S&T Scientists Team Meeting
Agenda

Thursday, September 25, 2025, 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Group Purpose

To bring together regional scientific expertise to guide long-term monitoring programs and support collective learning about improved stormwater management.

Meeting objective

- Make progress on finalizing our study questions and get ready for the November SWG meeting

Background Materials

- Appended below the agenda:
    - Revised Draft Study Questions
    - Stormwater Work Group (SWG) at a glance

Agenda

1. Refining SAM Receiving Water Study Questions
    a. Update on progress and discussion of next steps
2. Preparing for November SWG Meeting
    a. Chelsea will share what the SWG chairs are looking for in a recommendation and/or project update.
    b. For discussion: does this change what we prepare?

Next Meeting

- Preliminary data exploration – quick visualization of time series, box plots, cumulative distribution function plots
- Finalize presentation to Stormwater Work Group

Revised Draft Trend Study Questions

The following questions aim to understand if regional conditions in receiving water quality and biota are improving in concert with broad implementation of required stormwater management practices.

Puget Sound – Trend Report prepared every 5 years

- How have concentrations of key parameters (nutrients, metals, organic contaminants) changed over time?
    - For each impervious surface strata?
    - For other landscape factors such as traffic intensity, land use type, tree canopy?
    - Mussel data only: For nearshore geologic processes such as drift patterns, deposition rates, water circulation patterns?
- Have concentrations of key parameters changed at individual sites over time?
    - Notes: This is a future question that will be answerable after repeated site visits. It probably would be incorporated in 2037 synthesis report.
- How have indicators of stream health (e.g., B-IBI, periphyton biomass, habitat metrics) changed over time?
    - For each impervious surface strata?
    - For other landscape factors such as traffic intensity, land use type, tree canopy?
- Are summer maximum and average stream temperatures increasing or decreasing?
- Is there evidence of changing hydrologic patterns (e.g., baseflow decline, flashiness) over time?
- What percentage of stream and nearshore length are improving or worsening in Puget Sound over time?

Lower Columbia – Trend Report prepared every 5 years

- How have concentrations of key parameters (nutrients, metals, organic contaminants) changed over time?
    - For each impervious surface strata?
    - For other landscape factors such as traffic intensity, land use type, tree canopy?
- Have concentrations of key parameters changed at individual sites over time?
- How have indicators of stream health (e.g., B-IBI, habitat metrics) changed over time?
    - For each impervious surface strata?
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- Are summer maximum and average stream temperatures increasing or decreasing?
- Is there evidence of changing hydrologic patterns (e.g., baseflow decline, flashiness) over time?
    - For each impervious surface strata?
- Possible case study: How does WQ change with age of stormwater infrastructure in Cougar Creek?

Stormwater Work Group (SWG) at a Glance

Mission & Purpose	Protect water quality and stream habitat with a sustainable, cooperative stormwater monitoring & assessment framework.
What SWG Does	• Provide a forum for stormwater-related monitoring and assessment • Directs the Stormwater Action Monitoring (SAM) program — a regional monitoring effort funded by municipal stormwater permittees.
Membership Structure	• Invited representatives from local, state, and federal governments, environmental and business organizations, public ports, Tribes, and agriculture. • Has several subgroups, e.g. Status & Trends; Effectiveness & Source ID Study Solicitation; 6PPDQ, Oversight. • Caucuses provide input and advocate for interests. • Voting representatives with defined roles.
Geographic & Organizational Scope	• Covers all of Washington State as of 2024. • Part of Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program (PSEMP).
Key Documents & Resources	• SWG Membership • SWG Charter & Bylaws • SWG Work Plan • Past meeting materials, agendas, summary notes • Intro video for SWG and SAM program
Current Priorities	• Oversight of pooled resources to implement regional monitoring. • Exploring stormwater management needs and research questions (e.g. 6PPD-quinone). • Developing & selecting new effectiveness and source identification studies. • Tracking & updating work plan.
What Subgroups Do	Examples: • Status & Trends – tracking long-term changes in receiving waters • SAM Study Selection Subgroup – process for selecting new effectiveness and source identification studies • SWG 6PPDQ – sharing 6PPDQ stormwater research findings
Decision & Feedback Pathways	• Subgroups develop draft recommendations or study proposals. • SWG reviews and votes on proposals and recommendations. • Input from subgroups & caucuses is expected in advance of SWG meetings.
Why It Matters	• Ensures stormwater monitoring and assessment efforts are aligned and scientifically solid. • Helps municipalities and permittees to make better management decisions based on credible data.