

## CMER Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2006

### Attendees:

Todd Baldwin  
Jenelle Black  
Bill Ehinger  
Lynda Hoffman  
Pete Heide  
Dawn Hitchens  
Mark Hunter  
Jim MacCracken  
Doug Martin  
Tim McBride  
Dennis McDonald

Chris Mendoza  
Pete Peterson  
Allen Pleus  
Dawn Pucci  
Kris Ray  
Ken Risenhoover  
Tom Robinson  
Dave Schuett-Hames  
Greg Stewart  
Nancy Sturhan  
Curt Veldhuisen

Introductions. Curt Veldhuisen introduced Greg Stewart, the new CMER geomorphologist who started work at NWIFC in April.

Meeting Minutes. CMER approved the minutes from the March Meeting

CMER membership list handout. Nancy Sturhan handed out a list of CMER members approved by the FPB. She will ask the FPB to remove people who are no longer members.

Policy Meeting Report. Nancy Sturhan reported on the last FFR Policy Group meeting. Darin Cramer is being hired as the new Adaptive Management Program Administrator to replace Geoff McNaughton. The Policy Group approved sending the CMER budget and work plan to the Forest Practices Board. Policy discussed the need for co-chairs for several of the SAGs. The need for a research waiver for the Type N Experimental Study (Basalt Lithologies) was discussed.

### ISRP Review

No current action.

Budget. CMER approved moving \$20,000 on line 96 (fish ecology literature review) to column F (FY2006) to column G (FY 2007 tier 2). Policy Group also had increased the budget for the project development support fund for FY2007 from \$80,000 to \$100,000 (line 127, column G).

Project Development Support Fund Update. Nancy Sturhan handed out a sheet listing the expenditures from the project development support fund. There is \$140 dollars left in the budget for the remainder of FY 2006. No additional requests were anticipated by the SAGs for FY 2006.

Status Tracker. Nancy Sturhan handed out an updated copy of the CMER Project Status Tracker. CMER reviewed the entire sheet project by project and discussed and updated the current status of the projects. Nancy will edit the status tracker accordingly and send out to the CMER list. Changes can be sent in to Nancy at any time to update the status tracker.-

### SAG Requests

RSAG requested CMER reviewers for the DFC/FPA Field Check Project Report. Volunteers included Pete Heide, Allen Pleus and Mark Hunter. Chris Mendoza will send out copies of the report, as well as the DFC Model Sensitivity Analysis Report. Review comments are due by May 12.

RSAG requested that CMER forward a memo to inform the Policy Group that there is uncertainty concerning how the DFC model outputs compare with other models such as FVS and ORGANON. CMER approved having Doug Martin and Nancy Sturhan take the memo to the next Policy Group meeting.

CMER Conference Debriefing. Doug Martin summarized the CMER conference, saying that the presentations were well received and the format of 25 minute talks with opportunities for questions worked well. Thought there were 85 signed-in attendees. There was some concern that attendance was down, probably due to having it on a Friday during spring break.

### SAG Issues

- ISAG- Dennis McDonald reported that he will be leaving DNR and starting Monday as City of Centralia Public Works Project Manager. ~~Dave Parks~~ Dave Price may be able to take over his duties related to ISAG project leftover work. The ABR seasonal/annual variability report will be sent out end of this week for CMER review. The strategy is to put it into a survey form, and ask for suggestions. If no fatal flaws are identified, it will be submitted for CMER approval/acceptance in May. Dawn Hitchens will handle this process after Dennis leaves. A preliminary report on the Eastern Washington stream typing model (Steve Duke). Dennis has prepared a final staff report on the stream typing project that will be forwarded to Nancy Sturhan for distribution.
- CMER Structure/Staff. Pete Heide asked for an opportunity to discuss the organization of CMER and the SAG structure in light of the difficulty in finding volunteers for vacant co-chair positions on many SAGs, especially RSAG and ISAG. Pete thinks it is clear that CMER isn't going to be able to find people to take on the time and level of leadership necessary for RSAG and ISAG, or other SAGs. CMER must take on more direct leadership/guidance responsibilities for CMER projects and get more progress reports on projects. He proposed to change the way CMER operates and reduce the number of meetings people need to attend. Pete suggested that the business of RSAG and ISAG be addressed by CMER as a whole, by folding their meetings into the monthly CMER meeting. This would mean longer CMER meetings, but would eliminate two SAG meetings per month and would get CMER more directly involved.

A long discussion on how CMER currently operates, how it could be improved, and the roles of the SAGs and staffs followed, during which it became apparent that there was widespread agreement that there was a need for improvements in how CMER operates, but a wide variety of opinions about how to change the system to improve efficiency. The need to develop a more robust project management structure was discussed, since the SAG co-chairs can not manage all the new projects that are being launched. There was also discussion about the future role of CMER staff in project management, and uncertainty concerning Steve McConnell's future role now that the 8 month trial period for working on projects and charging to project budgets is nearly over.

It was decided that a more thorough analysis of the problems and potential solutions was needed before CMER could take action on this issue. Nancy Sturhan and Pete Heide agreed to meet and develop more information on organizational issues and solutions to bring back to CMER in May. Pete volunteered to initiate discussions with the Policy Group concerning CMER staff, (particularly about Steve McConnell's future role) and the need for more project management capability.

Upcoming Staff Needs. Contact Doug, Nancy or Dave with needs for CMER staff assistance.

Upcoming Policy Meeting. Doug and Nancy will deliver the DFC model testing memo to the Policy Group (see SAG requests above). They also will ask the Policy subcommittee on organization to address the need for project management capability. They also will notify Policy that WetSAG is preparing scoping documents to present to Policy, and that there will be a presentation of DFC follow-up projects and scoping documents at the May CMER meeting.

May Science Topic. The topic for the afternoon science session at the May CMER meeting will be an update on various DFC follow-up projects, including the DFC/FPA analysis project (office analysis and field check), the DFC model sensitivity analysis project, the DFC plot width standardization scoping process, and the site class map validation scoping process.

Afternoon Science Session- Eastside Type N Characterization Project Scoping. Kris Ray and Todd Baldwin gave a presentation on the scoping process for the Eastside Type N Characterization Project on behalf of SAGE. The scoping document is currently available for CMER review. Todd will be setting up a meeting to discuss potential integration with other CMER projects. Anyone interested in commenting on the scoping document or participating in the integration discussion should contact Todd at [tbaldwin@knrd.org](mailto:tbaldwin@knrd.org).

