

Stormwater Work Group Meeting Summary

Wednesday November 13, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Meeting Overview

The Stormwater Work Group (SWG) held a virtual meeting on November 13, 2024.

Meeting topics included:

- Inviting SWG members to join the **Study Solicitation Subgroup** through an [interest form](#)
- Sharing **SAM project and financial updates**
- Presenting on [Full Proposal 4](#) in preparation for a **vote** at the February 12, 2025 meeting. The vote will decide if FP4 will be funded or not.
- Hearing about several **funding opportunities** from PSEMP and the Stormwater SIL
- Discussing recent **6PPD updates**, including sampling requirements in the [Industrial Stormwater General Permit \(ISGP\)](#), lab accreditation, the [6PPD Action Plan Legislative Report](#), [stormwater research](#), and the [SWG 6PPD Subgroup](#)
- Discussing strategies to **equitably include Eastern WA permittees** in the SWG
- Planning for an **in-person SWG meeting in 2025**
- Updating the SWG on the status of **voting representatives**

Meeting Participants

71 people participated in this SWG meeting. People included:

14 Voting Members

Present: Todd Hunsdorfer, Meiring Borchers, Jessica Huybregts, Don McQuilliams, Dana de Leon, Abby Barnes, Nick Hehemann, Jeff Killelea, Katrina Radach, Rae Eaton, Rich Sheibley, Jane Dewell, Lori Blair, Maureen Meehan

Absent: Gary Bahr

There are 24 total voting member spots in the SWG. Currently, there are 15 filled positions. There are vacancies in the state, federal, Tribal, environmental, and business caucuses. Two additional seats are open for Eastern WA permittees.

4 Ecology Administrative Staff

Madison Bristol, Shelby Giltner, Emma Froembling, Kit McGurn

Ecology administrative staff support the SWG through membership outreach, organizing the agenda, notetaking, meeting facilitation, virtual meeting technical support, updating the SWG website, and managing the SWG listserv.

53 Additional Attendees

Jesus Adame, Alan Chapman, Amanda Royal, Anurag Mishra, April Hardy, Brad Archbold, Blaine Chesterfield, Brian Hite, Melissa Brown, Catherine Harris (NWIFC), Charlie Kratzer (Suquamish Tribe), Nicole Chen, Christian Nichols, Cory Shaw, Courtney Littrell, Dara Osborne, Darla Smith, David Kangiser, Mike Ehlebracht, Emily Smith, Emily Grimes, Erik Peterson (EPA), Troy Fields, George Reed-Harmon, Nikki Guillot, Madison Hattaway (ECY), Jeff Davis, Jennifer Bare, Patricia Johnson (ECY), Kevin Fitzgerald, Joanna Larson, Laurencio Cota, LeeAnn Racz, Lisa Jones, Lora Petso, Eli Mackiewicz, Emily McCartan (ECY), Megan Darrow, Mike Coenen, Hannah Mittelstaedt (PSEMP), Teizeen Mohamedali (ECY), Morgan Jennie, Chelsea Morris (ECY), Aurore Musy, Raghu Namburi (ECY), Pete Stoltz, River Wan, Erika Shaffer, Abbey Stockwell (ECY), Alex Stote (DNR), Dorie Sutton, Tammie Wilson (Muckleshoot Tribe), Amy Waterman (ECY)

Thank you as always to our voting representatives, members, staff, and partner organizations for your commitment to the SWG community.

Sincerely,

Don McQuilliams, SWG Chair

Abby Barnes, SWG Chair

Madison Rose Bristol, SWG Coordinator

Full Meeting Summary

SAM Updates

- As of September, **Raghu Namburi is the new SAM Coordinator**. Raghu believes in the current SAM framework and is looking for ideas to enhance and to meet the needs of SWG members. Raghu appreciates and encourages SWG members to reach out to him with any thoughts or questions at raghu.namburi@ecy.wa.gov
- The **Study Solicitation Subgroup** will form in 2025. Please fill out this [interest form](#) if you want to help shape the study topics and selection process for Round 5 SAM projects.
 - Participating is a great way to ensure that municipal funds improve your stormwater management programs.
 - The [Round 4 Request for Proposals](#) includes a list of the previous study selection topics. This is an example of what these topics can look like.
- Some **Eastern WA permittees** will be contributing to SAM projects and joining the SWG in 2025 because of new options under S8 in the 2024 E WA MS4 permit. A meeting was held on November 13 with E WA permittees to help them feel welcomed to the SWG.
- **SAM project updates:**
 - [Current SAM contracts](#)
 - The [2021/2022 SAM Mussel Monitoring Report](#) was published
 - The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Clark County set up and evaluated new sites for water year 2025
 - The amendment was signed for the 10th and final year of the Redmond Paired Watershed Study. SAM is expecting the 2nd trend analysis in the next quarter.
 - The Seattle 6PPD street sweeping project is waiting on city council review before it is finalized
- **SAM Finances:**
 - The deadline for SAM contribution collection is December 1, 2024
 - Annual report for 2024; quarterly report posted at [SAM administration](#)
 - For questions about SAM finances, reach out to Raghu at raghu.namburi@ecy.wa.gov and Chelsea at chelsea.morris@ecy.wa.gov

Q&A

Question: Would it be a conflict of interest to be a member of PRO-C and the study solicitation subgroup?

Answer: No. It has not been a conflict of interest in the past.

Question: What's the difference between the 2019 to 2024 budgets? How much did the budget increase?

Answer: It is about a 40% increase. Much of this is due to rising administrative costs. We can talk in more detail about this at the February meeting.

PRO-C Updates

- PRO-C manages the scope, schedules, budgets of SAM studies and reviews ethics on contracts with Ecology.
- At this meeting, Todd Hunsdorfer shared details about the remaining SAM proposals that were not funded in Round 4. **At the February 2024 meeting, a SWG vote will be held to approve or not approve [Full Proposal 4 \(FP4\)](#) for funding.**
 - FP4 description: Development of a catch basin model to predict sediment accumulation and clean out frequency. King County is the project lead.
 - Estimated cost is \$317,100 with a 4-8% increase to pay for consultant and employee salary increases
 - There were a few concerns and comments on FP4:
 - Contrasting views on the usefulness to jurisdictions
 - Uncertainty in the data availability that drives the model
 - Current PRO-C account predictions indicate at least a balance of \$900,000 that could support funding FP4

Q&A

Question: Have you spoken to King County yet to know if they are still interested in having FP4 funded?

Answer: Yes, King County is still interested in running FP4 if funded.

Question: Does FP4 relate to the study from years ago?

Answer: It is somewhat related to past King County projects – FP4 will be a projection, and it is more technical and regionally applicable than past projects.

Question: What about FP5 with the City of Tacoma, which was also not funded in Round 4?

Answer: We reached out to the project leads for FP5 and they were no longer interested in receiving SAM funding. However, Tacoma is still running the project because it will benefit their stormwater management program.

Updates from our partners

Puget Sound Ecosystem and Monitoring Program (PSEMP)

- See the [PSEMP Calendar](#) for upcoming and past events
- Puget Sound Partnership has several upcoming funding opportunities:
 - **Monitoring to Accelerate Recovery (MAR):** This funding opportunity is aimed to support monitoring projects supporting Vital Signs or addressing information needs in the recovery system. The solicitation for project proposals will be released in early January. Proposals due in late March. More information can be found in the [full Pre-RFI announcement](#).

- **2025-2027 Salmon Science Investigations Projects:** PSP funds projects every biennium that address priority salmon science needs to inform and accelerate Puget Sound salmon recovery. The solicitation for project proposals will be released in early December. Proposals due in late March. More information can be found in the [full Pre-RFI announcement](#).
- **Puget Sound Scientific Research:** Projects funded through this opportunity will advance one or more Priority Science Work Actions identified in the [Science Work Plan for 2025-2029](#), which will be published later this year. More information will be posted soon on the [PSP Funding Opportunities page](#), where you can also find details from the previous funding cycle.
- The PSEMP Spatial Data Work Group hosted a **Stormwater Spatial Data workshop** on September 18. They had presentations on King County stormwater modeling and VELMA stormwater applications. A recording and workshop materials are available at this [link](#).

National Estuary Program Stormwater Strategic Initiative Lead (Stormwater SIL)

- The Stormwater SIL provide grants to advance Puget Sound Recovery by investing in both programmatic and local actions that accelerate recovery.
- [RFPs open now through 12/31](#): Climate Resiliency, Toxics in Fish, and Multi-Benefit Regional Facilities/Stormwater Parks
- For questions about funding opportunities, reach out to Emily at emily.mccartan@ecy.wa.gov

Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology)

6PPD Work

- [Industrial Stormwater General Permit \(ISGP\)](#)
 - The Final ISGP was reissued on December 2, 2024
 - Three types of facilities - transportation, waste management, and hazardous waste – will be required to sample for 6PPD-quinone in their stormwater starting in 2028. The types of activities common at these facilities, such as maneuvering heavy-duty vehicles in tight spaces, means 6PPD-quinone could be more of a concern at these sites.
- **WSDOT MS4 permit**
 - Current plan is to publish the draft in Spring 2025 and reissue the final permit in Summer 2025
- **6PPD Action Plan**
 - New [6PPD Legislative Progress Report and Recommendations](#)

- The Action Plan guided several Ecology budget priorities, including permanent staff to support the SWG, continued funding for BMP effectiveness studies, and permanent staff support for bridging research with stormwater permits and manuals
- Ecology staff, in partnership with other state agencies, participated in the [Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Natural Resources Summit](#) from November 18-19 at the Tulalip Resort. There were dedicated 6PPD sessions on both days.
- View the [6PPD Stormwater Research Website](#) for project descriptions and deliverables from our 20+ research projects

Additional Work

- **Municipal Stormwater Permits**
 - Went into effect in Summer 2024
 - Send in payments by December 1, 2024
- **PFAS**
 - The EPA set maximum drinking water levels for PFAS
 - Aquatic Life Toxics Criteria for PFAS published in Fall 2024

Q&A

Question: What are the 6PPD-related changes to the ISGP in response to public comments?

Answer: Based on comments we are applying the 6PPDQ monitoring requirements more broadly than what was in the draft, including the warehouse sector. The draft permit proposed a 6PPDQ sampling exemption for small businesses. Based on public comments, small businesses will not be exempt but only have to sample 1x/year. In comparison, other facilities within the transportation and waste management sectors will sample 1x/quarter. The new requirements give facilities 3 years to get ahead to help reduce their 6PPD-quinone concentration before monitoring kicks in in 2028 and allow more labs to become accredited to sample 6PPDQ.

Question: Will more labs be able to test for 6PPD-quinone by 2028?

Answer: Currently only one lab, Manchester Environmental Lab, is accredited for 6PPD-quinone in water samples. We are hoping there will be more labs accredited by this time and are addressing bottlenecks.

Question: What is causing lab accreditation delays? Are we being halted by the applications not being submitted or approved fast enough, or is it a problem of not having lab equipment?

Answer: Several labs are in the queue for accreditation. For more information about specific barriers affecting lab accreditation, please reach out Rebecca Wood at rebecca.wood@ecy.wa.gov in the [Lab Accreditation Unit](#).

Comment: Eurofins is accredited by Oregon’s lab accreditation program (ORELAP) and has submitted their request for accreditation in WA State. They are still waiting for accreditation.

Comment: The SWG Chairs would like to put together a letter addressed to Ecology’s Lab Accreditation Unit (LAU) expressing concern over delays in accreditation for 6PPD-quinone. Additionally, the 6PPD Subgroup has previously requested that LAU speak on this matter at the October 2024 Subgroup meeting, but they declined. Ecology is committed to having transparent communication on this matter, and Jeff Killelea stated he would communicate with LAU to have a representative speak at an upcoming SWG meeting.

Question: If ISGP permittees are only using results for monitoring (without a limit/benchmark), are they still required to use an accredited lab for samples?

Answer: Yes.

Internal SWG Affairs

- E WA permittees now have the option to join SAM due to new S8 permit options. SWG chairs, staff, and Ecology permit writers met with E WA permittees on November 13 to better understand where they stand on joining SAM. Around 30 E WA permittees could be added to SAM.
- **The SWG held a discussion about the inclusion of E WA permittees.** However, E WA permittees will ultimately decide their preferred representation structure, with the consent of other SWG members.
 - Current SWG members agreed that adding 2 voting members to represent E WA would not unbalance SWG representation. Additional considerations that still need to be more thought out include:
 - Evaluating the distribution of voting members in relation to regions or population counts
 - Evaluating what WSDOT should be considered – currently, it acts as a state agency, local government, and an E and W WA member. WSDOT is officially a state agency voting member.
 - Considering two caucus options:
 - Option 1: E WA permittees represent their own caucus. With this option, the caucus would be a unique space to focus on E WA interests and needs. If they become their own caucus, it would be a good idea to regularly hold joint caucus meetings for E and W WA permittees.
 - Option 2: E WA permittees become a part of the local government caucus. Joining this caucus would allow E WA permittees to have conversations with other local permittees. Folks stated that if they

were integrated into the local caucus, they believe the local caucus could still represent differences of opinions.

- The SWG discussed the proposal to guarantee a SAM study with relevance to E WA permittees. The SWG came to a consensus that they did not feel comfortable guaranteeing a study, but did propose changing the scoring rubric to more equitably distribute SAM funds. Details:
 - Changing the scoring rubric through the Study Solicitation Subgroup could give E WA permittees additional points, so long as the study is high quality. They could also score points for the study being applicable outside of W WA. E WA permittees are being invited to be a part of this subgroup to further shape the selection process.
 - The subgroup could also change the study criteria. Currently, a fact sheet and presentations are required for SAM proposals. We could also require a regional applicability summary.
 - Historically, most SAM studies are funded. SWG members expressed that we have more in common as stormwater managers than differences. They are not worried about funding studies that have little use for W or E WA permittees exclusively.
 - Consider the difference in population size and contribution funds of E WA permittees relative to other permittees. Even if their funds are smaller, it is important to support the growth of E WA stormwater management.
 - E WA will have access to the [Selection of SAM Studies 2015-2024](#) booklet, which gives examples of projects with relevance in E WA.
- 2025 In-Person SWG Meeting
 - Participants largely agreed that the 2024 in-person meeting was a success and valuable. They would like another in-person meeting in 2025.
 - Fall tends to be busy with in-person meetings. The group proposed that the May SWG meeting be our next in-person meeting.
 - It was advised that the meeting should occur later in the day to account for commuter traffic. For example, 10:30am-2pm (with a 30-minute lunch break/social hour at 12pm).
 - The meeting location should also be accessible for E WA permittees
 - Possible meeting locations were proposed. The SWG Coordinator will reach out to the following people to discuss these location logistics:
 - Dara Osborne: Ellensburg, Suncadia in Roslyn
 - Rich Sheibley: USGS Room
 - Jane Dewell: SeaTac
- SWG Charter
 - The SWG Charter and Workplan will be revised in mid- to late 2025

- This will allow time for E WA permittees to get situated in the SWG and propose concrete changes to the structure
- SWG Voting Members
 - The SWG Coordinator is compiling the most up-to-date membership list of voting and subgroup members. The municipal caucus is full, and there are vacancies in the state, federal, Tribal, environmental, and business caucuses.
 - Lori Blair offered to reach out to the WA Stormwater Center to see if they could recruit more voting members. She also could help add another business caucus representative.
 - Puget Soundkeeper and the WA Environmental Council could be candidates for the environmental caucus.

SWG 6PPD Subgroup

- The SWG 6PPD Subgroup hosted a successful in-person meeting with a hybrid option on October 4, 2024. Thank you to the City of Bellingham Public Works Department for hosting the event and organizing site tours of the Little Squalicum Estuary Restoration project and Padden Creek Water Quality Capital Facility. About 45 people attended the meeting in-person, and over 60 people attended virtually. See the [meeting notes](#) for more information.
- The next SWG 6PPD Subgroup meeting is in the first quarter of the 2025, date and time to be determined.
- The SWG discussed relevant topics for future SWG 6PPD Subgroup meetings, including:
 - Turf fields and rubber mulch
 - Roadways and traffic density impacts. A [study with NV5](#) is investigating this.
 - Emergent contaminant tracker
 - Relative 6PPD contributions from parking lots
- There has also been staffing changes within the 6PPD Ecology Team. Tanya Williams and Morgan Baker have transitioned to new roles. Shelby Giltner (shelby.giltner@ecy.wa.gov) and Madison Bristol (madison.bristol@ecy.wa.gov) are filling stormwater gaps, while Kimberly Grieves (kimberly.grieves@ecy.wa.gov) is stepping in as the 6PPD Agency Lead.

Future Meeting Dates

The next regular SWG meeting is **February 12, 2025**. Please mark your calendars for **February 12, May 14, September 10, and November 12** – all Wednesdays from 9am - 12pm. We may occasionally extend our meeting time; any extended meeting time will be determined at the previous meeting.

Proposed meeting topics for our February 12 meeting include:

- Welcoming new E WA permittees to the SWG
- **Vote:** Approve or not approve FP4 for funding
- Viewing SAM presentations, potentially including:
 - [Evaluation of Best Management Practices Maintenance Conditions](#), City of Bellevue and Herrera Environmental Consultants
 - [Water Budgets of Individual Local Trees](#), WA Department of Natural Resources, WA State University, City of Tacoma, The Evergreen State College, and Clemson University
 - [Lower Columbia Urban Streams](#), Clark County
- Sharing the listing tool from the SAM mobile business study
- Examining causes behind rising SAM costs
- Discussing 6PPD lab accreditation bottlenecks
- Hearing updates from our partners, PRO-C, and SAM studies

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View the SWG Website

We regularly update the [SWG website](#) with information about upcoming meetings, past meeting materials, and important SWG documents. If you have additional questions about the SWG, contact madison.bristol@ecy.wa.gov.