

Stormwater Work Group Reporter

October 2015

Key news and information you need to stay current on the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP) and the strategic approach to stormwater monitoring and assessment to reduce stormwater impacts to Puget Sound

Summer stream sampling completed, analysis team assembled

Sediment chemistry and watershed health monitoring (including stream benthos sampling) was conducted this summer at 87 sites on small streams in the Puget Lowland. Field crews visited more than 200 sites, some of them multiple times, in attempt to get the 100 planned. A team of scientists from King County, U.S. Geological Survey, Ecology, and the Puget Sound Partnership has been assembled to analyze and report on the findings from the RSMP stream sampling effort.

More information: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/rsmp/status.html>

Urban retrofit study baseline hydrology monitoring to begin this month

The City of Redmond completed the study design for a RSMP Effectiveness Study to track changes in stream health following intensive retrofitting and instream restoration activities. The study will compare retrofitted small urban watersheds to “control” watersheds without retrofits and to “reference” watersheds that are mostly forested. The study is planned to collect ten years of data to assess trends in key indicators of stream health.

More information: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/rsmp/effective.html>

More effectiveness studies will begin next year

The SWG has begun to define the process by which a second round of RSMP effectiveness studies will be identified. From the first round, six studies are underway and four are in the contracting process. Approximately \$1.5 million is available for this second round of studies. The process will begin with a request for letters of interest early in 2016. Study proponents will be asked to describe how the project will provide information that is useful to local governments in implementing permit-required stormwater management programs.

More information: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/rsmp/effective.html>

Nearshore sediment chemistry monitoring team assembled

Marine nearshore sediment monitoring will be conducted next summer by a team led by USGS and including Washington Dept. of Natural Resources, Manchester Environmental Laboratory, and King County. The team is writing a scope of work to complete the QAPP and conduct monitoring at 40 sites along Puget Sound Urban Growth Area shorelines at about 6' depth. Mussel contaminant monitoring will be conducted this winter at most of the same sites.

More information: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/rsmp/status.html>

IDDE data compilation and evaluation underway

As part of the RSMP Source Identification Information Repository (SIDIR) a consultant for the City of Lakewood has begun to compile the illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE) incident tracking data reported in Ecology's Permit and Reporting Information System (PARIS). The SWG will hear about initial findings in November. The purpose of the analysis is to identify patterns in illicit discharges and permittees' responses to inform methods and approaches and prioritize source control effectiveness studies.

More information: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/rsmp/source.html>

Sixth RSMP quarterly budget report coming soon

RSMP project deliverables are posted on the RSMP web page. Ecology gives regular budget and progress reports as part of the RSMP oversight process. The report for the period from July 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015 is expected to be released in late October and posted with previous reports.

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

Join our effort!

Our subgroups and caucuses are discussing ways we might improve RSMP implementation. We need more representation of tribes and local, state, federal, business, and environmental caucuses on the work group and in our subcommittees. Our meetings are open to all interested parties. Contact [Karen Dinicola](#) to be added to a list.

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

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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 2008 to develop a strategic, coordinated, and integrated approach to quantifying the stormwater problem in Puget Sound that will help us efficiently and effectively manage stormwater to reduce harm to the ecosystem. The SWG's many technical subgroups actively support implementation of the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP) implemented through the municipal stormwater permits.

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

Prior issues available for download

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

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