

Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER)

**February 26, 2013
DNR/DOC Compound**

Attendees	Representing
*Baldwin, Todd (ph)	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Ehinger, Bill	Dept. of Ecology
Gauthier, Mark (ph)	Upper Columbia United Tribes
*Hicks, Mark	Department of Ecology, CMER Co-chair
Hitchens, Dawn	Dept. of Natural Resources, CMER Coordinator
Hotvedt, Jim	Dept. of Natural Resources, AMPA
*Kay, Debbie (ph)	Suquamish Tribe
Kroll, AJ	Weyerhaeuser
Kurtenbach, Amy	Dept. of Natural Resources, Project Manager
*Lingley, Leslie	Dept. of Natural Resources
*Martin, Doug	Washington Forestry Protection Association
McCrea, Chad	Spokane Tribe of Indians
McIntyre, Aimee	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
*Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus Contractor, CMER Co-Chair
*Miller, Dick	Washington Family Forestry Association
*Mobbs, Mark	Quinault Nation
Schuett-Hames, Dave	CMER Staff, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Sturhan, Nancy	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

* Indicates official CMER members and alternates; ph indicates attended via phone.

Agenda – No changes were made to the agenda.

FY14 CMER Work Plan

The past four CMER meetings have been devoted to the updates to the CMER workplan and CMER has been providing tentative approvals of these updates and changes. The UPSAG section in the workplan was revised by Chris Mendoza, and reviewed by prior UPSAG members and current CMER members.

Mark Hicks motioned to approve the FY14 CMER Work Plan and Appendix A (with the caveat that LWAG would update the performance targets within one week in Appendix A).

Dick Miller Seconded the Motion.

CMER members approved the FY14 CMER Work Plan and the updated Appendix A.

FY 14 CMER Projects Budget

Jim Hotvedt reviewed the new projects added in the FY14 budget worksheet:

- ✓ Westside Type N Buffer Characteristics, Integrity and Function (BCIF) \$80,254
- ✓ Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment – Hard Rock – Amphibian Demographics/Channel Metrics \$25,000
- ✓ Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment – Hard Rock – Extended Sampling –Temp/Sediment/Veg/Litterfall \$163,000
- ✓ Van Dyke’s Salamander \$103,000
- ✓ Extensive Riparian Status & Trends Monitoring –Veg, Type N W&E (Baseline) \$50,000

Doug Martin emphasized CMER used to prioritize the project list. CMER has not prioritized the project list since Policy made the decision in 2009 to prioritize the CMER projects according to whether or not they were answering critical questions associated with meeting the CWA assurances.

Mark Hicks moved to pass the CMER FY14 Budget to Policy as a recommendation and to emphasize this is not a CMER prioritized project list.

Todd Baldwin seconded the motion.

CMER members were in agreement.

Jim Hotvedt announced the Forest Practices Board approved to hire a CMER Scientist with wetlands experience. This scientist will conduct research and scoping of projects in order to initiate and complete projects on the master schedule.

Chris Mendoza reminded CMER members about the CMER Master Schedule from the Settlement Agreement of May 2012. CMER compared the prioritization and timing of projects listed in the Settlement Agreement Master Schedule to the prioritization of projects in the CMER work plan and had the opportunity to provide input to Policy. CMER's recommendations were delivered to Policy who incorporated many of them into the master schedule project list. The list in this year's budget encompasses those changes plus Policy's prioritization based on the CWA assurances.

Business Session

➤ CMER meeting minutes for November & December 2012 were approved.

➤ CMER Protocols and Standards Manual (PSM)

Nancy Sturhan shared chapters 4, 5 & 6 have been revised and commented on. She has not received any further comments on these chapters.

Dick Miller stated on page 4 -3 the non-consensus decision making process is unclear. This section refers to the flow chart in chapter 3 where the verbiage in 3.b is not specific.

Nancy Sturhan agreed to clarify this section – this is used in the decision making process for Dispute Resolution as referenced in chapter 3.

Mark Hicks moved to approve the revisions in Chapters 4, 5 & 6 in the CMER Protocols and Standards Manual as proposed.

Leslie Lingley seconded the motion.

CMER members approved the PSM – Chapters 4, 5 & 6 as revised.

➤ RSAG – Extensive Riparian Status and Trends Monitoring Program-Stream Temperature, Phase 1: Eastside Type F/S Extensive Monitoring Project (Final Report)

Bill Ehinger reported sampling sites were a challenge. RSAG worked with Phil Larson who helped to readjust sites. The target population is based on type F stream layers on CMER lands. There were many sites that were not type F or they ran into access challenges. RSAG reduced the estimated streams from 140 sites. He requested CMER approval of final report.

Mark Hicks moved to accept the final report of Extensive Riparian Status and Trends Monitoring Program – Stream Temperature –Phase 1: Eastside Type F/S Monitoring Project.

Chris Mendoza seconded the motion.

CMER members approved the motion.

➤ Recommendations for Eastside Type N Experimental Buffer TWIG

Jim Hotvedt shared this agenda item was a follow-up to last month's CMER meeting. He received comments and suggestions from CMER members for the TWIG. He reviewed the qualifications of the suggested members. Jim requested approval of the qualifications and the following four people to constitute the Eastside Type N Experimental Buffer TWIG:

Greg Stewart, Geomorphologist, NWFIC CMER staff

Bill Ehinger, Aquatic Ecologist, DOE

Marc Gauthier, Forest Practices, UCUT

Richard Woodsmith, Geosciences/Hydrologist, Retired PNW Station scientist

Discussion Points:

Nancy Sturhan asked the question if CMER was paying the hydrologist.

Dick Miller responded WFFA made the commitment through their participation grant to support the hydrologist for the current fiscal year.

Chris Mendoza raised his concern about not being familiar with the hydrologist's work and requested to review the resume since CMER may contract with the hydrologist. Based on prior consensus agreement by CMER on the LEAN process, CMER ultimately approves who is on the TWIG. Chris M. stated that since CMER approves the TWIG, it would be unreasonable for him to approve a contractor that he is completely unfamiliar with and that he was uncomfortable supporting this recommendation having not reviewed his qualifications and related work.

AJ Kroll asked for clarification of CMER's role in this. The TWIG was a major outcome of the LEAN process. He shared his concern where someone can have a high caliber resume and CMER can nix them in the TWIG process.

Amy Kurtenbach added that the purpose of LEAN was to expedite the CMER process and to get study designs up and going. Task 2.4 in the LEAN document identifies the AMPA goes out to search and make sure the TWIG members are qualified to do the work and expedite the process. The AMPA did his work and provided CMER a recommendation that the TWIG members are qualified. The process of developing this TWIG has already delayed the project.

Mark Hicks added that CMER provided tentative conditional approval of this TWIG list. He requested the AMPA to send Chris Mendoza the resume of the hydrologist and Chris agreed that he will get a response back to the AMPA within a day or two of receiving his resume. CMER conditionally approved the list.

February 7, 2013 Policy meeting Update:

- ♦ Type F Dispute Resolution – Policy agreed to a timeline and process for the Type F subgroup to create a charter. Policy approved contracting with the facilitators for additional meetings and in-between work for the Type F meetings focused on creating the charter.
- ♦ Forest Practices Hydraulic Project (FPHP) integration – The MOA between DNR & WDFW was signed in December 2012. The Board Manual updates are moving forward. The integration of fish protection standards into the Forest Practices rules is being developed.
- ♦ Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan Settlement Agreement – Policy identified that the Board was scheduled to approve the CR 101 rule making process this month. DNR staff will amend Board Manual Section 22 (Guidelines for the Adaptive Management Program) based on the Settlement Agreement.

- ♦ The Policy subgroup working on the Type N strategy met in the afternoon – Policy will see the Type N product at the March meeting. This may trigger some members to further examine the upper most point of perennial flow.

CMER Report to Policy March 7, 2013:

- ♦ CMER FY14 Workplan & Budget with key messages from co-chairs and AMPA.
- ♦ CMER Protocols and Standards Manual Chapters 4, 5 & 6 are completed.

CMER/SAG Recap of Assignments

- ♦ CMER will start the conversation on project prioritization for the next CMER meeting.
- ♦ Chris Mendoza will check out prior decisions made by CMER for the Westside Type F Extensive report regarding skipping the ISPR step, and CMER co-chairs will check in with Policy about this process.
- ♦ Chris Mendoza will review SFLO TWIG member qualifications for the Eastside Type N Effectiveness Study and get back to AMPA with two days.
- ♦ CMER Agenda item – TWIG selection and pitfalls discussion.
- ♦ Appendix A –Add fish passage; adjust targets to Van Dyke by March 1st.