

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee
August 28, 2007
NWIFC Conference Center
Minutes**

Attendees:

Almond, Lyle	Makah Tribe
Baldwin, Todd	Kalispel Tribe, SAGE co-chair
Butts, Sally	USFWS, CMER co-chair
Dieu, Julie	Rayonier
Furman, Kira	Simon Fraser University
Grizzel, Jeff	DNR State Lands
Haque, Sarah	Squaxin Island Tribe
Heckel, Linda	DNR Forest Practices, CMER coordinator
Heide, Pete	WFPA
Hicks, Mark	Ecology
Jackson, Terry	WDFW, BTSAG Co-chair
Jacobsen, Deanna	Suquamish Tribe
Lingley, Leslie	DNR Forest Practices
MacCracken, Jim	Longview Timberlands, LWAG Co-Chair
Marks, Derek	Tulalip Tribes
Martin, Doug	WFPA contractor
McConnell, Steve	UCUT
Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus contractor, RSAG Tri-Chair
Miller, Dick	WA Farm Forestry Association
Mobbs, Mark	Quinault Indian Nation
Moon, Teresa	DNR Project Manager
Pavel, Joseph	NWIFC
Risenhoover, Ken	Port Blakely
Schuett-Hames, Dave	NWIFC, CMER staff
Sturhan, Nancy	DNR Forest Practices, CMER Co-chair
Teply, Mark	DNR State Lands
Vaugeois, Laura	DNR Forest Practices, UPSAG co-chair
Veldhuisen, Curt	Skagit River System Cooperative

Assignments:

Items from July Meeting	
Fish Passage Culvert and Flume Studies - Draft questions for ISPR reviewers to CMER in August - Will provide another update at the September CMER Meeting	Jackson

Document classification paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add new category, to CMER in August (Done) - To Policy in September (Done) - Back to CMER in September 	Butts/Sturhan
Improving landowner awareness on site selection and harvest scheduling issues (ongoing) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update to CMER in August (Done) - Will provide an update at the September CMER Meeting 	Butts/Cramer

Assignments:

Items from August Meeting	
Accuracy and Bias in Unstable Slopes Identification Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leslie, Paul, Nancy and Chris – review document and provide comments back to Laura or Julie by 9/21/07 - Research if there is someone outside of the ISRP that could review the document 	Vaugeois/Dieu
RSAG-DFC Documents and Six Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approved by CMER to be presented to Policy at their September meeting 	Cramer
LWAG-CMER review for Amphibians in Intermittent Streams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comments by reviewers due to Jim by 9/21/07 - Back to CMER at their September meeting 	MacCracken
CMER Staff Position Memo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Darin/Dave will review the comments made at this meeting and will draft an email to CMER to forward to their SAG participants for their review - Darin – will draft how we are going to fill all the needs 	Cramer
CMER Decision Tree <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approved by CMER to be presented to Policy at their September meeting - If there are any changes please forward to Sally by 9/4/07 - Document then needs to be inserted into the PSM 	Cramer/Butts
CMER '08 Workplan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approved by CMER to be presented at the September Policy meeting - If approved by Policy then to the FP Board at their September meeting 	Cramer
Board Review/Process Clarification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggested as a future CMER agenda topic 	Cramer
CMER Conference Flyer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please review and send any edits to Sally by 9/14/07 - If you have distribution list ideas also send to Sally 	Butts

Science Session – Accuracy and Bias in Unstable Slopes Identification: Vaugeois
Document sent to CMER via email on September 12, 2007.

Leslie Lingley, Paul Bakke, Nancy Sturhan, and Chris Mendoza agreed to review the document and provide Laura and Julie with comments by September 21, 2007.

Minutes from July meeting and action items: Sturhan/Heckel

Minutes from the July meeting were approved as sent out. Action item list was reviewed and updated. See above.

Policy Meeting Report: Butts

SAGE budget update: Policy approved their EW Type F Riparian Assessment Project to move 85K from Tier Two to Tier One. This change needs to be reflected on the budget sheet.

CMER Budget: Butts

Cramer is reconciling the fiscal year '07 expenditures. This will be available shortly.

FYI - There is a Forests & Fish Budget Subcommittee funding workshop on September 27, 2007. This is an update only, CMER participants do not have to attend.

ISPR Update: Butts

UPSAG is working on a response plan based on ISPR review on the Post Mortem study design to bring to CMER for approval in October.

SAG Requests

RSAG - DFC documents and six questions. Chris Mendoza presented the DFC Model and Manual Report and six questions, DFC Model Sensitivity Analysis Report and six questions, and the DFC Desktop Analysis Synthesis Report for CMER approval. Chris thanked Steve McConnell for all his hard work and time commitment put into these documents. He mentioned that it is always a challenge to keep reviewers on track and it is important to make sure we hold ourselves and reviewers to timelines.

CMER approved the documents to be presented to Policy at their September meeting.

Steve McConnell stated that he was confused by the rule making process as it relates to Forests and Fish, and Nancy suggested that we put it on the agenda for September to have a brief presentation by her or Darin..

UPSAG – Laura Vaugeois presented a request for review of the study design for Effectiveness of Unstable Landform ID Project (Accuracy and Bias). Leslie, Paul, Nancy and Chris will review the document and provide comments back to Laura or Julie by September 21, 2007.

LWAG – Jim MacCracken requested reviewers for their Amphibian use of intermittent streams, phase III. Curt, Sally, Greg Stewart and Chris agreed to review the document and get comments back to Jim by September 21, 2007.

Jim also asked the reviewers to consider whether the document needs ISPR review and make a recommendation to Jim and CMER. Jim will report back on the reviews and ISPR recommendation at the September CMER meeting.

SAG Issues: Butts

CMER staff position job memo – Sally presented the memo from Darin Cramer describing the categories of needs for the vacant position. She requested that members take a copy to their SAGs for discussion. Comments can be sent back to Darin and David.

The group then had a discussion around the needs and how those could be met. Below is a summarization of the comments:

- Big needs are for GIS/data management for site selection and analysis
- GIS is better served by contracting than using the vacant CMER staff position for that need
- GIS database would help with integration of CMER work
- Makes sense to contract out statistical analysis, worked beautifully for UPSAG, for GIS it serves the group better to have dedicated GIS/data steward
- Jenelle spends a lot of time doing GIS work that would be better spent on other project management tasks
- Do we need to create a whole new GIS system or can we use an existing system?
- This person would be the repository for current data layers
- Need a system to archive/recover data – priceless
- Concerned about CMER moving into the contract mode. DNR is inflexible for contracting
- At the budget retreat it was decided to have a PM at DNR and for CMER staff to focus on PI work. We also still have a need for geomorphology
- CMER still needs a geomorphologist and GIS, probably can contract for statistics
- Another need is for technical writing/graphics for consistency on products. That is time consuming for PIs
- DNR would be a great place to have the GIS capability, need a GIS layer that addresses site locations
- Could get lucky and hire geomorph/GIS combo. Greg and his students could help catch up inutting data from previous CMER projects and perhaps help with site selection analyses.
- Site selection should be budgeted into large projects
- CMER GIS is a big project and not one person could handle it. Would be a major CMER effort
- Can hire statisticians/technical writers/geomorphs on contract. Need to determine what is easy and appropriate to contract on short-term vs. what needs are really long-term

Sally summed up the conversation:

1. Strong need for GIS/Database/Site selection repository – too big to contract out
2. Strong need for geomorphologist/hydrologist
3. Could contract out the statistical/experimental design
4. Could contract out the technical writer/graphics

These suggestions will be taken back to Darin and Dave. Members should talk with their SAGs on their needs and priorities. Darin will craft out a memo on how we are going to fill the needs.

RMZ Resample – For those reviewing the paper, comments are due back to Teresa Moon by September 15, 2007.

CMER Decision Tree – Sally presented the latest draft of the Decision Tree paper with its new options. Chris mentioned the purpose of this document is to recognize that CMER produces a variety of documents and it is critical to update and revise the Decision Tree paper as needed. Sally asked that if members have comments, please let her know by September 4, 2007.

CMER approved this “living” document to be presented to Policy at its September meeting.

Site Selection – Sally informed the members that she and Darin will be attending a meeting at WFPA in November to brief them on issues surrounding site selection.

Fish Passage – Terry Jackson updated the members on this project. A CMER sub-group is preparing two CMER-approved study designs for ISPR review. A list of the peer review questions is being prepared. Several pages of edits have been proposed for the flume study design. Terry is scheduling a meeting soon to try to come to agreement on the edits or to agree on the issues to bring to CMER. This will be an agenda item for update at the CMER September meeting.

CMER Workplan: Sturhan

Nancy reviewed with CMER the editorial changes made in the '08 Workplan.

The Workplan was approved by CMER to go to Policy and then the FP Board at their next meetings.

Nancy also let the members know the P&S manual is being edited. There is currently a rough draft. It will be coming to CMER soon.

CMER Report to Policy

Items being taken to the next Policy meeting include:

DFC documents and six questions

Update on Fish Passage

CMER Workplan
Classification paper (Decision Tree)
Draft science conference flyer

'08 Science Conference: Butts

Sally presented a draft flyer to send out notifying interested parties of the upcoming science conference. This flyer will be sent out around late September. If folks have comments please send them to Sally by September 14, 2007. Think about distribution lists that you might have that we could use to notify folks and send those to Sally also.

CMER Newsletter: Butts

Sally brought up the idea of drafting a CMER newsletter. This would give CMER additional visibility and credibility in the science community. Please send any thoughts you may have to Sally.

Future Meetings

CMER Regular Meetings: September 25, 2007, United Churches; October 23, 2007, NWIFC; November 27, 2007, NWIFC;
December 18, 2007, NWIFC
'08 Science Conference: February 20th, 2008, OB2