

# Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER)

**September 27, 2011  
DNR/DOC Compound**

| Attendees           | Representing                                      |
|---------------------|---|
| *Baldwin, Todd      | Kalispel Tribe                                    |
| *Dieu, Julie        | Rayonier  |
| *Hicks, Mark        | Department of Ecology, CMER Co-chair              |
| Hitchens, Dawn      | Dept. of Natural Resources, CMER Coordinator      |
| Hotvedt, Jim        | Dept. of Natural Resources, AMPA                  |
| Hooks, Doug         | WFPA  |
| *Jackson, Terry     | Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife               |
| Kay, Debbie         | Suquamish Tribe                                   |
| Kurtenbach, Amy     | Dept. of Natural Resources, Project Manager       |
| *Kroll, AJ          | Weyerhaeuser                                      |
| *Lingley, Leslie    | Dept. of Natural Resources                        |
| *Martin, Doug       | Washington Forest Protection Association          |
| *Mendoza, Chris     | Conservation Caucus Contractor, CMER Co-Chair     |
| *Miller, Dick       | Washington Family Forestry Association            |
| *Mobbs, Mark        | Quinault Tribe                                    |
| Roorbach, Ash       | CMER Staff, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission |
| Schuett-Hames, Dave | CMER Staff, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission |

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

**Agenda:** Mark Hicks suggested moving the CMER task list to the end of the agenda.

Doug Martin attended the American Fisheries Society (AFS) conference held in Seattle and provided a summary. There were 4,000 in attendance from 50 countries. The forestry session covered one and one half days. Presenters shared that best management practices are working and effective. There were a number of presentations related to riparian management – learning how to work with variability, landscape and disturbance. Example: An Oregon scientist is using toy helicopters and a camera with Microsoft application for 3-D pictures. His results are similar to LiDAR.

Dick Miller shared a conference flyer on Density Management in the 20<sup>th</sup> century on the west side of the Cascades – October 4-6, 2011. The agenda has 30 presentations potentially relevant to CMER’s work.

Dick Miller added that developing best management practices (BMPs) is an effective way to capture the science. CMER may want to insert BMPs in the Forest Practices Board Manual. He gave an example of his soils work for best management practices; a chapter on road layout and nutrient management. This type of information could be loaded on the website for updating and could be used as a living document. He suggested that CMER might consider this as an option for the synthesis project.

### Science Session:

The science session for this month was devoted to having SAGs report to CMER about topics for potential presentations at the CMER annual science conference. Mark Hicks shared that Jim Hotvedt conveyed to him that two years ago CMER had 11 topics to present for a full day. Policy prefers not to go another year without a science conference. The focus of the morning conversation was to determine if there were enough CMER projects for a full day conference.

LWAG may have a presentation on the genetic component of the Type N study. This would include the final analysis on the initial population studied by Washington State University.

RSAG may have a presentation on the case studies in the Hardwood Conversion project. The focus of the presentation would be the BMP ideas that are coming out of the study. This needs to be vetted with RSAG. Bill Ehinger reports that he will not be able to present on the extensive temperature component of the Type N. The work needed to prepare for a presentation will take time away from his work on the Soft Rock project.

SAGE could have a presentation on site validation and sampling challenges that emerged in the Forest Hydrology project. Ash Roorbach reports that EWRAP would not be ready as he is working on HWC.

UPSAG could do the Roads Sub-basin presentation again but it has been done before. This would require bringing back the contractor to present. The preliminary information on the Mass Wasting study has been presented twice before. The preliminary scoping design on the RIL criteria project is not ready.

WETSAG reported that Dr. Adamus is willing to present on the project stage he is in with the wetland literature synthesis (Forest Practices and Forested Wetlands Literature Synthesis); characterizing potential impacts and changes to forested wetland functions from harvest practices.

Based on the SAGs reporting out, the potential of having five topics from CMER studies for half a day emerged. CMER co-chairs and members decided that this was insufficient for a full day science conference. The following ideas were generated for further discussion:

- ❖ Policy present on funding and the future of CMER.
- ❖ Use the ½ day of conference topics and use the other half for Mass Wasting.
- ❖ Presentation on the Adaptive Management Program: the structural framework, resource objectives and performance targets, and how CMER research fits within the larger program – Jim H. / Chris M.
- ❖ Presentation on final CMER studies that have resulted in rule changes by the FP Board as part of the Adaptive Management Program; show Policy responses and challenges; and lessons learned – Chris M. and Mark H.
- ❖ Invite other landowners with HCPs to present on the inter-workings of their Adaptive Management Programs
- ❖ Possible to get Kira Furman from Simon Fraser University to present on her masters' thesis – Social Learning as a tool to Understand Complex Adaptive Management Institutions.
- ❖ CMER co-chairs and the AMPA agreed to work together in developing a presentation on the Adaptive Management Program for the conference.

Mark Hicks asked CMER members if they wanted go forward with hosting a science conference where the morning is devoted to CMER specific project presentations combined with an overview of the FP HCP Adaptive Management Program (structural framework, process and CMER research resulting in FP rule changes) in the afternoon. Other landowners with HCPs will also be recruited to come speak about their adaptive management programs. Does CMER support this?

CMER members made a decision to support CMER holding a science conference in 2012 with the understanding that they still needed to fill the afternoon session. Doug Martin volunteered to contact landowners with HCPs interested in presenting.

Ash Roorbach asked about inviting George McFadden to present his work in Oregon with the Bureau of Land Management for a monthly CMER science session. George is doing a lot of LiDAR work looking at landslides with Oregon State University. Mark Hicks asked Ash to check his availability and CMER agreed that this would be a worthwhile presentation.

Dick Miller suggested having Weyerhaeuser present on their analysis of fish distribution and inviting one or more of the federal agencies to present on their research findings related to CMER projects for one of the CMER monthly science sessions.

### **Business Session**

The CMER Coordinator reminded CMER members of the different meeting dates for the rest of 2011: November 15<sup>th</sup> & December 20<sup>th</sup>.

The 2012 CMER meetings will be held at the DNR Compound conference room.

The CMER meeting notes for August 23, 2011 were approved with suggested edits and changes.

Mark Hicks announced that it was time for SAGs to start working on updating their respective sections in the CMER work plan for FY2013. He asked SAGs to provide an update on the progress made in their respective sections and also update the link to the AMP sections. This work needs to be ready for CMER's February meeting where CMER will review each section and approve the CMER 2013 Work Plan.

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

LWAG Amy Kurtenbach reported that Marc Hayes has been working with Scott Pearson on the bird data analysis for the RMZ Re-sample study. There was disagreement about whether the agreement includes the ISPR step.

RSAG Amy Kurtenbach reported on the Type F Extensive project. Bill Ehinger has received an internal copy of draft report. He is reviewing the data. This draft report is moving through the process. Mark Hicks added that the issue of having a rotating panel is being addressed and he suggested that Bill Ehinger present this at one of the CMER monthly science sessions.

Soft Rock SAG Mark Hicks shared that the SAG is meeting after the CMER meeting. Enough potential sites have been found to fill out three of the four blocks but landowner agreements have not been secured; there are challenges with the lithologies. The project plans to get to those sites by next summer. The project is on target with the long-term time line.

SAGE Todd Baldwin reported that Greg Stewart is evaluating the best way to ensure that an unbiased subsample is chosen from the validated pool of Forest Hydrology sites. There is a problem with finding water at the sites within the original sample pool. The project is on schedule. He suggested having Greg give a presentation to CMER.

UPSAG Julie Dieu reported that they are working on the scoping design for the accuracy of criteria defining RIL Project. UPSAG needs to finalize the problem statement.

The Post Mortem ISPR comments are back and UPSAG is in the process of reviewing them and filling out the comment matrix.

WETSAG Debbie Kay reported they are meeting on Halloween for the work plan with the wetlands systematic literature review contractor.

CMER Chris Mendoza shared that RSAG lost Lyle Almond as co-chair. RSAG is short a co-chair. Joe Murray needs assistance. For those folks that attend RSAG meetings regularly, it would be ideal for one of them to step up and offer to take Lyle's vacated position.

Todd Baldwin reported that SAGE gained a co-chair. Chad McCrea with the Spokane Tribe of Indians has stepped in to co-chair with Charles Chesney.

Amy Kurtenbach reported that WETSAG needs a co-chair. Debbie Kay is doing a great job, but needs help.

Chris Mendoza suggested that CMER look at the co-chairs rotation. The leadership in WETSAG has been from the conservation caucus and tribal members. It may be time to have the agencies step in. Department of Ecology needs to be involved in WETSAG. He reported that the lack of SAG co-chairs message will be delivered to Policy.

Chris Mendoza reported that the sub group working on the Stillwater report recommendations will be an agenda item for the October CMER meeting.

#### Follow-Up from September 1<sup>st</sup> Policy meeting

- Jim Hotvedt reported out to Policy on the RCO 10-year report. They were impressed.
- Policy Work list – the caucuses are expected to give their priorities and Policy will decide at their October meeting what priorities to work on next year.
- Science Conference update – Policy emphasized that they did not want to go another year without one.
- Strategic Plan – the afternoon had a work group continue to update their strategic plan.

#### ➤ Protocols & Standards Manual – *Status on Chapters 1 & 2*

Ash Roorbach provided background on the revisions to the PSM. The intent of these revisions is to update those areas most needed in the CMER Protocols and Standards Manual so CMER can begin to use those updates to guide its current process. Ash developed a document that provides an overview & approach to how such revisions will be made. This document will be brought to the CMER October meeting. The workgroup has developed a TAG to deal with issues that have emerged in the PSM revision process.

Ash reviewed the memo entitled as *Issues developed during revision of Chapters 1 and 2*. He identified three issues that require CMER resolution:

1. New adaptive management chart – *this will be revised.*
2. CMER research program list
3. Better definition of what is included WAC and Board Manual mandated ‘Findings Reports.’ *CMER members supported the substance of this memo but not the recommended language. This will be revised.*

After a lengthy discussion on each item listed above, Ash asked for CMER support to form a TAG on developing recommendations on decision making mechanisms. The PSM TAG will develop recommendations for the PSM on how CMER will better define consensus decisions, the internal dispute resolution process, and the formal dispute resolution process. The PSM TAG members are: Leslie Lingley, Mark Hicks, Chris Mendoza, Jim Hotvedt, Terry Jackson & Julie Dieu.

Mark Hicks will report to Policy on the following CMER items:

- CMER will hold a science conference in 2012 – share the DRAFT outline.
- SAG co-chairs need to be recruited (RSAG & WETSAG)

#### CMER/SAG Recap of Assignments

- CMER members agreed to help organize a science conference with the morning session devoted to CMER projects. The afternoon session will include presentations on the AMP structure, process and CMER research resulting in FP rule changes, and will include other AMP presentations from landowners with HCPs. Doug Martin will start making contact with landowners about their AMP and potential for presentations. CMER Coordinator will work on securing facility and date for March or April 2012.
- 2013 Work Plan – SAGs start the work on their respective sections – rule group strategies, program updates and associated links to adaptive management. This will be the main topic at CMER November meeting.
- PSM –
  - AM chart - Amy, Ash & Terry will work on another draft of the adaptive management chart incorporating suggestions & get this to the CMER coordinator for mailing out to CMER for feedback. The revised chart will be shared at the CMER October meeting.
  - CMER supported to form a PSM TAG on developing recommendations for the decision making mechanisms. TAG members are Leslie Lingley, Mark Hicks, Chris Mendoza, Jim Hotvedt, Terry Jackson & Julie Dieu. Leslie and Chris will facilitate the TAG. CMER Coordinator will schedule a meeting.
- CMER Task List – CMER members send comments to co-chair Hicks and AMPA. CMER members will be prepared to work on this for the October CMER meeting – *Prioritization of tasks and identification of work group*
- Ash will follow up with George McFadden for presentation as a CMER science topic.

***Meeting Adjourned.***