

Timber, Fish, & Wildlife (TFW) Policy Committee
 April 6, 2017 Meeting Summary

Decision	Notes
1. Unstable Slopes Motion: approve Alternative #3 for study design development	Federal thumbs sideways, all other caucuses thumbs up.
2. Policy approved the CMER '18-'19 budget.	Eastside Tribes thumbs sideways, all other caucuses thumbs up.

Action	Assignment
1. For April 12, prepare to discuss the FHAM report and how that might lead to a single text negotiation at mediation session.	Caucus representatives
2. By April 14, provide the Unstable Slopes subgroup with comments on the Unstable Slopes PI report to the Board.	Caucus representatives
3. By April 21, provide draft Unstable Slopes report to DNR to include in the Board packet.	Unstable Slopes Subgroup
4. By April 14, send suggested topics to Co-Chairs and facilitators for their quarterly strategy meeting with the AMPA.	Caucus representatives
5. By April 21, send suggestions for Spokane-area field trips to Marc Gauthier, Marc Engel and Rachel Aronson.	Caucus representatives
6. As soon as possible, reserve room in Policy room block at the Northern Quest Casino for Wednesday, May 31st and Thursday June 1st for Spokane meeting and field trip.	Caucus representatives
7. Proactively reach out to the AMPA to give feedback on the AMP before the May Policy meeting.	Caucus representatives
8. Send out information on a significant budget shortfall facing DNR Forest Practices in the legislature.	Karen Terwilleger

Opening – Ray Entz and Scott Swanson, Co-Chairs of the Timber, Fish, & Wildlife Policy Committee (“Policy”), welcomed participants and led introductions (*please see Attachment 1 for a list of participants*). The goal of this meeting was to focus on approving the CMER 17/19 budget, and to take action on other Policy workload items.

Announcements and Co-Chairs’ Updates –

- Policy discussed the June field tour in the Spokane area. Potential field tour focuses are examples of the eastside template, off-channel habitat (OCH) in a smaller system, and/or the Kalispel herbicide treatment. Caucuses were asked to send other ideas of features to highlight during the field tour to Rachel Aronson.

- The Adaptive Management Program Administrator (AMPA) is developing recommendations on the AMP for the May board meeting. The AMPA is committed to reaching out to caucuses and hearing their input to potentially include in his recommendations to the Board. The Co-Chairs requested that caucuses do not wait for Hans to call them, but actively connect and share input with Hans. There will be a discussion at the May Policy meeting before the recommendations are presented to the Board Board, but no associated Policy decision. The caucuses suggested that each caucus share their input not only with Hans, but with the other caucuses as well.

Meeting Summaries – The meeting summary from March 2nd, 2017 was revised per Policy comments and accepted by vote as final.

CMER Update – Doug Hooks, CMER Co-Chair, gave an update on the March CMER meeting:

- The Hard Rock study questions have to be written, packaged by the AMPA, and sent to independent scientific peer-review (ISPR). These study questions will not return to CMER until mid-late May. CMER suggests that the July Policy meeting could be the first opportunity for a Hard Rock discussion.
- CMER will send out a running list of Type N-Hard Rock topics with every CMER meeting summary until this study is done.
- Administrative protocols: CMER is not currently sure if they are working under a LEAN protocol, the draft protocols and standards manual (PSM), or new recommendations from the Board. The default for CMER is the 2013 protocols and standards manual. However, the CMER co-chair warned that this is not the process that Policy is accustomed to.

Changes to CMER Work Plan – Heather Gibbs reviewed the changes to the CMER work plan. Policy was not charged with a decision on the work plan.

Discussion:

The Federal Caucus questioned the need for the eDNA literature synthesis. They feel that eDNA is a fish presence method, and Policy is moving away from fish presence in water typing. It is the federal caucus's perspective that CMER's plan to study eDNA is getting ahead of the Policy plans, which may morph as Policy finalizes the new water typing system. The Eastside Tribal Caucus noted that fish presence will remain a component of the revised FHAM and eDNA will help reduce electrofishing, per the Board's direction.

CMER '17-'19 Budget – Policy balanced and approved the CMER 17/19 budget. Policy also characterized additional budget topics that they would like to discuss at a future meeting:

- The ISAG research strategy
- The long-term role of TWIGs
- The value of continuity for project completion and project management
- Before considering new projects, consider historical commitments
- The "bow wave" effect of the bottom line past 2020, and other projects slated for 2020 and later
- The role of CMER, Policy, Co-Chairs, and AMPA in the budget

- Specifically for CMER, delineating their role: should CMER put together the science needs blind to cost, recommend a balanced budget, or prioritize projects? Some Policy caucuses feel that Policy should provide this direction to CMER.

Decision: Policy voted on their balanced budget (Eastside Tribal caucus thumbs sideways, all other caucuses thumbs up).

Unstable Slopes Criteria TWIG BAS & Alternatives Analysis – Ted Turner and Netra Regmi, two members of the TWIG, reminded Policy of the alternatives that the TWIG identified.

Decision: Policy voted to approve Alternative #3 for study design development (Federal caucus thumbs sideways, all other caucuses thumbs up).

Revised Fish Habitat Assessment Methods Evaluation – Phil Roni, Ray Timm, and Pete Bisson presented the review of revised FHAM proposals. From their perspective, all proposals were much improved from their first drafts, and contained key components. They felt that WDFW’s proposal was most written like a rule, and was the most implementable, with a clear and logical progression of steps.

Roni noted that there are a few major differences; these differences seem minor from an outside perspective though they are major to the caucuses.

One remaining difference between the proposals is the definition of and criteria for Permanent Natural Barriers (PNBs). The contractors recommend defining PNBs through a literature search using data sets that most clearly match Washington fish species. All proposals dealt with manmade barriers the same way.

The contractors suggested that the Conservation Caucus outlined most clearly the starting point of electrofishing and that the background sections from Industry and Conservation were well-written. They also suggest further exploring the Industry proposal’s nodes approach.

The contractors expressed a hope that this report would spur the Fish Habitat Technical Group to reconvene. They also noted a need for survey crews using a new method to have experience or training, especially in small streams.

Discussion:

- Policy thanked the contractors for their work.
- Policy asked the contractors what they believe to be the role of the last fish in a reliable and accurate water typing proposal. Phil Roni explained that it is risky to use last fish as an indication of habitat because the last fish position depends on seasonality, drought conditions, habitat degradation, etc.
- The Industrial Landowners Caucus noted that they view the proposals as providing significantly different locations for the F/N break. The contractors responded that all three of them independently came to the conclusion that all the proposals would put the F/N break at the same place, based on reading the details provided in the proposals. However, as far as they know, no studies have compared how proposals would translate into F/N break on the landscape.

Legislative Updates – Karen Terwilleger will send out information on a significant budget shortfall facing DNR Forest Practices.

Unstable Slopes PI – The Unstable Slopes Proposal Initiation Subgroup briefly reviewed their report that they drafted on behalf of Policy for the Board’s May meeting. The hope is to include this in the Board’s May meeting packet (the mailing date is April 26). Caucuses were asked to provide comments on the draft report to Subgroup through Mary Scurlock by 4/14 so that Subgroup can decide if it is easy to finish or needs another step. The Subgroup will provide the report to DNR by 4/21.

The Co-Chairs adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM.

Attachment 1 – Attendance by Caucus at 4/2/17 Meeting

Conservation Caucus

*Mary Scurlock, M. Scurlock & Associates
Chris Mendoza, Mendoza Environmental
Peter Goldman, Washington Forest Law Center

County Caucus

*Scott Swanson, Washington State Association
of Counties, Co-Chair
Kendra Smith, Skagit County (phone)

Federal Caucus

*Marty Acker, USFWS
Michelle Wilcox, EPA

Industrial Timber Landowners Caucus

*Karen Terwilleger, Washington Forest
Protection Association (WFPA)
Doug Hooks, WFPA
Brian Franzen, WFPA
Ted Turner, Weyerhaeuser

Small Forest Landowners Caucus

*Steve Barnowe-Meyer, WFFA

DNR Caucus

*Marc Engel, DNR
Joe Shramek, DNR
Marc Ratcliff, DNR

WDFW/Ecology Caucus

*Rich Doenges, Ecology
*Terry Jackson, WDFW
Don Nauer, WDFW
Gary Bell, WDFW

Tribal Caucus – Eastside

*Ray Entz, Kalispel/UCUT, Co-Chair

Tribal Caucus – Westside

*Jim Peters, Northwest Indian Fisheries
Commission (NWIFC)
Ash Roorbach, NWIFC

*Caucus representative

Others

Hans Berge, AMPA
Howard Haemmerle, DNR
Heather Gibbs, DNR
Netra Regmi, CMER
Greg Stewart, CMER
Phil Roni, Cramer Fish Sciences
Ray Timm, Cramer Fish Sciences
Pete Bisson, Cramer Fish Sciences

Claire Chase, Triangle Associates
Rachel Aronson, Triangle Associates

Attachment 2 – Ongoing Priorities Checklist

Priority	Assignment	Status & Notes
Type N	Type N policy subgroup	Caucuses are encouraged to talk offline about the wet season default methodology.
Type F	Policy	At regular meetings and in mediation, Policy is working towards responding to the February 2014 Board motions (specific to off-channel habitat and electrofishing) in addition to other related water typing issues (such as default physical criteria, recovery, habitat, etc.).
Small Forest Landowners Westside Template	SFLOs Template Subgroup	Subgroup is meeting separately; co-chaired by Marc Engel and Ken Miller.
Unstable Slopes	Policy	UPSAG hired a contractor to do a glacial deep-seated literature synthesis. Policy is also considering how to respond to the AMPA’s recommendations on the unstable slopes proposal initiation, presented to the Board in February 2016.
Ongoing CMER reports reviewed by Policy	Doug Hooks & Todd Baldwin, CMER Co-Chairs	CMER Co-Chairs to give update(s) as needed at Policy meetings; AMPA to give quarterly reports for when CMER studies to come to Policy.

*This table notes the Policy Committee priorities that were sent to the Forest Practices Board and any other major topics or issues that arise during the year.

Attachment 3 – Entities, Groups, or Subgroups: Schedule and Notes

Entity/Group/Subgroup	Next Meeting Date	Notes
TFW Policy Committee	May 4	
CMER	April 25	
Type N Policy Subgroup	TBD	
Type F		To be addressed at regular Policy meetings and in mediation.
Forest Practices Board	May 9/10	
Small Forest Landowners Template Subgroup	TBD	As workload allows.