



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018, FROM 9:00 AM TO 11:30 PM
USGS OFFICE, 934 BROADWAY, TACOMA WA 98402



Summary

OF THE MEETING'S KEY DISCUSSIONS, DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS

a list of acronyms is provided at the end of the document

ATTENDEES:

Work Group members in attendance, and the organizations and caucuses they represent: **Cami Apfelbeck** (Bainbridge Island), Local Governments; **Fred Bergdolt** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Kevin Burrell** (Seattle), Local Governments; **Jay Davis** (USFWS), Federal Agencies; **Dana de Leon** (Tacoma), Local Governments, and the Work Group's Chair; **Leska Fore** (PSP), State Agencies; **Jennifer Lanksbury** (WDFW), State Agencies; **Vince McGowan** (ECY WQP), State Agencies; **Don McQuilliams** (Bellevue), Local Governments; **Kit Paulsen** (Bellevue), Local Governments; **Rich Sheibley** (USGS), Federal Agencies; **Connie Sullivan** (Puget Soundkeeper Alliance), Environmental Groups; **Carla Vincent** (Pierce County), Local Governments.

Work Group alternates also in attendance, and the organizations and caucuses they represent: **Jennifer Adams** (Mukilteo), Local Governments; **Brad Archbold** (WSDOT), State Agencies; **Jess Archer** (ECY EAP), State Agencies; **Melissa Ivancevich** (Shoreline), Local Governments.

Others in attendance: **Eva Crim** (Kitsap Co), **Curtis DeGasperi** (King County), **Mindi English** (Federal Way), **Todd Hunsdorfer** (King County), **Jenna Judge** (PSP), **Leah Myhre** (Federal Way), **James Packman** (Aspect Consulting), **Stacy Polkowske** (ECY EAP).

Work Group and SAM staff: **Karen Dinicola** (ECY WQP), SWG Project Manager; **Brandi Lubliner** (ECY WQP), SAM Coordinator; and **Keunyea Song** (ECY WQP), SAM Scientist.

WORK GROUP REVIEWS PROCESS AND NEXT STEPS FOR SAM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT PERMIT CYCLE

In today's meeting, the Stormwater Work Group kicked off a year-long process to make two important sets of decisions: regional status and trends monitoring design adjustments and priorities, and updated priority topics and questions for stormwater management program effectiveness studies and source identification projects. These processes will be led by the SAM S&T Scientists and the SWG's Effectiveness Studies and Source Identification Subgroups. The SWG will get a brief update in June and a substantial presentation on the two groups' recommendations in September of this year. The fall SAM newsletter will include a survey to gather permittees' feedback. SWG caucuses discuss the proposals and the SWG will provide input in November. In early 2019 we will host a workshop to gather public input.

The individual SAM S&T Scientists have already gotten feedback from the PSEMP Freshwater and Toxics Workgroups. The scientists have two meetings scheduled in April to orient themselves to each others' findings and scientific recommendations, identify commonalities, set collective priorities, articulate questions, and discuss changes to the master sample framework related to Ecology's updates and their recommendations to evaluate receiving water data across a gradient of urbanization rather than just inside and outside of the Urban Growth Area boundaries.

Work group members reviewed the steps the SWG took to come up with the 2014 list of priority study topics. Meetings of the Effectiveness and Source ID Subgroups will be scheduled soon, and both groups will review SWG 2018-2019 Work Plan Task 4. The Effectiveness Subgroup will review the current list of studies in the context of the 2014 list and make recommendations as to which listed or new topics need further study, whether it be by collecting new data or by doing a targeted literature review or white paper. Proponents of completed SAM studies have made recommendations that the subgroup will consider. The Source ID subgroup plans to survey permittees' IDDE staff to generate a list of source identification project ideas to prioritize. The two subgroups might have a joint meeting later this summer.

Anyone wishing to join (or simply follow the progress of) either subgroup should contact SWG Project Manager [Karen Dinicola](#) to be added to the email distribution list. That the webpage provided in today's agenda had the draft synthesis papers; the finals are now posted at <https://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home/selection-of-effectiveness-studies/synthesis-papers>. The process to select the third round of studies in late 2019 will be similar to the second round process, but further streamlined per recommendations of the Effectiveness Subgroup.

WORK GROUP DISCUSSES SPECIFIC SCIENTIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE SAM STREAM MONITORING

Curtis DeGasperi of King County and Rich Sheibley of USGS presented the key findings and recommendations from the analysis of the 2015 SAM Puget Lowland ecoregion streams data collection. Their handout highlighting what worked well, what had limited success, and what didn't work is attached to this meeting summary, as is the PowerPoint file with their recommendations.

Work group members asked questions about inside/outside UGA strata versus an urbanization gradient approach (which was recommended by the mussel report as well). The findings from the inside/outside UGA comparisons were related to characteristics expressing the level of urbanization in a watershed. The UGA is a political boundary that will change over time. Some sites close to the boundary were incorrectly assigned. Rather than maintain two sample populations, there would be a single stratum that would be analyzed.

The numbers of sites recommended in the report are ranges that will be nailed down once the budget is known. 100 sites are needed to continue the relative risk analysis. An audience member suggested that the twenty square mile upper limit of the size range of watersheds to be targeted for SAM PLES sampling match the ten square mile area identified for the permit's long term MS4 planning requirement (or vice versa). Most (>70) of the 2015 sampling sites will be continued.

The scientists recommend eliminating sites that went dry and nested sites. SAM had two sites on both Wapato Creek and the Deschutes River. Pierce County and Redmond had several additional nested sites due to the limited geographic area sampled. While the habitat at these nested sites might be independent, the flow and water and sediment quality are not. SAM is measuring habitat because it is important for interpreting the B-IBI data. Investigating why sites went dry is a different study altogether. Stage might address some questions about how LID is changing baseflows.

The final report is in King County's publication process and is expected out soon. The earliest the next SAM PLES sampling will occur is 2020. Pre-work on the site lists and QAPP updating are needed. ECY EAP's next round of watershed health sampling in Puget Sound is scheduled for 2020. Analyses will be part of the scientific recommendations.

WORK GROUP HEARS UPDATES ON SAM IMPLEMENTATION, CONTRACTING, AND COMMUNICATION

In addition to the items listed in the agenda, Pooled Resources Oversight Committee (PRO-C) Chair Kevin Burrell

SAM Coordinator Brandi Lubliner shared an update on the two second round effectiveness studies projects that need to come back to SWG for approval. The trees project will be reviewed by the SWG Effectiveness Studies Subgroup at its next meeting. The orifice control project proponents are still discussing Ecology's engineers' concerns about the proposal.

The second phase bioretention hydrology performance study needs ten sites designed per the 2012 stormwater manual. They can be under-drained or not; the study has equipment to measure flow either way. Contact [Brandi](#) if you have a site.

Jen Lanksbury of WDFW shared that mussel cages were retrieved; only two were lost this round. The mussels are being processed and nearly ready for laboratory analysis.

Overall, Brandi is keeping the SAM pages up to date on Ecology's website and Karen is keeping the SWG pages up to date primarily on the Google site. Please contact either of them if you are having trouble finding something or if you have suggestions to help keep the sites up to date and easy to use. Workgroup members are looking forward to Karen's 20-30 minute webinar review of the history of the SWG for folks new to our process and interested in getting engaged in our effort. Perhaps a 2-3 minute video version would be helpful to show others outside the process. The SWG Communication Subgroup will review Karen's outline; Ecology communications staff will support its production.

The PRO-C is reviewing AWC's scope of work for extending the contract for SAM Communication Support. The next SAM newsletter is nearly ready to go out, and the next SWG Reporter will go out in April. Additional ideas for the SWG Reporter include the SAM annual report, the plan to select the third round of effectiveness studies, and a thank you to the citizen volunteers who deployed and retrieved mussel cages.

WORK GROUP UPDATED ON OTHER UPCOMING SUBGROUP WORK

Brian Cochrane of WSCC has been tasked with chairing and staffing the SWG Agricultural Runoff Subgroup. He hopes to reconvene the group soon and have an update on the regional agricultural runoff monitoring strategy for us in June.

Fred Bergdolt of WSDOT chairs and staffs the SWG Roads and Highways Subgroup which will reconvene this fall to review WSDOT's current studies and begin to discuss new study ideas.

WORK GROUP WELCOMES NEW PUGET SOUND PARTNERSHIP MONITORING LEAD

Jenna Judge, the new PSEMP lead staff, introduced herself. She comes from California and is looking forward to getting engaged in Puget Sound and helping to bring science to policy and action. She is open to hearing work group members' ideas for improving coordination.

Jennifer Lanksbury co-chairs the PSEMP Toxics Workgroup. TWG is meeting tomorrow and will discuss whether or not to (1) do another gap analysis and (2) compile another Toxics Monitoring Synthesis Report. Leska Fore of PSP staffs the PSEMP Freshwater Workgroup. Later this year the FWG will support summer low flows and the marine WQI work related to nutrients. Lakes have been neglected in the monitoring framework.

WORK GROUP MEMBERS PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON NATURE'S SCORECARD

Connie Sullivan of Puget Soundkeeper Alliance gave a brief presentation on Nature's Scorecard, which was developed jointly by PSA and the Washington Environmental Council (WEC) as a tool to assess permittee compliance with low impact development (LID) code revisions required by the municipal stormwater permits. Permittees and others in attendance provided feedback and recommendations for Connie to bring back to the scorecard authors:

- The scorecard looked only at codes, but in reality local governments use other administrative tools to require LID and ensure developers are complying with the stormwater technical manual.
- The scorecard didn't use a baseline to compare a permittee's current performance to past performance, so municipalities' improvements in their administrative approaches were not known or indicated.
- Is it possible to set up a system where permittees self-report and WEC/PSA review?
- And finally, it is for Ecology to determine whether a permittee has complied with permit requirements.

FUTURE MEETING DATES AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS

Work group meetings are scheduled from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at the USGS office in Tacoma on the following Wednesdays in 2018: June 6, September 19, and November 14. Please mark your calendars.

At all of our meetings, we will:

- Hear updates from the SAM Coordinator and PRO-Committee,
- Continue to discuss SAM implementation and oversight outside the municipal stormwater permit structure,
- Hear from our subgroups about the status of implementing our 2018-2019 work plan,
- Hear updates on SAM communication,
- Determine messages and timing for the next SWG Reporter issue, and
- Hear updates about PSEMP and Action Agenda coordination and other updates related to our work.

At our next meeting on **June 6, 2018**, we will also:

- Hear about the SAM bioretention hydrology performance study,
- Hear an update on the agricultural runoff monitoring strategy,
- Hear an update on the SAM status and trends scientists discussions,
- Hear an update from our Effectiveness Subgroup,
- Hear an update from our Source Identification Subgroup.

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS MEETING SUMMARY:

B-IBI – Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity

ECY EAP – Washington Dept. of Ecology's Environmental Assessment Program

ECY WQP – Washington Dept. of Ecology’s Water Quality Program
FWG – (PSEMP) Freshwater Workgroup
IDDE – Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
PLES – Puget Lowland ecoregion streams
PRO-C or PRO-Committee – Pooled Resources Oversight Committee
PSEMP – Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program
S&T – Status and trends
SAM – Stormwater Action Monitoring, the regional stormwater monitoring program funded primarily by permittees
Source ID – Source Identification (and Diagnostic Monitoring)
SWG – Stormwater Work Group
TWG – (PSEMP) Toxics Workgroup
UGA – Urban Growth Area
USFWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS – U.S. Geological Survey
WDFW – Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
WSDOT – Washington Dept. of Transportation