

Stormwater Work Group Reporter

July 2014

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

Ten effectiveness studies will be implemented with permittee funding

Since 2010 the Stormwater Work Group (SWG) has been working to define stormwater management program effectiveness studies that answer the most important questions agreed upon by the stakeholders. Permittees have a vested interest in the resulting information, which should be directly useful for adapting their stormwater management programs. Earlier this year the SWG, with funding from the Washington Department of Ecology, hosted a webinar, two public workshops, and a survey of permittees as part of the process to gather, discuss, evaluate, and select proposals for effectiveness studies. The outcome of this process was ten studies to begin in the coming months. Each study helps answer a priority question about stormwater management program activities. A second round of studies is envisioned to begin in about two years.

More information (http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/ps_monitoring_docs/SWworkgroupDOCS/11June2014RecommendationsRSMP_Effectiveness_S&T.pdf; <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/swgworkshop.html>)

Stream monitoring sites confirmed, sampling to begin in January

The first agreement to use the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP) pooled funds account resulted in a confirmed list of the RSMP small streams status and trends monitoring sites. Ecology's new RSMP Coordinator is working with interested local government staff and the U.S. Geological Survey to plan to conduct the sampling next year.

More information (<https://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home/pooled-resources-oversight>)

WSDOT will participate in regional monitoring through their permit

The municipal stormwater NPDES permit for the Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) includes a requirement to participate in the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP). WSDOT chose among options to contribute to the RSMP pooled funds account for status and trends monitoring in receiving waters, to monitor additional parameters, or to monitor additional sites. WSDOT officially notified Ecology that they will participate by making annual contributions to the RSMP pooled funds account.

More information (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/wsdot.html>)

Pooled Resources Oversight Committee guiding RSMP implementation

The recently formed Pooled Resources Oversight Committee is reviewing the scope, schedule, budget, and planned deliverables of contracts to implement the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP). Four representatives of permittees and three representatives of other stakeholders comprise the Committee.

More information (<https://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home/pooled-resources-oversight>)

Agricultural runoff effectiveness monitoring recommendations approved

In June the Stormwater Work Group approved a final set of recommendations for monitoring agricultural runoff. These recommendations for effectiveness monitoring will be incorporated into an overall strategy and implementation plan along with prior sets of recommendations for monitoring nutrients, pathogens, sediment, and pesticides.

More information (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/mtgsummaries.html>;
<https://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home/runoff-from-agricultural-lands>)

About the Stormwater Work Group

The Stormwater Work Group (SWG) is part of the Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP). The SWG is a coalition of representatives of local, state, and federal governments, environmental and business organizations, tribes, and agriculture. The SWG formed in October 2008 to develop a Stormwater Assessment and Monitoring Program for Puget Sound (SWAMPPS) that provides a strategic, coordinated, and integrated approach to quantifying the stormwater problem in Puget Sound. SWAMPPS is intended to help us efficiently and effectively manage stormwater to reduce harm to the ecosystem. The SWG's many technical subgroups actively support SWAMPPS implementation. The Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP) implemented through the municipal stormwater permits is part of SWAMPPS.

More information (www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/swworkgroup.html)

Prior issues available for download

This is the nineteenth issue of the SWG Reporter. Previous issues are available for download at our website.

More information (sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/swg-reporter)