

Stormwater Work Group Reporter

May 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

Ecology seeks comments on preliminary draft permit language

Preliminary draft language for monitoring requirements in municipal stormwater NPDES permits has been released for an informal public comment period from May 16 through June 17, 2011. Ecology's proposed monitoring language is largely based on the SWG's [Recommendations for Municipal Stormwater Permit Monitoring](#) submitted in October 2010. Following are some of the key 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.
- Pooled funds will pay to monitor, share information, and study program effectiveness.
- 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 provide oversight of the pooled funding approach.

The SWG encourages all interested parties to submit comments to Ecology on the proposed permit language. After considering the comments received during this informal comment period, Ecology will release revised formal draft permit language in October 2011 for a three month public comment period.

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

Stormwater Work Group solicits input on forming an Oversight Committee

The SWG is proposing an oversight process to complement and support the proposed permit language and boilerplate cost-sharing agreement by which Ecology proposes to administer the pooled funding approach and implement the regional stormwater monitoring program. The SWG proposes that an Oversight Committee be formally established to provide financial oversight of the pooled funds and also ensure that the SWG's technical recommendations are followed. The SWG seeks your input on the preliminary draft charter for this committee. Comments are due by COB on Monday, July 11, 2011.

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

Stormwater Work Group considers topics for regional effectiveness studies

The SWG sincerely appreciates the time and effort taken by all of you who submitted ideas for regional stormwater management effectiveness studies. The SWG is now in the process of compiling, categorizing, evaluating, and ranking the more than 40 ideas submitted in response to our request and the 130-plus ideas proposed by local governments in their annual reports to Ecology. The SWG will submit a proposed list of prioritized study topics to Ecology this summer. The list of topics is expected to be included in the October formal draft municipal NPDES stormwater permits. In early 2012, following the public comment period on the formal draft permits, a request for proposals will be issued to develop specific study designs for the final list of topics.

More information (<https://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home/selection-of-effectiveness-studies>)

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>)