



# Pooled Resources Oversight Committee

## DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, October 29, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
USGS, 934 Broadway, Tacoma 98402

Permittee representatives:

- Will Appleton, Chair
- Ben Parrish
- Jim Simmonds
- Kelly Uhacz

Other stakeholder representatives:

- Chris Konrad, Vice Chair
- Tom Putnam
- Bruce Wulkan

Permittee alternates:

- Heather Kibbey
- Kit Paulsen
- Bill Reilly
- Carla Vincent

Other stakeholder alternates:

- Abby Barnes
- Jay Davis
- Katelyn Kinn

RSMP Coordinator:

- Brandi Lubliner

SWG Staff:

- Karen Dinicola

### THE COMMITTEE'S PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Committee is to provide transparency, efficiency, and accountability of the expenditure of the Pooled Fund for the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSMP). The Committee will provide feedback to Ecology through the Stormwater Work Group (SWG) regarding the schedule, scope, budget, and quality of the program's deliverables and verify that contracts are implemented.

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### Quarterly budget and progress report

- The Committee reviewed the draft second quarterly report. Brandi and Karen highlighted some numbers that changed from the version sent out in advance. We just learned that the RSMP status and trends monitoring will have another \$75,744 coming in from the City of Bellingham over the next 4 years. Ecology has allowed a few permittees to change their December 2013 opt-out notifications to participate in the RSMP instead. There is an easier permit compliance pathway for opting in than for opting out, as it's not feasible that a permittee could successfully prepare for and implement the required sampling which began this month.
- An error discovered in the previous quarterly report was discovered and is highlighted in the cover memo and in a note on Table 1 in the second report. Committee members prefer this approach to reissuing previous reports.

### Oversight of Status and Trends Monitoring

- USGS, King County, Skagit County, San Juan Island Conservation District will be conducting the streams monitoring. Thurston County decided not to participate, so USGS will do those sites. The implementation team is holding monthly coordination calls focused on labs, equipment, and clarifying methods.
- Final total number of sites: 60 monthly water quality monitoring sites and 95 watershed health (stream benthos, periphyton, habitat) and sediment sites. 48 are inside and 47 are outside UGA boundaries.



## STORMWATER WORK GROUP

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/swworkgroup.html>; <https://sites.google.com/site/pugetsoundstormwaterworkgroup/home>

- RSMP samples will be sent to: Manchester Environmental Laboratory (MEL), King County Environmental Laboratory (KCEL), Rhithron (for stream benthos), and Edge/Clallam Co labs (just bacteria). MEL is also subcontracting with specialty labs for certain analyses.
  - KCEL and MEL did a prior inter-laboratory comparison with several commercial and state labs. Those parameters won't be repeated in the inter-laboratory comparison for the RSMP. Brandi will send out a link to the report if available online or a citation if not.
- All of the project partners have visited their sites to see if the reaches first visited in April went dry over the summer.
- Scopes of work based on decisions made by the SWG and this Committee over the past several months have been finalized with these parties. One task that has been added is measuring relative stage at each visit. This will help fill in flow information for months that it isn't possible to measure discharge and may also help relate discharge at a site to what is measured at a nearby stream gage.
- The Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) has been reviewed by key implementation team members and used in their budgeting. It is posted at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/psmonitoring/smallstreamsSubgrp.html> and will be finalized in the next few weeks.
- Brandi has received cost estimates from everyone but King County. Their costs will likely go up. Brandi will follow up on outliers to make sure the right level of effort is being done.
- Using the big spreadsheet with all S&T components, Brandi is confident that we're still in the right range of budgeted costs. 30% overhead assumption covers increased costs so we're still with a 15% buffer.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Brandi will share the final budget spreadsheet with the Committee. Unless King Co costs increase too much, we should still have a 10-15% buffer. Committee members agreed that it is okay to proceed if 15% maintained. If not, PRO-Committee would like to see final budget and have a round of review via email before agreements are finalized.
  - Committee members are cautions not to let streams eat into the buffer for mussels and sediment status and trends monitoring. Additional funds can be used to expand analyses of RSMP data with other program findings to make good recommendations for the next round of monitoring.
    - The PSEMP Freshwater Work Group is making recommendations for analyzing the streams data. We hope to assemble a team of individuals from multiple organizations to write the QAPP addendum and do the analyses focused on stormwater management questions.
    - **ACTION ITEM:** SWG needs a communication and outreach strategy in addition to analysis and reporting. Define roles and responsibilities of SWG, PSEMP, PSP, etc. This is being addressed in the SWG work plan updates.
- SWG will discuss and define appropriate process for review and approval of mussels and sediment QAPPs as well as the QAPP addendum for interpreting the streams data and making recommendations for the next round of RSMP data collection.

### Oversight of RSMP Effectiveness Studies

- The RSMP Coordinator and project proponents have now finalized scopes of work for all four of the effectiveness studies scheduled to begin in this initial round.
- Agreements are in signature with USFWS and Redmond
  - USFWS study is going well despite awaiting final signature. The Associated Press observed highway runoff sampling and took photos. Due to the long warm summer the fish are still not ready to spawn. Preliminary study results confirm pilot study findings. Adult survival in stormwater is nil. Control fish and biotreatment fish all fine at 24-hour, same with well water. Construction nearing completion.
  - Redmond project also moving ahead during signature phase. The agreement will go to their Council for approval in a couple of weeks.
- King County agreements will be routed soon. The budgeted costs for the King County studies increased since the Committee's previous discussion of those projects.
  - King County projects are in Ecology's process and should go out this week or next for signature. The Hylebos project cost estimate doubled, and the Echo Lake project increased by 20%. "Optional" tasks are



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a large portion of these projects' budgets that are addressing concerns about usability of the findings if data objectives aren't met by original sampling plans.

- Committee members are not certain that increased costs are commensurate with the requested increase in scope.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Before the SWG meeting on November 12, PRO-Committee members will look at the two King County project scopes and budgets posted at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/municipal/effective.html> and email Chris (who will report to the SWG) at [cpkonrad@usgs.gov](mailto:cpkonrad@usgs.gov) if you're concerned about any of the projects.
  - Committee members listed these lessons learned for future rounds of study selection and contracting:
    - We need better scopes and cost estimates (perhaps with buffer of 10%) when the SWG recommends projects for funding so that we don't end up not funding projects that are approved but are farther down the list.
    - We need to avoid asking project proponents to answer additional questions or improve their proposed approaches if we're worried about increasing costs. Balance this with the times that it is better to spend more to get more usable information by doing more/better review early in the selection process.
    - Really complex sites/studies like the Hylebos project might not end up being as regionally relevant.
    - Consider splitting more projects into phased pieces like we did with Redmond's study.
- Chris will report these concerns in his briefing to the SWG at its next meeting on November 12. The PRO-Committee will try to tighten up the process of implementing the next six studies projects using these lessons, and the SWG should apply these lessons in selecting the second overall round of studies.
- SWG needs a communication and outreach strategy addition to analysis and reporting. Individual project proponents have plans for sharing results. Define other roles and responsibilities of SWG, PSEMP, PSP, etc. How does SWG wrap first –x– number of studies together to tell a story?
    - **ACTION ITEM:** This is being addressed in the SWG work plan updates.
  - The contracting process for the other six SWG-approved effectiveness studies will begin after stream sampling is underway in 2015. The next two will likely be the Bellingham hydrology study and the Lakewood business inspection study. We might phase the Bellingham study similarly to the way we decided to phase the Redmond study.
    - **ACTION ITEM:** Karen and Brandi will ask these two project proponents to start refining their budgets and scopes so that the SWG can discuss near-final numbers in January.