

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee
February 23, 2010
DNR/DOC Compound – Tumwater**

Meeting Notes

Attendees	Representing
Almond, Lyle (ph)	Makah Tribe
*Baldwin, Todd (v)	Kalispel Tribe, SAGE Co-Chair
Cahill, Candace	Rayonier, WETSAG Co-chair
*Dieu, Julie	Rayonier, UPSAG Co-Chair
Gilrein, Bob	Spokane Tribe of Indians, SAGE Chair
Hayes, Marc	WDFW, LWAG Co-Chair
Heide, Pete	WFPA
Hitchens, Dawn	DNR /CMER Coordinator
Hotvedt, Jim	DNR/ Adaptive Management Program Administrator
*Jackson, Terry	WDFW, CMER Co-Chair
Kurtenbach, Amy	DNR, Project Manager
*Martin, Doug	WFPA Contractor
*McConnell, Steve (v)	UCUT
*Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus Contractor, CMER Co-Chair
Miskovic, Teresa	DNR, Project Manager
*Miller, Dick	WFFA
Mobbs, Mark (ph)	Quinault Tribe
Murray, Joe	Merrill Ring
O'Sullivan, Allison (ph)	Suquamish Tribe
Roorbach, Ash	CMER Staff, NWIFC
Schuett-Hames, Dave	CMER Staff, NWIFC
Silver, Jill	10,000 Years Institute, WETSAG
Stewart, Greg	CMER Staff, NWIFC
*Sturhan, Nancy	NWIFC
*Veldhuisen, Curt	Skagit River Systems Coop.

* Indicates official CMER members and alternates; ph indicates attended via phone & v indicates attended by video conferencing

Agenda

Nancy Sturhan requested that the revisions/updates to CMER Protocols and Standards Manual request be added to the agenda. This will be addressed in the business section.

Science Session

CMER FY11 Work Plan -

Co-Chair Mendoza emphasized that the bulk of this meeting is devoted to reviewing the revisions to the FY11 CMER work plan and approving this version so as to transmit this work plan to Policy by mid-March. CMER co-chairs and the AMPA have decided not to add the Stillwater Report recommendations to this version of the work plan. The CMER Project Functions Table that CMER has worked on will be included as an appendix in the work plan. All SAGs were represented at this meeting so as to provide input and feedback on the work plan for finalization.

Co-Chair Jackson walked CMER members through the red lined strike out (RLSO) version of the CMER FY11 work plan. It was pointed out that the executive summary will be updated after this goes through the Policy process. This is an action item for today's meeting and CMER needs to complete the sections at this meeting in time for Policy to approve before the Budget retreat. The Budget retreat is scheduled for April 1, 2010.

Main Areas of Discussion:

In section 3.0: A recommendation was made to clearly identify the specific number of active projects.

In section 4.0: A recommendation was made to add a clarification statement about the Policy prioritization processes associated with the Clean Water Act assurances and how that prioritization process may be different than CMERs.

In section 6.0 this language was suggested - *For "knowledge gained", results are only described for reports which have gone through the required Independent Scientific Peer Review (ISPR) process and approved by CMER and Policy. For reports which aren't approved, knowledge anticipated is described.*

In Section 6.3.1 DFC Validation Program (Rule Tool) - Co-chair Mendoza added information to the Adaptive Management Link section in a hand out for CMER that was inserted into the CMER working version by the CMER coordinator during the meeting.

RSAG co-chair Murray brought up the DFC targets as an issue – maps site class is the reference; need to clarify the difference.

In sections 6.5.1 & 6.5.3 Unstable Landform Identification Program (Rule Tool) – UPSAG Chair Dieu made some grammatical changes that were inserted into the CMER working version by the CMER coordinator during the meeting.

In section 6.9 Wetland Protection Rule Group – the suggested change from FFR lands to FP HCP was made.

Co-chair Jackson repeatedly asked if anyone had questions or needed time to pause and review sections, and reminded CMER that if no one speaks up about changes, this gives consent to what is reflected in the document.

2011 CMER Budget –

J. Hotvedt, AMPA- walked CMER members through an excel budget table showcasing current projects funded in alignment with the Clean Water Act assurances priorities and incorporating SAG input for tier one and tier two FY11 funding. Tier 1 funding reflects study designs approved and ready to implement, whereas Tier 2 projects are those projects that have not yet been approved by Policy and/or CMER, and/or still involve considerable scientific or fiscal uncertainty. The following table reflects the funding discussion from this meeting:

	Tier One	Tier Two
Type N Rule Group		
Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Project - Hard rock Lithologies	726,000	
*Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Project - Soft rock Lithologies		271,000
*Eastside Type N Characterization-Forest Hydrology	400,000	
Buffer Integrity - Shade Effectiveness	42,000	
Type F Rule Group		
Eastern Washington Riparian Assessment Project (EWRAP)	45,000	
*Eastside Type F Channel Wood Characterization	200,000	
Eastside Type F Riparian Prescription Monitoring (BTO add-on)	37,000	
Bull Trout Overlay Temperature	210,000	
Solar Radiation/Effective Shade	116,000	
Hardwood Conversion Project	20,000	
Extensive Riparian Status & Trend Monitoring - Temp. Component	66,000	
Unstable Slopes Rule Group		
*Testing the Accuracy of Unstable Landform ID		50,000
Wetlands Rule Group		
*Wetlands Mitigation Effectiveness	157,000	
Subtotal Projects by Tier One and Tier Two	\$2,019,000	\$321,000
Total Project (both Tier One and Tier Two)	\$2,340,000	

Project Staffing	
CMER Principal Investigator Staff	391,000
Total Project and Staffing Costs	\$2,731,000
Project Support	
Contingency Fund for Active Projects	100,000
Adaptive Management Project Managers	187,000
Program Administration	
AMP Administrator	105,000
Contract Specialist	68,000
CMER/Policy Coordinator	45,000
CMER Website	20,000
AMP Data Management	20,000
Independent Science Review Panel	90,000
Co-op Fish & Wildlife Research Unit Dues (UW)	16,000
Subtotal Support and Administration	\$651,000
Total FY 11 Expenditures for Projects/Activities	\$3,382,000

Discussion Points:

Co-chair Mendoza advocated for a budget spreadsheet to reflect all projects and the full years of funding. It was suggested to have two spreadsheets and identify the final years of CMER funded projects.

J. Hotvedt will have the larger budget spreadsheet for CMER in April.

Dick Miller suggested adding another column to show the contingency funds spent for specific projects.

CMER should prioritize the budget from a science standpoint and not punt to Policy.

Action items:

CMER reached consensus in approving the FY11 CMER Work plan and Budget. The FY11 work plan will be finalized and submitted to the on-call writer/editor. The writer/editor will perform a light edit and have this returned back to co-chair Jackson early March. The target date for submitting this to Policy is mid-March.

Business Session

LWAG Co-chair Hayes stated that their SAG request (pertaining to the RMZ-Resample) can be postponed to the next CMER meeting due to time limitations.

- CMER January 26, 2010 meeting notes.
CMER approved meeting notes with no changes.
- CMER - 2010 Science Conference
CMER approved the draft schedule of science presentations for April 13th.

They are as follows:

Session 1: Unstable Slopes Rule Group: Mass Wasting Prescription Scale Effectiveness Monitoring Project (Post-Mortem)

A Test of Forest Practices Unstable Slopes Rule Effectiveness in SW Washington (a.k.a. Post Mortem) – Julie Dieu

Post-Mortem Study Data: Triggers, Insights, & Possible Next Steps – Greg Stewart

Session 2: Roads Rule Group

Results of the Road Sub-basin Monitoring Effectiveness Project - Kathy Dube', WPN

Session 3: Wetland Protection Rule Group

Wetlands Mitigation Effectiveness Study – Phase I - ? WETSAG

Session 4: Type N Riparian Prescriptions Rule Group

Extensive Riparian Temperature - Bill Ehinger, RSAG

Type N Buffer Characteristics, Integrity and Function (BCIF) - Dave Schuett-Hames

Session 5: Type N Riparian Prescriptions Rule Group: Amphibian Response Program

Type N Experimental Temperature & Shade - ? Presenter

Type N Experimental Amphibian Response - Aimee McIntyre

Type 5 REMS Study - Temperature - Bill Ehinger

Session 6: Type F Riparian Prescriptions Rule Group

Hardwood Conversion Study - Ash Roorbach

Upcoming Deadlines:

Abstracts are due no later than March 12th

Draft PowerPoint presentations are due March 31, 2010

Preview of PPT is scheduled for April 5, 2010

The CMER Coordinator will send out the science conference date, abstract example, presentation guidelines, and a revised draft of this schedule to the SAG chairs, CMER project managers, CMER co-chairs and the AMPA.

- CMER - Information Management System maintenance & adding in new projects
CMER Approved to fund \$20,000 to continue the project

The request is to continue to maintain, edit, and add new documents to existing projects, and to add up to 7 new projects to the CMER Information Management System. This money is already listed in the budget. CMER co-chairs & PMs have test driven the pilot project; they report that the desk top application is user friendly and encourage other CMER members to test it out in order to fully understand the full scope of this project. An EPA grant application is in process. If CMER receives the grant, this funding will move the project to the next stage of a web-based application and getting older FFR & TFW projects into the system. CMER is interested in maintaining the momentum of this project.

- CMER - EPA Grants – FYI Only.
Update on progress

Co-chair Mendoza provided an update, and associated memo that the CMER project review and approval process outlined in the CMER Protocols and Standards Manual is not the process CMER will be following for the EPA grant application process. The EPA grant applications reflect the projects in different stages of development from the scoping to study design phase. For the sole purpose of the EPA grant application process, information related to these projects (e.g., the type and quantity of field data collected, and site selection process) has been forecasted without a final study design officially approved by CMER. The projects that are in the grant applications for EPA funding were approved by CMER last month and CMER members recognized the latitude of flexibility in protocol due to the grant deadline.

- CMER - AMP Planning – Synchronized Project Reviews
Update on table & reviewers

Project Manager, Amy Kurtenbach provided an update on this proposal. The updated memo that was circulated for this meeting is based on the feedback from last the CMER meeting. The table that reflects the projects and assigned reviewers has been updated. There are three projects that still require CMER reviewers.

- CMER - Revisions/Updates to CMER Protocols and Standards Manual
FYI

UCUT has offered the services of an intern to begin work on updating the CMER Protocols and Standards Manual. This request is just to alert CMER to this effort. The goal of this effort is to pave the way for CMER to complete a revision of the CMER P&S Manual. The results of the work would come to CMER as a proposal for changes to the CMER P&S Manual. Additional work by CMER would build on this effort to produce an up-to-date CMER P&S Manual.

Announcements:

Candace Cahill is stepping down from CMER & WETSAG. There will be continuing involvement from WFPA & Green Crow. This is one of the smaller SAGs in CMER, and it

would be beneficial to have representation from the resource agencies (especially DOE because of the focus on wetlands).

Nancy Sturhan offered to set up a table to identify current CMER and SAG membership for the next CMER meeting. This will assist CMER in identifying membership gaps.

Meeting Adjourned.