

# Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research DNR /DOC Compound

October 27, 2009  
Meeting Notes

Attendees	Representing
Almond, Lyle (ph)	Makah Tribe
*Baldwin, Todd (ph)	Kalispel Tribe, SAGE Co-Chair
Black, Jenelle (ph)	CMER Staff, NWIFC
*Dieu, Julie	Rayonier, UPSAG Co-Chair
Gilrein, Bob	Spokane Tribe
*Hicks, Mark (ph)	Ecology
Hitchens, Dawn	DNR, CMER Coordinator
Jackson, Terry	WDFW, CMER Co-chair
Kroll, AJ	Weyerhaeuser
Kurtenbach, Amy	DNR, Project Manager
* Lingley, Leslie	DNR
*Martin, Doug	WFPA Contractor
*McConnell, Steve (ph)	UCUT
*Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus Contractor, CMER Co-Chair
Miller, Dick	WFFA
O'Sullivan, Alison (ph)	Suquamish Tribe
Roorbach, Ash	CMER Staff, NWIFC
Schuett-Hames, Dave	CMER Staff, NWIFC
*Sturhan, Nancy	NWIFC
Veldhuesin, Curt (ph)	Skagit River Systems Cooperative

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

## Agenda

Ash Roorbach requested to add a short update from WETSAG.

## Science Session

➤ CMER Assignment: Projects/Functions Table & Strategy Worksheet

CMER members worked on populating the projects and functions table that will be included in the CMER work plan. CMER agreed to develop this table based on some of the Stillwater Report recommendations. The table will be formatted to cross walk with the budget sheet and follow the order of projects listed in the work plan.

CMER agreed to have the SAGs review this and provide information on their respective projects using the table format. SAGs will have this completed and returned to Terry Jackson and Chris Mendoza by November 6th. The compiled table will be shared at the November CMER meeting.

## **Business Session**

### **SAG /CMER Items:**

#### ➤ LWAG – Type N Feasibility Study – *CMER Approved the Six Questions*

AJ Kroll provided an overview. Three CMER members, (Chris Mendoza, Steve McConnell, and Dick Miller), reviewed the final report and provided comments. The author (Amy M.) responded to the comments in the response matrix and the report was revised accordingly. CMER approved the report at the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. When CMER reviewed the Type N Feasibility final report, the six questions were also included, but did not get officially reviewed and approved. The questions have now been reviewed by the three CMER members and the author revised the questions accordingly. LWAG requested CMER approval of the six questions.

Dick Miller motioned to approve the six questions.

Chris Mendoza seconded the motion.

CMER members approved the six questions.

#### ➤ LWAG – Type N Experimental Amphibian Genetics Final Report – *Initiated CMER Review to be completed in time for the December CMER meeting*

AJ Kroll reported that the amphibian genetics piece of the Type N Experimental Study measures genetic diversity and genetic differentiation among amphibian populations to provide insight into trends in population size and identify the level of migration among sites. The final report presents baseline, pre-treatment measures of genetic structure for three species of stream-associated amphibians. The WSU genetics final report has been reviewed and approved by LWAG and is ready for CMER review. LWAG recommends assigning three CMER reviewers to review the report, with at least one familiar with genetics.

CMER Reviewers will be Chris Mendoza, Nancy Sturhan and Terry Jackson. LWAG meets December 3<sup>rd</sup> and will have the report ready for the December 15<sup>th</sup> CMER meeting.

#### ➤ RSAG – DFC Desktop Analysis and Field Check Reports – *CMER Approved the ISPR Response Plan*

Jenelle Black provided the overview. The PI (Steve McConnell, Upper Columbia United Tribes) had prepared a draft plan to respond to the independent scientific peer review (ISPR) comments. The plan contains both direct responses to comments and action plans that address some of the responses. Most of the actions take the form of text additions or modifications in the reports. The production of final reports is one element of both response plans. RSAG requests CMER approval of the response plan and \$4,904 from CMER's project development fund to finish the contract.

Chris Mendoza motioned to accept this request.

Terry Jackson seconded the motion.

CMER approved the motion and reached consensus with one abstained vote.

➤ SAGE – Type N Characterization Study: Forest Hydrology – *CMER Approved the ISPR Response Matrix*

Bob Gilrein reported that the four CMER reviewers, (Doug Martin, Curt Veldhuesin, Terry Jackson and Dick Miller) provided comments. The contractor has addressed some of the model issues. SAGE is requesting CMER approval of the Type N Hydrology ISPR response matrix. The PI, TAG, and SAGE have worked together in responding to all ISPR and CMER reviewer comments. This response matrix was approved by SAGE at its October meeting. Upon approval of this response matrix by CMER, the PI will incorporate all significant concerns into the final study design.

Dick Miller moved to approve the matrix

Chris Mendoza seconded the motion.

CMER members approved the motion.

➤ CMER – *General Update*

Chris Mendoza thanked Jenelle Black for her contributions to CMER. She is leaving CMER at the end of this year. The two project managers at DNR are reviewing the projects and organizing the workload. The approach is to review the status of projects, see where the resources are needed, and make assignments at that stage.

➤ CMER – Contract Timeline Template Draft - *Update*

Amy Kurtenbach provided an overview of the contract template shared with CMER. The time frame reflected in the template is a generic timeline of the CMER process. This is a draft and will continue to be worked. This is illustrative of how long it takes to process contracts. It shows the importance of project management and the need to synchronize the steps. Amy will continue to use this template to show the actual steps involved in the projects related to CMER.

➤ CMER – Incorporation of Clean Water Act Milestones – *Discussion*

Mark Hicks reported that the director of Ecology signed and distributed the Clean Water Act (CWA) assurances. This is a ten-year update of the state's progress toward meeting the mandates of the CWA. There are some adaptive management milestones established in the assurances. Department of Ecology will be providing regular updates of the milestones as part of the Forest Practices Board meetings. The milestones are benchmarks for progress. CMER has three milestones to meet by December 2009. They are the Hardwood Conversion Report, the Wetlands study design and the Accuracy & Bias study.

➤ RSAG – Hardwood Conversion – Temperature Study – *Update*

Terry Jackson reported that the CMER co-chairs took the three options to Policy regarding the Hardwood Conversion (Hunter) report. The three alternatives were laid out:

1) Do not accept & archive data; lose 5 years of work & three contracts at \$34,000 each.

2) Provide funding to edit the report; data archived, no analysis – 3 months at \$7,000.

3) Provide funding to completely re-analyze & write the report – 9 months at \$30,000 to draft.

Policy approved option #2 and relayed that it is up to CMER to work on completing the document so that it is readable and to archive the data so it can be available for possible data analysis in the future.

CMER developed a sub group of Mark Hicks, Doug Martin, Dick Miller, Lyle Almond, Chris Mendoza and Bill Ehinger. The main objective of this sub-group is to go forward with cleaning

up the report following option #2. If there are CMER members that continue to have concerns/issues, then they should inform their Policy members.

➤ *WETSAG – Wetlands Mitigation Study – Update*

The wetlands mitigation design will take a few more months. It is being reviewed by WETSAG. WETSAG will have a draft for CMER review by the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. There is funding for this project in the CMER work plan for 2011 budget.

➤ *UPSAG – Update*

Julie Dieu shared that UPSAG did not have a budget for the accuracy & bias study design. It is not being worked on due to other project work load demands. UPSAG received the comments from the roads sub-basin study.

➤ *CMER – Data Management Project – Update*

Nancy Sturhan reported that the objective of this project is to have all of the CMER reports and data in one place. The CMER Information subgroup will review the work on Friday and forward to CMER in November or December to showcase the work. A time extension has been approved on the contract to February.

➤ *CMER – Protocols & Standards Manual - Update*

Chris Mendoza reported that the sub group discovered that they do not have the resources for this update. CMER may need to have the editor work on this.

➤ *CMER – Soft Rock Scoping - Update* The sub-group is working on the scoping document, and once this is completed, it will be shared with CMER.

➤ *Adaptive Management Program Legislative Decision Package*

Dawn Hitchens provided an update that DNR is drafting decision packages for FY11. One is being developed for the adaptive management program, and this is expected to be part of the discussions at the Forests and Fish Principals follow-up meeting scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup>.

➤ *Policy October Meeting Update:*

▪ *Water Temperature Evaluation of Hardwood Conversion Treatment Sites - Policy*

*Direction*

- Clean Water Act Assurances – The signed document and the announcement of Jay Manning leaving Ecology to work as the Governor’s chief of staff was shared.
- Work assignments from the Forest Ecosystem Collaborative meeting - agreement to resolve differences and work together to go for long-term funding for AMP.
- Julie Sackett has been appointed as Assistant Division Manager for Operations – Forest Practices -DNR.
- AMP Training Parking Lot issues – The Policy and CMER co-chairs will work on this as part of the November 5<sup>th</sup> Policy meeting.

➤ *Independent Scientific Peer Review - Update*

Dawn Hitchens reported that the Roads Sub-Basin report will be submitted to ISPR next month.

***Meeting Adjourned.***