

Water Quality Partnership

Nov. 14, 2024



Welcome & Program Updates	Vince McGowan	10:00 – 10:30
Watershed Management Updates	Melissa Gildersleeve, Leanne Weiss	10:30 – 11:00
General Permit updates	Lucienne Banning	11:00—11:15
Financial Management updates	Jeff Nejedly Kim Wager	11:15 – 11:35
Safety, Planning, and Emerging Issues Updates	Leslie Connelly	11:35 – 11:50
Roundtable	All	11:50 – 11:55
Wrap up	Stacy James	11:55 – 12:00



Welcome and Updates

Vince McGowan



DEPARTMENT OF
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State of Washington

Watershed Management Section Updates

Melissa Gildersleeve
November 14, 2024



Items To Cover

Water Quality Standards Rules:

1. Natural Conditions Criteria
2. Aquatic Life Toxics Criteria
3. Federal Human Health Criteria

Water Quality Assessment

Natural Conditions Criteria

- Restores language recognizing situations where water bodies naturally do not meet our statewide criteria.
 - Some waterbodies have unique characteristics that are also protective of aquatic life.
- Overview
 - Limits use of natural conditions criteria to just aquatic life criteria.
 - Updates human allowance for dissolved oxygen and temperature when the natural conditions criteria are developed for a site.
 - Defines a site-specific criteria development method for natural conditions using Performance Based Approach methodology.

Performance Based Approach Publication

- Established a methodology Ecology will use to set natural conditions criteria.
- We heard during the comment period that more work is needed on Ecology's performance-based approach document.
- To develop a document that EPA will approve for Ecology's use, we are going to continue to work on the document and offer an additional round of public feedback on that document prior to finalizing it.
- We won't be able to use this referenced document until after EPA review and approval (ESA review)



Aquatic Life Toxics Criteria

- Ecology adopted on August 14, 2024.
- Submitted to EPA on August 21, 2024.
- Awaiting EPA approval to use for Clean Water Act purposes.

1.5.2. EPA Authority for Review of State and Tribal Water Quality Standards

Once the EPA determines that a provision meets the four considerations for a new or revised WQS described in Section 1.5.1 of this chapter, the next step is for the EPA to determine whether it can approve the provision.

Section 303(c) of the [CWA](#) requires the EPA to review and approve or disapprove new or revised state and tribal WQS based on the requirements of the CWA. The CWA specifies that the EPA must approve new or revised WQS within 60 days after the date of submission or disapprove such WQS within 90 days after the date of submission.

Adopting federal human health criteria

- Six tribal governments made a formal request to adopt the federal criteria that are currently being implemented.
- Put out draft rule on September 17, 2024
- Adopting federal regulations without change – allows this abbreviated process.

Rules waiting federal approval

- Chelan UAA – October 2021
- Salmon Spawning Rule – April 2022
- Aquatic Life Toxics Criteria – August 2024

Water Quality Assessment 303(d) & 305(b)

- Clean Water Act requirement to provide “Integrated Report” on Water Quality to EPA every two years

303(d) – Impaired waters

305(b) – General report on water quality.

- 85 million data points—a big project.
- Submit to EPA in the Spring 2025 and start the next Assessment “call for data” at the same time.

Water Quality Assessment





Thank You & Questions





General Permit Update

Water Quality Partnership Meeting

Lucienne Banning

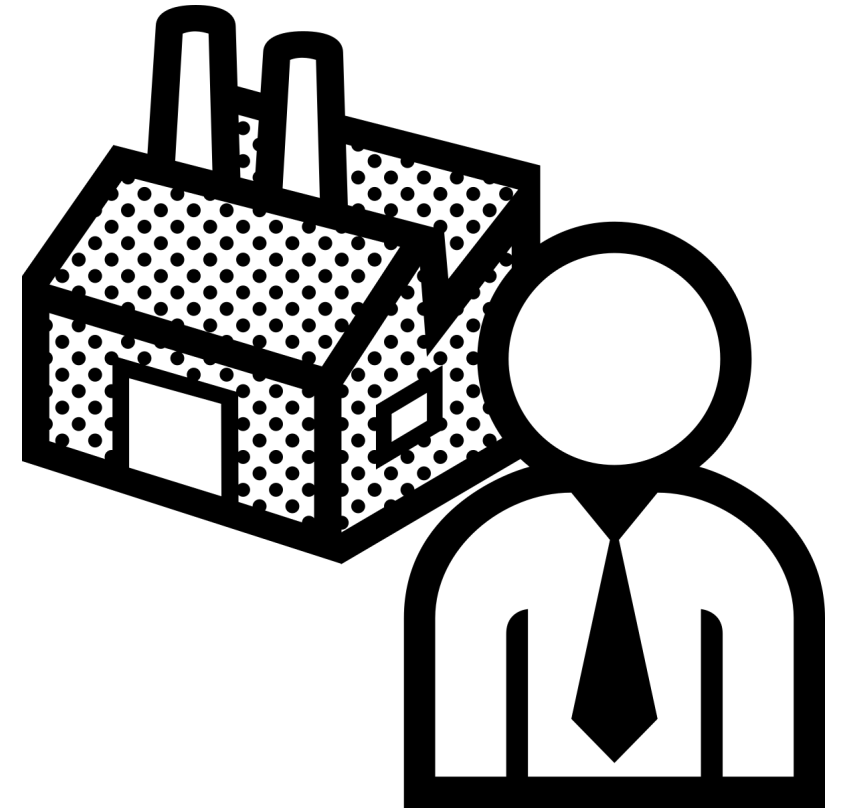


Second Quarter Issuances

- MS4 General Permits (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems = MS4)
- Water Treatment Plant General Permit

Activities Third Quarter 2024

Industrial Stormwater
General Permit



Activities

Third Quarter 2024 – Cont'd

- Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit:

Financial Capability
Assessment Tool &
Guidance





Activities

Third Quarter

2024 – Cont'd

- *Zostera japonica* management on commercial clam beds in Willapa Bay General permit

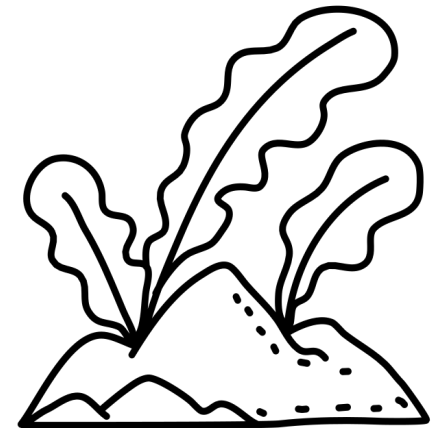
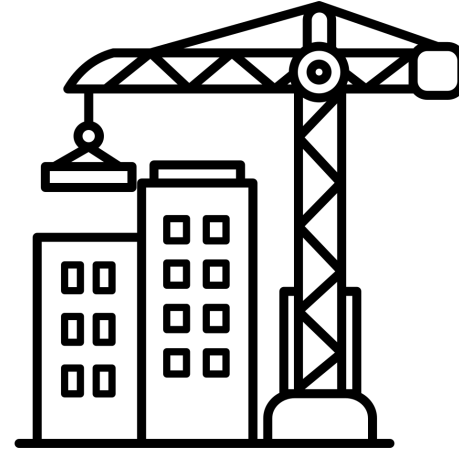


Photo Credit: WA State Noxious Weed Control Board

COMING SOON: PERMIT ISSUANCE

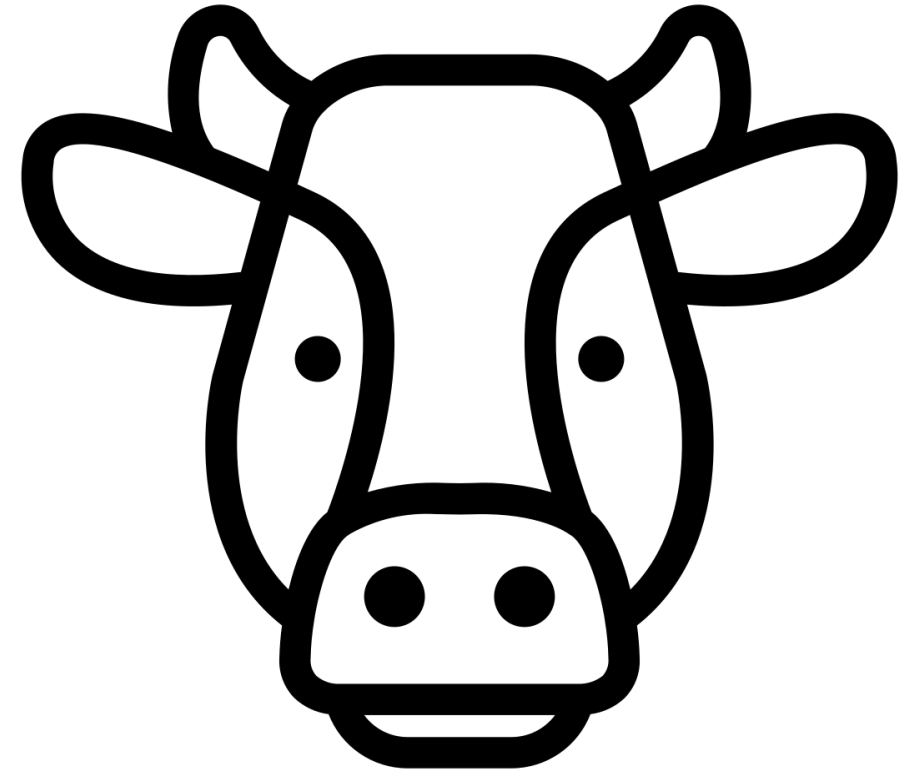
Construction
Stormwater GP

Aquatic Plant & Algae
Management GP



**COMING SOON:
HIRING**

CAFO Compliance
Specialist Position



Thank You!

Lucienne Banning
General Permits Unit Supervisor
Lucienne.Banning@ecy.wa.gov



Financial Management Updates

Jeff Nejedly

Kim Wager



State Fiscal Year 2026 Funding Cycle

Water Quality Combined Fund

November 14, 2024

State Fiscal Year 2026 Funding Requests

Funding Requests by Ecology Region and Project Category					
Project Categories					
Row Labels	CRO	ERO	NWRO	SWRO	Grand Total
Nonpoint Source Activity					
Count of Application Number	6	11	9	8	34
Sum of Grant Requested	\$2,621,647	\$4,734,566	\$4,037,604	\$2,871,374	\$14,265,191
Sum of Loan Requested/Willing to Accept					
Onsite Sewage System					
Count of Application Number	1	1	2	5	9
Sum of Grant Requested	\$500,000	\$499,900	\$995,511	\$2,081,713	\$4,077,124
Sum of Loan Requested/Willing to Accept	\$1,026,728				\$1,026,728
Stormwater Activity					
Count of Application Number	4	4	7	4	19
Sum of Grant Requested	\$3,275,677	\$698,283	\$1,727,420	\$3,307,813	\$9,009,193
Sum of Loan Requested/Willing to Accept	\$1,020,497				\$1,020,497
Stormwater Facility					
Count of Application Number	5	9	24	9	47
Sum of Grant Requested	\$544,425	\$4,474,206	\$32,143,461	\$11,343,509	\$48,505,601
Sum of Loan Requested/Willing to Accept	\$19,350	\$159,800	\$8,958,822		\$9,137,972
Wastewater Facility					
Count of Application Number	3	10	14	8	35
Sum of Grant Requested	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sum of Loan Requested/Willing to Accept	\$4,015,000	\$24,678,629	\$421,775,741	\$35,095,713	\$485,565,083
Total Count of Application Number	19	35	56	34	144
Total Sum of Grant Requested	\$6,941,749	\$10,406,955	\$38,903,996	\$19,604,409	\$75,857,109
Total Sum of Loan Requested/Willing to Accept	\$6,081,575	\$24,838,429	\$430,734,563	\$35,095,713	\$496,750,280

- Application cycle opened Aug. 13 and closed on Oct. 15, 2024.

Next Steps

- Applications submitted
 - Completed August-October
- Application review
 - In process now through December
- Draft Funding Offer & Public Comment
 - Draft list published January 31, 2025
 - Public Comment February 1-March 3, 2025
- Final Funding Offer
 - Final funding list published July 1, 2025



Figure 2: The SFY26 Funding Cycle Estimated Timeline



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Strategy, Planning, and Emerging Issues updates

Leslie Connelly

National Estuary Program – Puget Sound Stormwater Strategic Initiative



- Currently accepting applications for \$8.6 million
 - Climate Resiliency in Stormwater Management
 - Developing Regional Facilities and Stormwater Parks
 - Toxics in Fish
- Deadline is December 31, 2024
- More Information: [Stormwater Strategic Initiative Lead Request for Proposals](#)
- Contact: Emily McCartan at emmc461@ecy.wa.gov

Stormwater Action Monitoring Program

- Collective brings together municipal stormwater permittees to collaborate on monitoring needs
- 10 years conducting research in Western Washington
- Program is now an option for Eastern Washington municipal stormwater permittees
- More information on SAM: [Stormwater Action Monitoring - Washington State Department of Ecology](#)
- Contact: Abbey Stockwell at abst461@ecy.wa.gov or Raghu Namburi at rnam461@ecy.wa.gov

Tire Wear in Stormwater

- \$3 million for effectiveness studies to test stormwater best management practices
- Also partnering with other funding sources
- Catalogue of projects: [6PPD Stormwater Best Management Practices](#)
- Requested two more years of funding for the 2025-27 biennium
- More information: Madison Bristol at madb461@ecy.wa.gov

Columbia River Basin Restoration Program

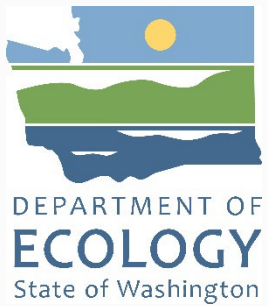


Toxics Reduction Lead

- EPA grant \$6.9 Million
- Develop a toxics reduction strategy
- Create subaward grant program to begin implementation actions
- Provide technical assistance
- More information: [Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Assistance Program | US EPA](#)



Roundtable

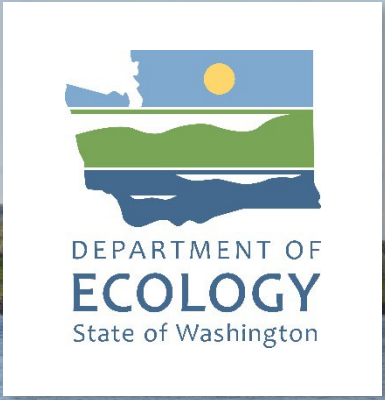


Wrap up

Stacy James



**Next year's meeting
dates will be
announced soon**



Thank you