

Building Cities in the Rain
Working Group
October 9, 2014
Meeting Summary

Participants: Larry Schaffner, Thurston County; Erika Harris, Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC); Scott Stolnack, WRIA 8; Bruce Wulkan, Puget Sound Partnership; De'Sean Quinn, South Central LIO; Phyllis Varner, City of Bellevue; Andy Rheume, City of Redmond; Donna de Leon and Lorna Mauren, City of Tacoma; Dan Gariepy and Abbey Stockwell, Department of Ecology (Ecology); Kerry Ritland, City of Issaquah; Doug Navetski, King County; Heather Trim, Futurewise; John Palmer, EPA; and Heather Ballash, Department of Commerce.

Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council

Andy Rheume, Erika Harris and Heather Ballash reported on their presentation on the Building Cities in the Rain project to the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Council on September 25, 2014. The response was mostly positive and supportive.

Public Comment

No comment.

Presentations

The following presentations were made to the group. The presentations will be posted on the Building Cities in the Rain web site under Library/Documents/Meeting Materials, along with this summary.

1. Re-envisioning Treatment and Flow Control in Tacoma – the Regional Approach
2. Overview of Clark County's Alternative Flow Control Mitigation Program, EPA
3. Building Cities in the Rain Work Group Overview (Refresh on Project Goals)
4. 2020 Ecosystem Targets and EPA Funding, Puget Sound Partnership

Department of Ecology update on Stormwater Control Transfer Program guidance

Ecology provided an update on the stormwater control transfer program guidance being developed by Ecology staff. Ecology's experience in stormwater control transfer programs have included Clark County's program and the Redmond Watershed Management Plan. The Clark County program was appealed by the Pollution Control Hearings Board, who raised specific concerns. Ecology considered those concerns within its approval of the Redmond Watershed Plan. These experiences have formed the basis for this document.

Prior to establishing a stormwater control transfer program, a municipality must evaluate its watersheds and identify those it considers as priority. The watershed prioritization approach calls for a holistic view of the watersheds and seeks out stormwater control opportunities that will provide immediate environmental benefits.

A larger prioritization framework, such as the Puget Sound Watershed Characterization Project, can assist in setting initial priorities. This broad view must be refined with local information - including:

- Existing hydrology
- Water Quality
- Habitat conditions
- Presence of sensitive species

- Land use

In addition, several other factors should influence the watershed priority ranking:

- Give higher priority to watersheds with low to moderate levels of impairment and are expected to respond more quickly to rehabilitation efforts and provide more immediate water quality benefit.
- Give higher priority to watersheds with a high amount of municipality influence (most of the watershed is within the jurisdiction)
- Prioritize watersheds with regional attention – certain watersheds identified through other planning processes: Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) plans, Salmon Recovery Plans, Endangered Species listings, and critical habitat.
- Consult with federal, tribal, and state natural resource agencies – these agencies may have data or informed opinions pertinent to the prioritization process

Brainstorm Exercise

The group spent the remainder of the meeting brainstorming elements of the guidance. Those ideas are captured in the photograph below. At the next meeting, we will begin prioritizing and ordering these ideas.

