

Building Cities in the Rain
Working Group
October 27, 2014
Meeting Summary

Participants: Larry Schaffner, Thurston County; Erika Harris, Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC); Bruce Wulkan, Puget Sound Partnership; Bob Vadas, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; Andy Rheaume, City of Redmond; Lorna Mauren, City of Tacoma; Dan Gariepy and Abbey Stockwell, Department of Ecology (Ecology); Heather Trim, Futurewise; John Palmer, EPA; Kevin Buckley, Seattle Public Utilities; and Heather Ballash and Anthony Boscolo, Department of Commerce.

Presentations

Kevin Buckley, Seattle Public Utility, presented the City's "Prioritization Tools used for the Integrated Plan Development".

Heather Ballash and Erika Harris presented an overview of the state Growth Management Act, VISION 2040, and why the group should focus on designated regional growth centers under VISION 2040 for the purpose of this stormwater control transfer guidance.

Scope of guidance regarding "sending areas"

The environmental community is willing to work on guidance focused on regional growth centers as "sending areas", but not beyond that. The environmental community is not comfortable with the broader concept of density as a best management practice. Some in the group would like to look at expanding the guidance to a broader application beyond regional growth centers and to other parts of Puget Sound. Ecology sees some potential for a stormwater transfer control program outside of regional growth centers, but it has to have some environmental benefit. The group generally agreed to focus on regional growth centers as a first phase of the project, and to see how it goes. The group can then consider whether a broader application makes sense.

Elements of the guidance

The group then continued their work scoping the prioritization guidance. Items discussed in the last meeting were grouped into "buckets"/elements of the guidance per below. The multiple regulatory benefits need to be discussed in an introductory chapter. There was discussion about how equity and environmental justice should be considered in prioritizing retrofit areas. Also, how economics will be addressed in the guidance. The amount of data and collection of data, and the cost of collecting data will need to be addressed. There is concern that if this process requires the collection of new data it could become cost prohibitive.

These elements will be put in order of how they will be addressed in the guidance by the group at the next meeting.

- Introduction
 - Phasing of guidance/program
- Scale of basin/local program
 - Urban or regional
 - Level of analysis
 - Watershed planning

- Jurisdictional boundaries
- Public and stakeholder processes
 - Interest statement
 - Inclusive
 - Stakeholders
 - Public process
 - Silos
- Multiple regulatory benefits
 - Growth Management Act – land use and capital facilities
 - Clean Water Act, including the stormwater permit requirements
 - Transportation infrastructure
 - Toxics
- Restoration/Protection/Community Objectives
 - Beneficial uses
 - Salmon recovery
 - Ecosystem Recovery Targets
- Local Conditions/Context
 - Commercial and industrial areas
 - *Critical areas?* (for the group's consideration at the next meeting per Heather B)
- Prioritization Criteria in receiving areas
 - Watershed analysis tools, e.g., instream flows
 - Existing data
 - New data
 - Environmental and social justice/Equity (not necessarily most impacted “hammered” areas)
 - Multiple community benefits, including economic development
- Implementation
 - Monitoring
 - Adaptive management
 - Accountability
 - Funding
- Tribal Treaty Rights
- Evaluation criteria for sending areas/regional growth centers
- Parking lot considerations
 - Cost of the process – what is the appropriate point to stop studying?



This is tough to see at normal size. But if you select View and then Zoom it to 250%, it will make it big enough for you to read to make sure I have captured it correctly in the notes.

Next meetings:

- Thursday, November 13, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Puget Sound Regional Council, Seattle
- Thursday, December 11, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Center for Urban Waters, Tacoma