

Stormwater Work Group Reporter

March 2010

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

Stormwater Work Group revising scientific framework

The Stormwater Work Group (SWG) has finished reviewing and considering the hundreds of comments it received on the draft scientific framework document released last November and is now finalizing revisions to the document based on this feedback. "Stormwater Work Group members have made many decisions in response to comments, and I believe the scientific framework will be a stronger document because of the valuable input we received," said SWG Chair Jim Simmonds. This is the first of two documents that will comprise the *Stormwater Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for the Puget Sound Region*. The scientific framework (Volume 1) describes what decisions were needed and were made about priorities for data collection, what information needs to be collected and what analyses need to be conducted. The SWG will release the revised framework, together with the draft implementation plan (Volume 2), at the end of April. The SWG is also developing a response to the formal peer reviews of the draft scientific framework. The decisions the SWG has made in responding to all of the comments can be viewed here:

More information (<http://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home/strategy-document-comments>)

Effort to develop implementation plan for priority monitoring activities underway

The Stormwater Work Group (SWG) is in the process of recommending roles and responsibilities for stormwater monitoring needed to implement a *Stormwater Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for Puget Sound*. The SWG plans to release a draft implementation plan at the end of April for a public comment period. Specifically, the draft plan will describe:

- Who will collect what data, when, where and how;
- What methods, protocols and data reporting standards will they adhere to; and
- How the collective capacity and resources of the region will be brought together to provide the regional understanding of stormwater impacts and efficacy of management actions that are needed to recover Puget Sound and the waters that feed it.

More information (<http://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home/implementation-planning-approach-subgroup>)

Regional stormwater monitoring workshop planned for May 19

The Stormwater Work Group (SWG) will hold a third public workshop on Wednesday, May 19 at the Renton Community Center. The purpose of the workshop is to gather feedback on the forthcoming implementation plan for the *Stormwater Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for Puget Sound*. The workshop will be a good opportunity to hear an overview of the plan and provide input, and all stakeholders and interested members of the public are encouraged to attend.

More information (<http://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home>)

Strategy development process focused on June deadline

The Stormwater Work Group is on track to develop a *Stormwater Monitoring and Assessment Strategy for Puget Sound* by June 2010. The Department of Ecology established the deadline so that the document could be used in developing the monitoring requirements to be included in the next round of municipal stormwater NPDES permits. The timeline for this effort also helps meet the Puget Sound Partnership's mandate to develop an ecosystem monitoring program and falls within state budget process deadlines.

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

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.

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