

# Stormwater Work Group Reporter

March 2012

*Key news and information you need to stay current on the effort to create a regional stormwater monitoring and assessment strategy for Puget Sound*

## **Effectiveness study literature review now available for public use**

The Stormwater Work Group (SWG) has been prioritizing which specific stormwater management program approaches should be evaluated using funds contributed by municipal stormwater NPDES permittees. At the same time, the SWG has overseen the development of a literature review to ascertain the extent to which the questions of greatest interest have already been answered. The list of study topics that the SWG recommended to Ecology in September 2011 is now being revised in light of these findings. The SWG is also developing a process for soliciting and selecting study proposals and designs.

More information (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/swgreports.html>;  
<http://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home/selection-of-effectiveness-studies>)

## **Thank you for commenting on the permits and proposed regional monitoring program**

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) recently held a 90-day public comment period on formal draft municipal stormwater NPDES permits including a proposed Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP). At the same time, the Stormwater Work Group (SWG) invited comments on a proposal for stakeholder oversight of Ecology's administration and implementation of the RSMP. The SWG believes Ecology shares our desire that the RSMP succeed and that the agency will issue permits with conditions that ensure its long-term viability. The SWG will continue to update our recommendations and make new recommendations as needed to help Ecology implement this key component of our overall stormwater monitoring and assessment strategy.

More information (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/2012comments.html>;  
<https://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home/pooled-resources-oversight>)

## **Regional monitoring program activities implemented in advance of permits**

The new Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP) proposed under the permits is leveraged by other monitoring efforts that were articulated in the Stormwater Work Group's [2010 Stormwater Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for the Puget Sound Region](#). In addition to these ongoing monitoring programs the Washington Department of Ecology, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Puget Sound Partnership, and others have provided funding and staff to conduct numerous projects and move the overall program forward. Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs), literature reviews, data analyses, and GIS support work are being completed with non-permittee funding sources.

More information (<https://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home/implementation-status>)

## **Agricultural runoff monitoring recommendations under development**

The Stormwater Work Group (SWG) is developing recommendations for monitoring agricultural runoff issues related to pesticides, nutrients, bacteria, and habitat. The Washington State Conservation Commission has brought together representatives of the Washington State Department of Agriculture, Conservation Districts, local governments, environmental groups, and other interested parties to review the available scientific information and develop specific recommendations to leverage existing monitoring programs and propose new data collection and analysis efforts. In March 2012, the SWG approved recommendations for pesticide monitoring. These recommendations will be delivered to appropriate agencies as part of a larger, comprehensive set of agricultural runoff monitoring recommendations that are due to be completed this fall.

More information (<http://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home/runoff-from-agricultural-lands>)

## **About the Stormwater Work Group**

The Stormwater Work Group is a coalition of federal, tribal, state and local government, business, environmental, agriculture and research interests working to develop a Stormwater Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for Puget Sound at the request of the Puget Sound Partnership and Department of Ecology. The strategy is intended to provide a coordinated, integrated approach to quantifying the stormwater problem in Puget Sound and to help us efficiently and effectively manage stormwater to reduce harm to the ecosystem.

More information (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/swworkgroup.html>)