out to the group this evening; Heather will provide a context paragraph under Task 2 and other suggested edits by Monday. Others will provide their input as soon as possible so that the final draft of our proposal to the Oversight Committee can be sent out to Oversight Committee members the first of October. All proposed edits will be sent to the entire Core Team in the spirit of maintaining an open process and broad ownership of the proposal.

CORE TEAM AGREES THAT THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE WILL BE AN AUTHORIZING ENVIRONMENT; A SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD CONTINUE

In order for this effort to be successful, the Oversight Committee will need to feel empowered, galvanized, and both expected and willing to make some challenging decisions. We have a ripe opportunity to move forward and have been given a deadline of June 2010 to meet the needs of many of the interested parties. (Some parties would like an even faster timetable.)

The proposed Work Plan is ambitious, and if we are to meet the final and interim deadlines we will need to be efficient during Oversight Committee meetings and productive in between meetings. A subcommittee of the Oversight Committee should continue to develop draft products for the Oversight Committee's review, revision and approval. Many members of the Core Team feel that the existing subcommittee (the Core Team) is both prepared and committed to do this work; but all Core Team members agreed that the existence, name, composition, and scope of a subcommittee that fills this need must be entirely decided by the Oversight Committee.

CORE TEAM FINALIZES AGENDA FOR FIRST OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

Invitation letters from the Core Team, under Dick's signature, were sent out on September 4, 2008. Dick, Gary, Bill Moore, and Bruce Wulkan confirmed that they would continue to represent their agencies on the Oversight Committee. Several recipients of the letter have contacted Karen with questions of clarification and for information about the time commitment required. Karen will send out a pdf final invitation letter, the invitation list, and a list of the confirmed members so far.

The Core Team made a few small revisions to the Draft agenda, including adding to the agenda the need to select an official chair. Karen will develop a one-page description of the Core Team's preparatory work for the Oversight Committee. A future meeting of the Oversight Committee should address long-term staffing for the Work Group effort.

During her upcoming vacation, Karen will direct questions about the Oversight Committee to Damon, who will contact members of the Core Team for help with questions that he is unable to answer.

NEXT MEETINGS

The Oversight Committee will have its first meeting on Thursday October 9, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at either the Rhodes Center or the USGS Office, both on the 900 block of Broadway in Tacoma.

Core Team meeting dates are tentatively planned for the afternoons of: Wednesday October 15, Wednesday November 12, and Wednesday December 10; the Wednesday January 14 meeting, if held, will need to be rescheduled. These meetings are entirely subject to the direction of the Oversight Committee.

PUGET SOUND MONITORING CONSORTIUM
STORMWATER WORK GROUP

*From p. 13 of the 9/15/08 Draft of the Biennial Science Work Plan
(One of four topics of priority interest, subject to the Panel's revision)*

Watershed-scale study of changes in land use patterns or stormwater management strategies on pollutant loads in stormwater and biological effects

Seeking projects that address the four Partnership strategic priorities in watersheds of approximately 100 square miles in size:

1. Focus on most important/urgent problems

Measure/define the effects of stormwater on receiving waters, habitat, biota or human health in a watershed: what size, location, or other variable makes a particular stormwater discharge more or less likely to cause harm?

2. Protect intact ecosystems

Does watershed-scale application of LID maintain the hydrologic regime in a stream?

3. Restore ecosystem processes

To what extent can retrofits reverse past harm? Measure benefits of retrofitting a basin to:

- (a) restore hydrologic equilibrium to an urban stream, but not return to its historic condition
- (b) reduce toxics in an urban watershed
- (c) reduce nutrients/pathogens in a suburban or rural watershed

4. Reduce pollution at the source

Evaluate the effectiveness of watershed-scale combinations of stormwater management actions/techniques at reducing harm in Puget Sound and identify under what conditions these findings are likely to be transferable to other watersheds.