

Stormwater Work Group Reporter

March 2011

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 representatives meet with Ecology Director Ted Sturdevant

Last December, representatives of the caucuses of the Stormwater Work Group (SWG) briefed Ecology Director Ted Sturdevant, Josh Baldi, special assistant to the director, and Karen Terwilleger, governmental relations director, on the SWG's recommendations for municipal stormwater permit monitoring. "Ted, Josh and Karen all were generous in their praise for the work of the Stormwater Work Group, and all were extremely thankful for the thoughtful and useful recommendations that had been generated," said SWG Chair Jim Simmonds. "They all clearly received the message that it is the opinion of the members of the SWG that these recommendations should be implemented in the next municipal NPDES stormwater permit, regardless of when that permit is issued," he added. Specifically, the Ecology management team noted that the level of consensus on the monitoring recommendations is very broad and strong. They also commented that among the key selling points of the recommendations are the efficiencies associated with pooling resources. Additionally, it was stated that stormwater management is a high priority for the Governor and that we could expect the Governor's budget to reflect this continued support. Finally, Sturdevant said that Ecology is very interested in seeing this effort succeed, and that the agency will examine the state's role in sharing some of the costs and will work on permit language implementing the recommendations.

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

Ecology to share preliminary draft monitoring language in May

Preliminary draft language for monitoring and other NPDES municipal stormwater permit requirements will be released for an informal public comment period from May 2 through June 3, 2011. The SWG expects the monitoring language will be based on our October 2010 [Recommendations for Municipal Stormwater Permit Monitoring](#).

More information (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/2012Reissuance.html>)

Next Steps: Commenting on preliminary draft monitoring language

With the opportunity to comment on preliminary draft monitoring language in stormwater permits fast approaching, the SWG is seeking to advance some key messages with elected officials and opinion leaders. "I believe that having stormwater managers, elected officials and others understand the thinking behind the Stormwater Work Group recommendations will be helpful as the comment period gets underway," said SWG Chair Jim Simmonds. Following are some of the key messages/highlights of the SWG recommendations:

- Pooling resources is essential to minimize the cost and maximize the benefits of monitoring. This is especially true for smaller permitted jurisdictions with limited resources and monitoring experience.
- The SWG considered many options for establishing an entity to administer the pooled funding approach for the next permit and agreed that at this time, Ecology is the only viable option to serve this role.
- The SWG should oversee the pooled funding approach.
- Pooled funds will pay to monitor, share information, and study program effectiveness.

To help individuals better understand the recommendations, the SWG has produced two documents: a [one-page summary](#) highlighting the recommendations, along with a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document.

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

Stormwater Work Group seeks ideas for effectiveness studies

The SWG needs your ideas for regional stormwater management effectiveness studies. All interested parties are encouraged to submit ideas, which are due to the SWG before March 31, 2011. In April, the SWG will begin to decide what topics to recommend to Ecology include in RFPs for studies that are expected to be conducted using pooled resources from municipal stormwater permittees.

More information (<https://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/new---form-for-submitting-effectiveness-study-ideas>)

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>)