

# Stormwater Work Group Agenda

Wednesday February 12, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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## Significant Meeting Topics

- Welcoming **new Eastern WA permittees** into the SWG
- **Viewing a SAM presentation:** [Water Budgets of Individual Local Trees](#)
- Holding a discussion on **6PPD Lab Accreditation**
- **Vote:** Approve or not approve [Full Proposal 4 \(FP4\)](#) for funding
- Hearing updates from our partners, PRO-C, and SAM studies

## Agenda Summary

<b>9:00</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
9:05	Introductions: Eastern WA Members and Voting Representatives
9:20	SAM Presentation: Water Budgets of Individual Local Trees
<b>10:00</b>	<b>Break</b>
10:05	Updates from Our Partners
10:25	6PPD Lab Accreditation
<b>10:55</b>	<b>Break</b>
11:00	PRO-C Updates
11:15	SAM Updates
11:30	Internal SWG Affairs
11:50	Updates Related to Our Work
11:55	Wrap-up
<b>12:00</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>

## Full Agenda

### 9:00 Welcome – Abby Barnes, SWG Chair

- Welcome and review of the meeting's agenda and goals

### 9:05 Introductions: Eastern WA Members and Voting Representatives – Abby Barnes, SWG Chair

- This is the first SWG meeting where we officially have E WA members. **Welcome!**
- Verbal introductions of E WA members and existing voting representatives
- All other non-voting members can introduce themselves in the chat

### 9:20 SAM Presentation: Water Budgets of Individual Local Trees – WA Department of Natural Resources, WA State University, City of Tacoma, The Evergreen State College, and Clemson University

- [Presentation Link](#)
- This study examines how young native trees in the Pacific Northwest help manage stormwater by intercepting and using rainfall. Using both traditional and mobile sap flow sensors, we measured water use across different tree species in urban and semi-urban areas. We found that species played a bigger role than tree size in water uptake rate, and that street tree canopies reduced precipitation reaching the ground by 42-66% annually through a combination of transpiration and canopy interception.

### 10:00 Break

### 10:05 Updates from Our Partners – PSEMP, NEP SIL, WA Ecology

#### Puget Sound Ecosystem and Monitoring Program (PSEMP) - Hannah Mittelstaedt, PSEMP Coordinator

- Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) has several funding opportunities:
  - **Monitoring to Accelerate Recovery (MAR):** This funding opportunity is for collaborative proposals to address priority information needs to support and accelerate the recovery of the Puget Sound ecosystem. All projects are expected

to support the objectives of the [PSEMP Strategic Plan](#) and must align with one or more information need categories: (1) developing and reporting of Vital Sign Indicators and other types of measures used by PSP; or (2) assessing, synthesizing and disseminating monitoring information that can inform decision-making and support a thriving and resilient Puget Sound. Responses due March 28. Informational webinar is February 4, 1-2 pm, [registration required](#). More information linked [here](#).

- **Salmon Science Investigations (SSI):** This opportunity provides funding for collaborative proposals to conduct studies that support regional salmon recovery. Projects should advance progress towards self-sustaining, harvestable salmon populations that uphold Tribal Treaty Rights and support thriving communities and ecosystems in Puget Sound. Responses due March 10. More information linked [here](#) and on the [SSI webpage](#).
- **PSP News**
  - The **Science Work Plan** has been finalized and adopted by the PSP Science Panel! The [Priority Science to Support Puget Sound Recovery: A Science Work Plan for 2025-2029](#) (SWP) identifies 18 priority Science Work Actions and six broader recommendations to improve ongoing science and the resilience of Puget Sound. PSP anticipates funding projects related to the priority Science Work Actions through the Puget Sound Scientific Research solicitation, released later this Winter. Read the full announcement [here](#).
  - PSP's Planning Team in partnership with the Stormwater Strategic Initiative Lead is starting to update the **Puget Sound Action Agenda**, our community's shared plan for advancing Puget Sound recovery. Over the coming months, they are hosting topical workshops to evaluate and learn from successes and challenges to implementing the 2022-26 Action Agenda and revise the 2026-30 Action Agenda as needed. Partners and subject matter experts are invited to participate in various upcoming Action Agenda Topic workshops. You can find out more [here](#) and register for workshops [here](#).
    - Please contact the following SIL members if you have questions about specific topical workshops:
      - Stormwater workshops: Derek at [derek.day@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:derek.day@ecy.wa.gov)
      - Toxics workshops: Dustin at [dustin.bilhimer@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:dustin.bilhimer@ecy.wa.gov)
      - Land use and integrated watershed planning: Emily at [emily.mccartan@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:emily.mccartan@ecy.wa.gov)
- **Recent PSEMP Events**
  - The PSEMP Toxics Work Group hosted a **6PPDQ and Human Health** meeting on January 31. Meeting materials will be available at this [link](#).

- Upcoming PSEMP Events
  - The next **Coffee with PSEMP** is April 8 at 11am. This is an informal space for folks to connect, ask any and all questions, and engage in discussion. Please feel welcome to join us! Register ahead of time at this [link](#).
  - For the **full PSEMP calendar**, please follow this [link](#).
- PSEMP will be partnering with **Sea & Shorelines Solutions** January – September 2025 in a pilot effort for communications coaching and product development. This is not limited to just PSEMP projects, but a resource for the broader PSEMP community for projects you would like communications help on. Stay tuned for more information about how to work with the team on communication products!
- If you haven't yet, **subscribe to our newsletter** at this [link](#) to stay up to date on all PSEMP news. If you have an event, publication, or job opportunity you'd like to share in the newsletter, please email [Hannah.Mittelstaedt@psp.wa.gov](mailto:Hannah.Mittelstaedt@psp.wa.gov)

Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) - Jeff Killelea, Water Quality Program Section Manager and Madison Bristol, 6PPD Stormwater Planner

### State Freeze

- Governor Ferguson has continued the freeze on hiring, contracting, and travel for executive agencies, including the Department of Ecology. There is no direct impact to SAM projects as contracts funded through this effort are exempted from the freeze. With the current travel restrictions, Ecology staff will not be able to support in-person meetings until the travel freeze is revised or lifted. On the hiring side, Ecology has removed affected job announcements from our recruitment website.

### Permit Updates

- The **municipal stormwater permits** have been appealed by 3 parties: Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, Sound Transit, and Bonnie Blessing. Staff are busy responding to discovery requests related to these appeals.
- A draft of the **WSDOT MS4 permit** will be available for public review and comments in Spring 2025. The final permit is schedule to be reissued in Fall 2025.
- The **Industrial Stormwater General Permit** is currently subject to 6 appeals from 9 entities: Port of Tacoma, Port of Seattle, NW Seaport Alliance, SSA Terminals, Washington Public Ports Association, BNSF Railway, Washington Trucking Association, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance and Spokane Riverkeeper.
  - The final permit went into effect January 1, 2025 and Ecology will share guidance on how to comply with the permit's sampling requirements, including new 6PPDQ and PFAS sampling for certain industrial categories.

- Ecology is preparing to reissue the **Construction Stormwater and Sand and Gravel general permits**. Draft permits will be released for public comment this Spring, and final permits will be reissued in 2025.

## 6PPD Work

- We will be holding a conversation about **6PPD lab accreditation** shortly
- **Municon 2025:** There will be a Municon track dedicated to 6PPD from 8am – 5pm on May 21. Several of our projects will be presenting results during the conference.
- **6PPD stormwater BMP effectiveness research**
  - Recent publication: [Quality Assurance Project Plan](#) – EA Engineering study on unamended soils and vegetation
  - Ecology requested two more years of funding to continue BMP effectiveness research. Governor Inslee’s proposed budget included this funding. We are hopeful that the Legislative budget, which is expected to be approved mid-April, will also include this funding. Therefore, **we are starting the process of identifying priority 6PPD stormwater research topics and research partners.**
    - The SAM Study Solicitation Subgroup and 6PPD Subgroup will help identify priority research topics
    - **Funding eligibility:** local, state, or Tribal governments, contractors from the [statewide vendor pool](#), and [sole source contracts](#)
    - For more information, contact [madison.bristol@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:madison.bristol@ecy.wa.gov)

## 10:25 6PPD Lab Accreditation

- Lab accreditation for 6PPDQ water samples has been an ongoing topic of interest for the SWG. Recent SWG meetings have held discussions about this topic.
- **Update from Eli Mackiewicz, SWG 6PPD Subgroup Chair** - The SWG 6PPD Subgroup held a conversation with Ecology on February 5, 2025 regarding 6PPD lab accreditation. Eli will debrief this conversation with the SWG.
- **Update from Jeff Killelea, Ecology Water Quality Section Manager** – Jeff will fill in any additional details regarding lab accreditation from Ecology’s perspective.
- **Update from Abby Barnes, SWG Chair** – The SWG Chairs have drafted a letter to send to Ecology regarding lab accreditation. **Abby will lead a discussion about Eli and Jeff’s updates and the content of this letter.**
  - The SWG will either approve or not approve this letter through a virtual vote, which will be in the form of an email sent to voting members following this meeting.

10:55 Break

11:00 PRO-C Updates – Todd Hunsdorfer, PRO-C Chair

- **Vote to approve or not approve [Full Proposal 4 \(FP4\)](#) for funding**
  - Todd will provide a quick debrief in preparation of the vote
  - Please vote in the chat “Yes” to approve funding or “No” to not approve funding
- PRO-C recently conducted an evaluation of SAM and Ecology’s administrative support of the SWG. Todd will share results from this evaluation.

11:15 SAM Updates – Raghu Namburi, SAM Coordinator

- The **Round 5 SAM Study Solicitation process** will begin in early Spring this year
  - If you are interested in helping define funding priorities, please fill out the [Study Solicitation Subgroup interest form](#)
- **SAM welcomed 18 new members from EWA**
- **MuniCon 2025:** SAM is planning a poster session of projects completed in the last ten years.
- **[Quarterly financial reports](#):** Revised Q2 posted; Q3 will be posted shortly
- **Project Updates**
  - [Status & Trend Studies](#) extended: Puget Sound Nearshore Mussels, Puget Sound Small Stream, and Lower Columbia Urban Stream monitoring
  - New [Effectiveness Study](#) Contracted: Seattle Public Utilities’ study measuring 6PPDQ in sweeping solids (FP2)-
  - [Effectiveness Study](#) Extended: WSU’s study on the longevity of biological protection using bioretention is extended to June 2025.
  - Upcoming [Effectiveness Study](#): Tacoma’s FP6 Updated infiltration methods for Stormwater manuals
- Reporting on concern raised over **increased SAM costs**

11:30 Internal SWG Affairs – Abby Barnes, SWG Chair

- Information for new Eastern WA members
  - **Presentation** on SWG logistics, including the listserv, website, and contact information
  - **Discuss:** The SWG plans to add 2 voting seats specifically for E WA members. We could hold a vote as early as May to vote in these representatives, or we could do this at a later meeting. What is preferred?
  - **Discuss:** What stormwater issues are E WA permittees facing?

- **Discuss:** In-person meeting
  - Likely will not be able to host an in-person meeting in May because of the statewide spending freeze
  - A September or November in-person meeting are options

#### 11:50 Updates Related to Our Work

- **Discuss:** Additional updates that people would like to share during this meeting?
- **Discuss:** What would members like to see at the next SWG meeting?

#### 11:55 Wrap-up – Abby Barnes, SWG Chair

- Summarize decisions, action items, and next steps from today's meeting

#### 12:00 Adjourn

## Future Meeting Dates

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

At our meeting on Wednesday, May 14, we will:

- Prepare to **vote** in E WA voting representatives
- View SAM presentations, potentially including:
  - [Evaluation of Best Management Practices Maintenance Conditions](#), City of Bellevue and Herrera Environmental Consultants
- Sharing the listing tool from the SAM mobile business study
- Hear updates from our partners
- Hear PRO-C and SAM study updates

## Stay in Touch by Joining these Email Distribution Lists

You can join any or all of our email lists on your GovDelivery [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). Enter your email address, click to add subscriptions, and navigate to the Water Quality Program list to find: **STORMWATER-ACTION-MONITORING**: up to three newsletters per year to hear about SAM study findings and upcoming workshops; **STORMWATER-WORK-GROUP** meeting agendas, materials, and summaries of our meetings, and additional announcements related to our work; and **SWG-6PPD-SUBGROUP** for meeting agendas and notes of those discussions.

## 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](mailto:madison.bristol@ecy.wa.gov).