

Stormwater Work Group

Meeting Summary

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

Meeting Overview

The Stormwater Work Group (SWG) held a virtual meeting on February 12, 2025.

Meeting topics included:

- Welcoming **new Eastern WA permittees** into the SWG
- **Viewing a SAM presentation:** [Water Budgets of Individual Local Trees](#)
- Hearing several **updates from PSEMP**, including funding opportunities and revising the [Puget Sound Action Agenda](#)
- Discussing **updates from Ecology** on the statewide spending freeze, permits, and 6PPD
- Sharing information about **6PPD Lab Accreditation** and writing a letter to Ecology
- **Voting to not approve Full Proposal 4 (FP4) for funding.** The SWG recommended project leads revise and resubmit their application for Round 5 funding.
- Recruiting new members for the SWG, PRO-C, and the [Round 5 Study Solicitation Subgroup process](#). Several voting seats are open in the SWG; if you are interested, reach out to madison.bristol@ecy.wa.gov

Meeting Participants

101 people participated in this SWG meeting. People included:

12 Voting Members

Present: Abby Barnes, Lori Blair, Dana De Leon, Nick Hehemann, Todd Hunsdorfer, Jess Huybregts, Jessica Atlakson, Jeff Killelea, Lori Blair, Meiring Borchers (alternate for Don McQuilliams), Hannah Mittelstaedt (alternate for Katrina Radach), Stella Collier

Absent: Rae Eaton, Rich Sheibley, Gary Bahr, Jane Dewell

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.

6 Ecology Administrative Staff

Madison Bristol, Raghu Namburi, Chelsea Morris, Emma Froembling, Shelby Giltner, Kit McGurn

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

83 Additional Attendees

Jesus Adame (E WA)	Colleen Parrott	Jennifer Bare	Morgan Jennie
Aimee Navickis-Brasch	Leslie Connelly (ECY)	Jennifer Saltonstall	Yago Perniciaro
(Evergreen Storm H2O)	Dara Osborne (E WA)	John Keefer	Katie Rathmell
Alan Chapman	Dimitrios Athanasiou	Patricia Johnson	River Wan (Pierce
Amy Georgeson	Dina Betts	(ECY)	County)
Brad Archbold	Evan Dobrowski (ECY)	Jennifer Karps	Bryce Robbert
Morgan Baker (ECY)	Mike Ehlebracht	Kathryn Shirley	Jessica Schwing (ECY)
Barb Tope	Eli Mackiewicz (City of	Keith Estes (Long	Graham Simon (ECY)
Cami Barham	Bellingham)	Live the Kings)	Stacy Patterson
David Batts	Meghan Elkey (King	Kevin Fitzgerald	Abbey Stockwell
Robert Bernhard	County Environmental	Lisa Jones	(ECY)
Blaine Chesterfield	Lab)	Liora Llewellyn	Dorie Sutton
Bonnie Blessing	Emily Smith	Brandi Lubliner	Francis Sweeney
Frances Bothfeld (ECY)	Emily Grimes	(City of Tacoma)	Tammie Wilson
Bryan Berkompas	Emma Lautanen	Maggie Taylor	(Muckleshoot Tribe)
Tony Bush (WSDOT)	Emma Trehwitt	Martin Nelson-	Tara Livingood-Schott
Carly Michiels	Troy Fields	Kennewick	Tiffany Sevilla
Rebecca Casey	Dylan Fischer	Morgan Maupin	Trevor Richardson
Catherine Harris	Bill Galle	(ECY)	(Puget Sound Naval
(NWIFC)	George Reed-Harmon	Shannon McClellan	Shipyard)
Chakong Thao	Nikki Guillot	(ECY)	Amy Waterman (ECY)
Charisa Gowen-	Madison Hattaway	Megan Folkers	Will Riley
Takahashi	(ECY)	Melissa Petrich	Rachel Yonemura
Christian Nichols	Janet Geer	(WA Sea Grant)	(ECY)
Chuck Geissel (E WA)	Jeff Davis	Chelsea Mitchell	
Clinton Davis	Beth Jenkins (ECY)	Monika Glandorff	

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

Introductions: Eastern WA Members and Voting Representatives

- Abby Barnes, SWG Co-Chair, led a round of **introductions of SWG voting representatives and new E WA permittees**. Here are some highlights of this share-out:
 - Six E WA permittees were able to join this meeting and introduced themselves. More will join at the May meeting.
 - Todd Hunsdorfer accepted a new job and will be stepping down from leading PRO-C and the municipal caucus. His seat on both PRO-C and as a local caucus voting member are now vacant.
 - Stella Collier is stepping down as a PRO-C and local caucus voting member. Her seats are now vacant.
 - Lori Blair shared a recent achievement – she is now an Associate Tech Fellow at Boeing. In this position, she conducts outreach in the stormwater community. She would like to become more involved in the SWG, including through PRO-C and outreach to industrial permittees and businesses.
- Folks shared **current stormwater news**:
 - Seattle is updating their stormwater manual and code
 - The City of Mukilteo implemented their stormwater plan
 - King County shared details about their P3 project and other funding projects. For more information, visit [Stormwater Community-Based Public-Private Partnership Funding Program - Washington State Department of Ecology](#)
- Folks also shared **current 6PPD news**:
 - King County developed a 6PPD Strategic Plan. Once this is finished, they could share it at the SWG 6PPD Subgroup.
 - King County Environmental Lab is accredited for 6PPD!
 - King County has completed a lab study indicating that High Performance Bioretention Soil Mix (HPBSM) effectively mitigates 6PPDQ and Urban Runoff Mortality Syndrome (URMS). The HPBSM also does not increase the risk of nutrient pollution like the 60:40 bioretention soil mix. The report for this study will be published soon on [Ecology's project website](#).
 - King County is now expanding on this study by [testing HPBSM at a full-scale stormwater facility](#). This is a collaboration with Whatcom County. This study just started sampling in December and will monitor for 15 storms. The research report is scheduled to be published in 2026.

SAM Presentation: Water Budgets of Individual Local Trees

Presentation: Measuring Individual Tree Water-Use in Mature Native Species

- Dylan Fischer gave a presentation titled “Measuring Individual Tree Water-use in Mature Native Species in the Pacific Northwest to Determine their Benefits for Stormwater Management.” For more about this study, visit the [project webpage](#).
- **Study objectives**
 - To understand the role of tree size in water movement through trees
 - To continue a multi-year dataset
 - To develop a new method for measuring street tree transpiration
 - To estimate annual canopy interception rates
- This study tested both street trees and forest trees. **Species included:**
 - Forest trees
 - Douglas fir (PSME)
 - Big leaf maple (ACMA)
 - Street trees
 - Honey locust (GLTR)
 - Red maple (ACRU)
- **Study locations**
 - One parking lot included several trees from 3 different species – Douglas fir, red maple, and honey locust
 - They studied trees on two parking lots on the Evergreen State College campus
- **Methods**
 - They conducted fixed station sampling using thermal dissipation probes (TDPs) to measure sap flows. These TDPs were then shielded from incidental radiation.
 - Boxes contain small data logger units (e.g. computers) to gather data from trees
 - The setup also included a soil moisture TDP probe and precipitation gauges under each tree’s canopy, and a weather station in an open area.
- **Results**
 - How water transpiration is affected by the size of the trees
 - Sap flow vs. Sap flux – multiply the speed of water movement by the area of the tree to understand the effect of water transpiration
 - Tree size did not change the speed of water movement (the sap flux), but the total amount of water lost by the whole tree (the sap flow) increases with size. Since larger trees have more leaves and more conducting tissue, they tend to transpire more overall, even if their sap flux density is similar to smaller trees.
 - Vapor pressure deficit and transpiration

- Transpiration was mildly, but not strongly correlated with vapor pressure deficit. While environmental factors like vapor pressure deficit and soil moisture influenced sap flux, species differences and seasonal changes were potentially more important.
 - Plants can shut down their movement of water when the air is drier (higher vapor pressure deficit)
 - Annual transpiration trends from 2023-2024
 - Street tree transpiration rates were similar to trees in forested positions
 - There were complex interactions with weather. While VPD and soil moisture influenced transpiration, species differences and seasonality played a more dominant role. Deciduous trees (e.g., big leaf maple) had low transpiration in early spring, peaked in summer, and declined rapidly in the fall as they lost their leaves. Coniferous trees (e.g., Douglas fir) had a more extended transpiration period, continuing to transpire on high-VPD days in spring and fall but reducing transpiration during mid-summer drought conditions.
 - Similar trends and values as Phase I
 - Tree Water Budget
 - Trees measured in Phase I and II of this study mitigated 40-60% of precipitation inputs. This suggests that street trees are highly effective in reducing stormwater runoff.
 - Street trees had fuller canopies that allowed them to contribute more significantly to stormwater mitigation.
- **Conclusions**
 - Sap flux density values were relatively consistent across tree sizes, and position (street vs forested)
 - Greater tree sizes will have greater sap flow, which results in a greater influence on tree water budgets
 - Regardless of forested or street tree status, trees generally mitigated total stormwater inputs by 40-60%
 - Relationships with atmospheric variables like vapor pressure deficit and season were similar among similar species and could be modeled
 - Mobile sensors were shown to be robust, discrete, and capable of providing accurate information
 - There is tremendous potential offered by the mobile sensors to engage communities across Washington in the hydrologic valuation of urban trees, whilst also collecting information on co-benefits these trees offer urban communities.

Q&A

Question: What were some ways that mobile sensors can help us understand complicated areas?

Answer: They can be applied widely. We could have a project that spans counties, so it gives a bigger sampling group. It allows us to have a tool that we can track from remote areas and check on without having to be at the testing site since they are mobile.

Question: You state trees mitigated stormwater inputs by 40-60%. What is the impact during the wetter months and during storms? I find that annual values can mask the BMP effectiveness for stormwater control.

Answer: Interception is the major route by which trees are reducing stormwater impacts. Mitigation is also impacted by what season the storm occurs in.

Question: Are there general conclusions on stormwater mitigation between deciduous and coniferous species?

Answer: Coniferous is generally better, but it does depend on the season of the storm. Some deciduous trees perform better in the summer.

Question: What is impact in late summer? Do trees capture fog drip and increase stream flow? Any effects on stream flow?

Answer: We have the capacity to measure this, but not the instruments. We don't have the data to tie those directly together, but it may not be difficult.

Question: Would conifers also be beneficial in Eastern WA?

Answer: It depends on the balance of snow melt. The higher climate, evaporation, and freezing temperatures affect this, but generally yes.

Question: Could you build a summary table that identifies specific areas and the best type of tree to plant for stormwater mitigation?

Answer: Its hard to say exactly what impact different tree species will have without studying it. There is some broad agreement with maple species, as the red maple and big leaf maple acted similarly. Regional data has been sampled broadly enough now that we could develop a broad approach. We could provide the broad impacts of different species of trees. Madrone is a good example, and oaks.

Question: Is there work done that considers existing plant palates at public works agencies, and will the next step be more collaboration with departments that consider tree integration?

Answer: That's spot on! Yes. That is the next logical step.

Updates from our partners

Puget Sound Ecosystem and Monitoring Program (PSEMP)

- 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](#).
- Puget Sound Partnership (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
- Toxics workshops: Dustin at dustin.bilhimer@ecy.wa.gov
- Land use and integrated watershed planning: Emily at 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

Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology)

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. This includes an in-person SWG meeting.
- On the hiring side, Ecology has removed affected job announcements from our recruitment website.
- Hopefully, the freeze will be lifted when the budget is revealed.

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 scheduled 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

- **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](#)
 - If you or someone you know has an idea for a stormwater project, please reach out to Madison at madison.bristol@ecy.wa.gov. We are hopeful to start projects immediately after getting the funding.

Additional Updates

- The Water Quality Combined Funding Program State Fiscal Year 2026 [Draft Offer List and Intended Use Plan](#) is now available.
 - Give your feedback during the public review and comment period from **12 a.m. on Feb. 5, 2025 until 11:59 p.m. on March 3, 2025**. We will present the draft list and discuss the project evaluation and funding cycle process at a public information meeting on **Feb. 13, 2025 at 1 p.m.**

Q&A

Question: Will any Ecology permit writers or implementation planners be able to attend Municon? Would that be considered essential in the statewide freeze?

Answer: We are working of the paperwork approval to get staff to Municon, but don't know yet if it's approved.

Question: Do you think Ecology might be able to attend the Green Infrastructure Summit? I would vote that would be essential along with Municon!

Answer: We are a sponsor and like going to that, but depending on where staff are located in WA they may or may not be able to attend.

Question: Does anyone have the link for Green infrastructure Summit?

Answer: <https://www.12000raingardens.org/summit/>

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 debriefed this conversation with the SWG, and additional details can be found in the [6PPD Subgroup Meeting Notes](#):
 - The Lab Accreditation Unit (LAU) oversees hundreds of labs, including for 6PPD and PFAS methods. Rebecca Wood, LAU Supervisor, gave an in-depth presentation on 6PPD lab accreditation.
 - Currently, two labs are accredited for 6PPD water samples: Manchester Environmental Lab (MEL) and King County Environmental Lab (KCEL). Three other labs are awaiting accreditation.
 - There is no set amount of time for accreditation. Because labs are using different 6PPD methods at the moment, lab accreditation is taking over a year for each lab.
 - Labs must develop a standard operating procedure (SOP) for 6PPD analysis. Currently, labs are using different SOPs, but once the EPA draft method 1634 is finalized, it will be expected that labs transition to that method.
 - Eli shared that many labs are not considering pursuing accreditation. There are several reasons for this, including capacity constraints.
- **Update from Jeff Killelea, Ecology Water Quality Section Manager** – Jeff filled in additional details regarding lab accreditation from Ecology's perspective:

- Industrial permittees in the Industrial Stormwater General Permit (ISGP) will have to use labs that accept samples from private entities to analyze 6PPD samples. This is important because ISGP facilities in the transportation and waste management sectors are required to begin 6PPD monitoring in 2028.
- One private lab is in the queue to be accredited, but the big takeaway is that the two approved labs, MEL and KCEL, don't take samples from private entities. Therefore, we need private sector labs or labs that accept samples from non-private entities to step up and apply for accreditation.
- **Update from Abby Barnes, SWG Chair** – The SWG Chairs have drafted a letter to send to Ecology regarding lab accreditation.

Q&A

Question: Should SWG members write LAU a letter to identify how we want communication from LAU and provide an opportunity to get some questions answered?

Discussion:

- It's a good idea to express concerns and interest and to try to resolve the situation. The primary hesitation is around the hiring freeze. There needs to be more resources for the lab accreditation program, and how do we advocate for that with the hiring freeze? There is a lot of complications.
 - Despite the hiring freeze, Ecology does plan to hire 5 new permanent auditors. Though these staff are not specifically designated to do 6PPD work, these staff could increase the overall capacity of LAU.
- A letter should be written to support the continuation of 6PPD work. However, it might not go over well if we ask them for more communications with the SWG or additional work tasks.
- Can we connect the letter to supporting studies funded by NPDES permittees? Potentially identifying how many people or studies are affected by this issue might be a good idea to include in the letter.
- Perhaps instead of writing a letter, it would be more useful to push permittees to have their labs apply for accreditation.
 - However, a common issue that municipal labs face is that they don't have the staff or capacity to apply for and maintain accreditation.
- Could we reach to LAU and ask what kind of content would be the most supportive for us to include in a letter?
 - Abby agrees reaching out is a good strategy
- Who do we address the letter to?
 - The SWG discussed sending the letter to Ecology's director or the LAU Supervisor; however, the best option might be the Environmental Assessment Program (EAP) Manager, Annette Hoffmann at annette.hoffmann@ecy.wa.gov. Annette oversees LAU.

- From a local permittee: I have used Amtest to do research on 6PPDQ without worrying about accreditation status. If the work is not for permit compliance, there is no requirement for lab accreditation. Eurofins as well. Anateck in Idaho, too, have the capacity to do 6PPDQ.
 - One exception to this is work funded by state grants, which is also required to use accredited labs
 - SAM funding is not considered a grant. However, SAM studies are intended to improve the stormwater manuals and permits and thus will be used for regulatory purposes. Therefore, it is a best practice for SAM studies to use accredited labs.

Consensus: The SWG Chairs will write a letter to Annette Hoffmann, EAP Program Manager.

PRO-C Updates

- Please consider joining PRO-C. Participation is crucial to overseeing SAM funding and evaluating Ecology's support of the SWG
 - If folks are interested in joining PRO-C, email madison.bristol@ecy.wa.gov
 - Madison also has a list of folks who have expressed interest already, and they will be reaching out to them soon
- **Vote:** Approve or not approve **Full Proposal 4** for funding
 - **Final Results:** The SWG will **not** fund FP4
 - No: 6 people
 - Yes: 1 person
 - Abstained: 1 person
 - **Discussion:**
 - The local caucus recommended not funding the proposal and reapplying for Round 5. When reapplying, the local caucus would like them to add sediment dynamics and make the project relevant for E WA permittees.
- **PRO-C evaluation of SAM and Ecology's administrative support of the SWG**
 - Report card provided every 3 years
 - Ecology has been doing a great job, and that is reflected in the report card
 - **Reminder to PRO-C members:** Contribute to the report card

SAM Updates

Presentation: SAM Cost Increases

- At the last meeting, SWG members expressed concerns over increased SAM costs. Raghu gave a [presentation on SAM costs](#)
 - SAM costs have increased. All costs were approved by SAM, PRO-C, and the SWG.
 - If Raghu doesn't hear from anyone, he is going to assume this is a non-issue.
 - WSDOT was interested in learning more about fees due this year and if invoice can be done sooner than normal schedule. Raghu will follow-up with Foroozan and get the fees information to WSDOT.
 - In the future, the SWG could suggest a cap or maximum increase in costs per permit cycle.
- The **Round 5 SAM Study Solicitation process** will begin in early Spring this year. We want everyone to be a part of it, especially people from E WA. Additionally, SAM is looking for a chair to lead the Study Solicitation Subgroup.
 - If you are interested in helping define funding priorities, please fill out the [Study Solicitation Subgroup interest form](#)
- **E WA participation:** 18 new members from E WA joined SAM
- **[Municon 2025](#):** SAM is planning a poster session of projects completed in the last decade for this conference.
- **[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

Q&A

Question: Do you have a sense of when USGS will provide the Puget Small Streams Annual Reports for 2021 and 2022?

Answer: USGS is prioritizing completing the 2021 and 2022 annual reports by May of this year. Assuming they have adequate field staff this Summer, they will be caught up with all annual reports, 2020 to 2024, by November. USGS will share findings from these annual reports at a future SWG meeting, tentatively scheduled for November.

Internal SWG Affairs

Presentation: SWG Orientation

- This presentation provides an overview of the SWG listserv, website, and contact information. This orientation is especially for new SWG participants, like E WA permittees, but benefits all SWG members.
- **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?
 - SWG members expressed full support for adding 2 new voting seats for E WA
 - Clarified that “E WA” also includes Central WA. E WA permittees are any permittees E of the Cascades.
 - **Goal: Vote in new voting members, including E WA members, in May**
- **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

Wrap-Up

- The SWG welcomed several E WA permittees into the SWG. Introductions will continue at the May meeting.
- We heard a fantastic presentation today from Dylan Fischer on remote monitoring of trees and mitigating stormwater impacts through forest and street trees.
- We heard many updates from PSEMP, including funding opportunities and updating the Puget Sound Action Agenda
- The WA Department of Ecology shared updates on permits, 6PPD, and the statewide spending freeze
- We held a discussion on 6PPD Lab Accreditation. The SWG Chairs will move forward with writing a letter to Ecology.
- Several seats are opening up in the SWG and PRO-C. If you would like to become a voting member for these groups, reach out to madison.bristol@ecy.wa.gov. Both opportunities have low time commitments.
- SAM will be starting the Round 5 Study Solicitation process this Spring. SAM also gave updates on their current projects and cost increases.
- The SWG voted to not fund FP4, and encouraged the project leads to make recommended changes and apply for Round 5 funding

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 – 12pm. 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:

- Welcome more **E WA permittees** into the SWG and listen to unique stormwater issues that E WA permittees face
- **View SAM presentations**, potentially including:
 - o [Evaluation of Best Management Practices Maintenance Conditions](#), City of Bellevue and Herrera Environmental Consultants
 - o [Longevity of biological protection using bioretention](#), Washington State University
- **Vote: Approve new PRO-C and SWG members**
 - o Vacancies the SWG needs to fill include:
 - 2 Eastern WA voting representatives
 - 2 local, 1 state, 2 federal, 2 Tribal, 2 environmental, and 2 business voting representatives
 - Voting alternates for all caucuses (local, E WA, state, federal, Tribal, environmental, business, agriculture, ports)
 - PRO-C Chair and PRO-C members. Vote to include Lori Blair in PRO-C.
 - o If you are interested in becoming a representative, contact madison.bristol@ecy.wa.gov
- Review the **PRO-C report card** on SAM and Ecology's support of the SWG
- Hear **updates from our partners, PRO-C, and SAM**
- Provide an **orientation** on the SWG listserv, website, and contact information
- Organize a **Fall 2025 in-person meeting**

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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.