

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER)**  
**February 26, 2019**  
**DNR/DOC Industrial Park, Tumwater WA**

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Representing</b>
§Baldwin, Todd (ph)	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
§Bell, Harry (ph)	Washington Farm Forestry Association
Berge, Hans	Adaptive Management Program Administrator
Brewer, Lexi	Puyallup Watershed Initiative
chesney, charles (ph)	Member of Public
Davis, Emily	Northwest Indian Fish Commission – CMER Staff
§Dieu, Julie	Rayonier
Gauthier, Marc (ph)	Upper Columbia United Tribes
Hernandez, Emily	Department of Natural Resources
§Hicks, Mark	Department of Ecology
Hooks, Doug	Washington Forest Protection Association – CMER Co-Chair
§Kay, Debbie (ph)	Suquamish Tribe
Krauz, Eric (ph)	Colville Confederated Tribes
§Martin, Doug	Washington Forest Protection Association
§Mendoza, Chris (ph)	Conservation Caucus
Murray, Joe	Washington Forest Protection Association
Schuett-Hames, Dave	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission - CMER Staff
Shramek, Patti	Department of Natural Resources – CMER Coordinator
Stephens, Rob (ph)	Spokane Tribes of Indians
Stewart, Greg (ph)	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission – CMER Staff
Swanson, Scott (ph)	Washington State Association of Counties

§Indicates official CMER members and alternates; (ph) indicates attended via phone.

\*Indicates Decision

**Decisions:**

**RSAG**

- ◆ **\*Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Monitoring Project** – *approval of project charter and communication plan*  
 Joe Murray reviewed the changes that were made to the charter and communication plan.  
 Mark Hicks moved to approve, Doug Martin seconded – **Approved**
  
- ◆ **\*Riparian Characterization Project** – *approval of project charter*  
 Murray reviewed the request and answered questions.  
 Martin moved to approve, Hicks seconded - **Approved**

## **Updates:**

### **Report from Timber, Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee (Policy) – February 7, 2019 Meeting**

Hans Berge and Doug Hooks gave an overview of the Policy meeting.

Project – Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF) LiDAR and WetSAG projects were funded by Policy after additional discussion. Discussion revolved around what needs to be done to get moving on these in order to get them done by the end of the year.

**OESF Project** – Murray asked for CMER to give RSAG the authority to move forward with project if data is sufficient to get the project done by June 30 and make it worthwhile.

Martin moved to approve, Harry Bell seconded - **Approved**

**WetSAG Project** – discussion revolved around the difference between the two projects in WetSAG; Literature review and Wetland Management Zone. How are they similar, how are they different, and where do they overlap? Hicks expressed concerns about the projects and whether or not they are necessary and worth the cost. He wants to make sure that all the pieces that are needed to complete the study design are present. The current contract for FWEP will be amended to include the literature review update, the WMZ RFQQ is currently being edited by WetSAG.

#### ◆ **Membership in Extended Monitoring Sub-Group**

Doug Hooks reviewed history of extended monitoring discussions. He reported that Policy has formed a sub-group consisting of one chair from Policy (Curt Veldhuisen), one chair from CMER (Doug Hooks) and two member each from Policy (Darin Cramer and Chris Conklin) and CMER (Chris Mendoza and Harry Bell).

The sub-group will meet a couple of times a month. The goal is to submit recommendations on process to Policy in April and to the Forest Practices Board (Board) in May. CMER will get updates and a chance to weigh in during the process.

Timber, Fish and Wildlife Policy meeting minutes are located on the Department of Natural Resources web page at <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/about/boards-and-councils/forest-practices-board/tfw-policy-committee>.

### **CMER and SAG updates – answer questions on written updates**

**UPSAG update – Mass Wasting Landscape-Scale Effectiveness Project.** Dieu remarked that UPSAG has asked for numerous years to have this project go away. Berge replied that UPSAG should provide a formal request for it to be removed from the Master Project Schedule, and that it is not a clean water act assurance milestone, so it should not be an issue. This request needs to be submitted for approval to CMER in March, Policy in April, and the Board in May. Mendoza remarked that he thinks there is already a memo floating around in someone's archives, so may

be able to find that and use it to draft the request. He added that Policy cannot remove clean water act assurances but can choose not to fund them. Hicks elaborate on the Ecology decision to remove this study from the CWA Assurance milestones.

**SAGE** – Hooks reported that there were questions at the recent SAGE meeting about the ENREP Coordinator RFQQ and confusion about the charter. After research, he found that there was no approved charter or communication plan and asked SAGE to work on it for discussion and approval at the March CMER meeting.

Hicks asked for an update on site selection. Berge remarked that the Cascade sites have now been identified, and logistics are being worked out for them. The intent is to have all flumes installed by June. Hicks asked for more detail regarding this project in the future updates. Emily Hernandez reported that Tim Link (PI) is attending the March 12 SAGE meeting to give updates on the project. Hicks highlighted a concern from the project summary identifying a discussion about a delay in harvest at project sites. Berge reported that Howard Haemmerle is the best person to address this comment and he was not able to attend the meeting today. Hicks requested an update on the ENREP project at the next CMER meeting.

**Fire workshop** – The May meeting has been moved to May 15. Paul Hessburg will attend, and SAGE will decide after this meeting whether a workshop will be worthwhile.

**LWAG** – Buffer Shade findings report will be done first of March and will be distributed at that time to allow CMER extra time for review.

**RSAG** – Extensive Monitoring project recommendations should be ready for CMER review in March. Hardwood Conversion, BTO Add-on, and BCIF are back from ISPR. Dave Schuett-Hames said BCIF is not a heavy lift and should be ready first, BTO is a little more complicated due to confusion of one reviewer about purpose of project. He should be able to start working on them in March, with BCIF possibly ready for CMER review in April. Murray reported that Kevin Ceder is working on addressing ISPR comments on the Hardwood Conversion Study and it may be ready for CMER review and approval in April.

Soft Rock should be ready for review sometime in March. Soft Rock reviewers will be selected at the March meeting.

Emily Davis reported that the Type F site selection should be completed by leaf off.

**ISAG** – (Emily Hernandez is the new PM for ISAG) PHB matrix has been done for a couple weeks and the goal is to have it and the revised study design ready for ISAG for their next meeting, and to the Board in May. Hernandez is working on a revised charter for ISAG approval next month. Brook will be giving ISAG an eDNA presentation on April 16. There will be an update on default physicals and LiDAR at the March ISAG meeting in Spokane.

**Roads** – Dieu reported that they are still working on public works request and that it was stalled a little because of snow. She’s not sure if 80 sites can be built by June. She reported that she and Amanda visited the four pilot sites, there is relatively little sediment in the tanks, and that three of the tipping buckets have worked the whole time since installation in November.

**Agenda topic for next meeting** – how to prioritize projects below the line on the Master Project Schedule

### **Discussion:**

#### ◆ **Budget and Project Abstracts**

Berge reported that Policy has requested updates on the project budgets and abstracts that they received last year. Updates for the projects need to be done by the end of March for delivery to Policy for their April meeting. He suggested these need to be a priority for the March SAG meetings.

#### ◆ **Additional topic:**

Dave Schuett-Hames reported that Greg Stewart’s last day is Friday, March 1, and thanked him for the good work he’s done for CMER over the years and the help he gave on multiple CMER projects. Schuett-Hames added that he is in the process of working on updating the job description for recruiting a CMER geologist in the spring.

Schuett-Hames reported that Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission is working on filling his position as he is planning on retiring. They are looking at a transition where he would work part-time to help train his replacement and for him to finish some projects that he is working on. The position description needs updating, as well. He would like to move to part-time this summer and be totally out by the end of the year. Martin asked what experience they are looking for. Schuett-Hames replied that he thinks the person needs to be a generalist, so they can provide input on all the different CMER projects. He would like CMER input on what qualifications are needed for the various CMER projects. He will work with Berge to set up meeting for getting feedback on qualifications for this position before next CMER meeting.

Martin, Mendoza, Hicks, Dieu, Murray, and Hooks are interested in participating in a discussion on skills for the new CMER supervisor at the NWIFC.

The Wetlands position was put on hold by Policy. The Geologist position, formerly held by Netra, was reassigned to the Eastside Scientist position. The Eastside Scientist position will be administered by DNR and supervised by the AMPA and will work out of Spokane. Howard Haemmerle will be supervising all of the project managers.

## **Public Comment Period**

charles chesney provided comments.

## **Recap of Assignments/Decisions**

- ◆ Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Monitoring Project –*charter and communication plan approved.*
- ◆ Riparian Characterization Project – *charter approved*
- ◆ RSAG given permission to move forward with the OESF project.
- ◆ Reviewers for Soft Rock will be selected at the March meeting.
- ◆ Discuss prioritization of projects below the line on the Master Project Schedule at the March meeting.
- ◆ Budget and Project Abstracts for active projects need to be updated at the March SAG meetings.
- ◆ SAGE will provide clarification on the ENREP charter and communication plan at the March meeting.

**Adjourned @ 11:54 am.**