

Stormwater Work Group Reporter

December 2009

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

Public comments on draft strategy document now posted

The Stormwater Work Group (SWG) has posted all public comments on the Draft Stormwater Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for the Puget Sound Region, Vol. 1: Scientific Framework. To view the comments, click on the following link: <http://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home/strategy-document-comments/public-comments-received>. Comments gathered at the Nov. 10 Puget Sound Stormwater Monitoring Workshop are also available at the same link. "We thank everyone for their comments and greatly appreciate the time and effort that went into reviewing the Draft Strategy and providing this valuable feedback," said SWG Chair Jim Simmonds. The SWG is currently in the process of compiling all of the comments and, as a group, will organize comments into themes. SWG members will evaluate the comments within each of the themes and make changes to the strategy document based on their own experience and knowledge of stormwater, ecology and policy. Comments will also be evaluated within the context of the scope and the mandate of the SWG. Now that the comment period has concluded, the SWG is on track to finalize the Monitoring and Assessment Strategy early next year and develop a draft implementation plan by May 2010. Participants in the Nov. 10 workshop also addressed questions pertaining to implementation, and this input will be most helpful as the SWG launches the next phase of this effort.

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

Scientific peer review comments available for review

In addition to the Nov. 10 workshop and public comment period, the Stormwater Work Group conducted a formal scientific peer review of the Draft Stormwater Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for the Puget Sound Region, Vol. 1: Scientific Framework. The formal peer reviews have been posted and can be viewed here:

<http://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home/strategy-document-comments/formal-scientific-peer-reviews>. The purpose of the peer review process is to enhance the quality and credibility of the scientific basis and framework of the Draft Strategy document. The peer review panel includes: Rich Horner (University of Washington), Bob Pitt (University of Alabama), Jean Spooner (North Carolina State University), Tom Schueler (Chesapeake Stormwater Network) and Steve Weisberg (Southern California Coastal Water Research Project). The SWG will prepare a formal response to these reviews. To see the Peer Review and Scientific Input Plan being used to guide this process, click here:

<http://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home/peer-review-subgroup/SWGpeerreviewplan9.16.09.doc?attredirects=0&d=1>.

Stormwater Work Group briefs Science Panel

On Nov. 18, Stormwater Work Group Chair Jim Simmonds and Project Manager Karen Dinicola briefed the Puget Sound Science Panel on the group's progress to date in creating a regional Stormwater Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for Puget Sound. The SWG representatives updated the Panel on the schedule and approach to finalize, adopt and implement the draft strategy, including the formal peer review process. Science Panel members and staff will work with the SWG to discuss scientific and stakeholder feedback, the SWG's process for and progress in addressing these comments, a possible Panel role in responding to major issues raised by the scientific peer reviewers, and using the SWG process as a model for establishing the overall ecosystem monitoring program.

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. 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.

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