

Timber, Fish, & Wildlife Policy Committee
December 5, 2019 Meeting Summary

December 5, 2019	
Action	Responsibility
Discuss criteria and needs for the next Co-Chairs at the January or February Policy meeting.	Policy
Add 2020 Policy dates to agendas/action item emails.	Thomas Christian (Jacob Hibbeln in 2020)
Send incoming AMPA staff Jacob Hibbeln's email to Policy.	Mark Hicks
Discuss follow-up aspects of the Hardwood Conversion Study at the April or May Policy meeting.	Policy
Let Co-Chairs know if caucuses legislative liaisons are available to attend the January or later Policy meetings.	Policy
Write a draft memo about how CMER might prioritize projects.	Policy Co-Chairs
Develop draft charters for two different workgroups (see 3 rd and 5 th decisions below) resulting from the SFL AP template proposal.	Policy Co-Chairs and Mark Hicks
Consider involvement in and identify possible caucus representatives for two different workgroups resulting from the SFL AP template proposal.	Policy

Decision	Notes
Approve the October (10/3) and November (10/31) meeting summaries as amended.	The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.
Findings in the Hardwood Conversion Study do not warrant action by the Forest Practices Board.	The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.
Form a small technical workgroup to evaluate under what, if any, site-specific conditions a 75 foot and 50 foot buffer, respectively, would be acceptable as a prescription for Type F streams; and under what, if any, site-specific conditions a 25 foot buffer would be acceptable as a prescription for Type Np streams. The workgroup shall provide a recommendation to Policy by May 2020.	The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; the Westside Tribes, WDFW, and DNR caucuses voted thumbs sideways; the Counties, Conservation, Small Forest Landowners, and Industry caucuses voted thumbs up.
Recommend to the Forest Practices Board that the SFL AP template proposal does not meet the criteria of a template per the rule standards in WAC 222-12-0403 (3) in whole, but may in part be a template or other form of prescription with more site specific criteria (see Motion 4).	The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.

<p>Form a technical workgroup including the State caucuses and other interested parties to continue to work on the experimental conifer restoration and conifer thinning alternate harvest prescriptions, including consideration of a monitoring and evaluation component that would later be developed by CMER. The workgroup shall provide a recommendation to Policy by May 2020.</p>	<p>The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; the Conservation and Industry caucuses voted thumbs sideways; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.</p>
<p>Fund a specific line item for the Riparian Literature Synthesis (RLS), move it to the implementation phase in the MPS, and request that CMER complete the RLS. Recommend that CMER work with the AMPA to complete any necessary contracting for the completion of the RLS as soon as possible.</p>	<p>The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; the Industry caucus voted thumbs sideways; the all other caucuses voted thumbs up.</p>

Welcome, Introductions, & Old Business

TFW Policy Co-Chairs opened the meeting and reviewed the day’s agenda.

The Co-Chairs reminded Policy that their Co-Chair terms end in six to seven months and recommended Policy consider what it needs from future Co-Chairs and if facilitation is needed.

Action: Policy will discuss criteria and needs for the next Co-Chairs at the January or February Policy meeting.

Policy requested 2020 Policy meeting dates be put on future meeting agendas.

Action: Add 2020 Policy dates to agendas/action item emails.

Mark Hicks, Adaptive Management Program (AMP) Administrator, introduced Jacob Hibbeln, who DNR hired for the senior secretary position to provide administrative support to Policy and the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Committee (CMER). In response to a question from Policy, Hicks explained that Hibbeln will have a full load when he starts in January of 2020, therefore it will be up to Policy representatives to schedule any needed check-in calls with the Co-Chairs.

Hicks also announced that the AMP has hired two more project managers.

Action: Mark Hicks will send Jacob Hibbeln’s email to Policy.

Approval of October 3 and 31 Meeting Summaries

Policy reviewed edits to the October 3 summary provided by Scott Swanson and edits to the October 31 meeting summary provided by Swanson and Curt Veldhuisen. Swanson made a motion, seconded by Jim Peters, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC), regarding the summaries. The motion passed.

Decision: Approve the October (10/3) and November (10/31) meeting summaries as amended.

The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.

CMER Update

Chris Mendoza, CMER Co-Chair, updated Policy that CMER did not meet in November. He reviewed the list of topics for the December 17 draft CMER agenda including:

- Approve meeting minutes.

- Look for a Co-Chair nomination to replace Doug Hooks, who has served as Co-Chair for six years.
- Review a workgroup charter for the Amphibians in Intermittent Streams Project.
- Discuss the six questions to Policy for the Eastside Type F Riparian Effectiveness Project: Bull Trout Overlay (BTO) Add-on.
- Discuss the six questions to Policy for the Westside Type N Buffer Characteristics, Integrity, and Function (BCIF) Study.

Policy can expect a large packet of materials from CMER at the January 6 Policy meeting. Hicks emphasized the CMER agenda is still in draft form and CMER will also decide on the Riparian Characteristics and Shade Study and the Unstable Slopes Study at the December meeting.

CMER Work Plan Review and Unspent Funds

Hicks reviewed line items in the CMER project schedule for FY2020. He noted there are just over \$500,000 of unspent funds for FY2020 and likely \$10,000 of unspent funds in the FY2021 budget. Hicks noted that the AMP will work towards tighter budgets in the future.

Hicks commented that there is an action item for CMER staff to write 1-page project summaries for all active and proposed projects.

Budget Workgroup Update

Terra Rentz updated Policy that the Budget Workgroup met in November and will hold its next meeting on December 17, 2019. The Workgroup needs to identify excess funds that could be used to start short term projects and be ready to provide amendments to the Master Project Schedule (MPS) in preparation for the May Policy budget update. The Workgroup asked CMER to develop a prioritized list of projects for use of unspent funds at their December meeting. The Workgroup plans to use the prioritized list to develop a clean product for Policy to discuss at its February budget workshop.

Swanson suggested Policy consider how CMER might prioritize projects and think about giving CMER direction. Policy asked the Co-Chairs to draft a memo to CMER on how to prioritize projects. Mendoza will send Rentz information about how Policy has prioritized projects in the past.

Action Item: Policy Co-Chairs will work with Mark Hicks to draft a memo about how CMER might prioritize projects for use of unspent funds.

Forest Practices Board Report Out

Marc Engel gave a report out on the November 13, 2019 Forest Practices Board (the Board) Meeting. Engel highlighted the Board's decisions regarding the water typing system rule. The approved Board motion was in the form of five actions:

1. Accept the nine water typing system recommendations from the Water Typing Board Committee as presented.
2. Recommend CMER develop study designs for the PHB validation, physical characteristics, and LiDAR studies, and report to the Board at their May 2020 meeting.
3. Recommend the Water Typing Board Committee assemble and provide oversight over a workgroup to explore if there are other data available to inform a water typing rule in eastern Washington and bring recommendations to the Board at their May 2020 meeting.
4. Approve the Anadromous Fish Floor Workgroup charter.
5. Recommend the Water Typing Board Committee remain in existence until May 2020.

Policy discussed the timeline for the actions, which they thought were ambitious.

Hicks added that Director Maia Bellon, Department of Ecology, talked to the Board about where Ecology is heading with Clean Water Act assurances. Since the Board meeting, Ecology sent a letter for a two-year extension to the assurances.

Rentz presented guidelines for extended monitoring to the Board and the Board agreed no action was warranted. Rentz also noted the Board requested an update on where Policy is at with the review of the Small Forest Landowner (SFL) Alternate Plan (AP) Template proposal. The Co-Chairs are working on an update to the Board in response to their request.

Hardwood Conversion Study Findings Decision

Veldhuisen reminded Policy that the Hardwood Conversion Study was designed a few years ago and has some limitations as it did not evaluate any specific treatment. Policy received a presentation from Cramer Fish Sciences on this Study at their October 31 meeting.

Policy discussed if the findings of the Hardwood Conversion Study warrant action by the Board. Mendoza noted the Study Findings Report includes a recommendation to look for future study sites as it could serve as a pilot study in the design of a more rigorous hardwood conversion study. Rentz noted Policy may be able to discuss a more rigorous hardwood conversion study in March or April when its workload lightens. Swanson agreed Policy should consider an additional study at its April meeting and suggested that CMER could provide a presentation on potential study options.

Chris Conklin made a motion, seconded by Steve Barnowe-Meyer, regarding the Hardwood Conversion Study. The motion passed.

Decision: Findings in the Hardwood Conversion Study do not warrant action by the Forest Practices Board.

The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.

Action Item: Policy will discuss follow-up aspects of the Hardwood Conversion Study at the April or May Policy meeting.

Legislative Update

Veldhuisen reminded Policy that legislative updates are a standing item on the agenda and caucus representatives are welcome to provide an update or invite legislative directors.

- Industry Caucus – Darin Cramer announced WFPA is likely reintroducing a bill for a forest and fish license plate.
- DNR Caucus –Engel announced DNR’s legislative director may be able to attend the January meeting. For the 2020 legislative session, DNR is requesting \$2.89 million for the Forest Practices Fund, including funding for four additional technical officers for the Small Forest Landowner (SFL) Office, and other activities including wildfire and forest health.
- State Caucus –Conklin announced WDFW’s legislative director may be able to attend the January meeting. For the 2020 legislative session, WDFW is requesting funding for enforcement and \$26 million for the operating budget. Conklin distributed a one-pager on WDFW’s legislative request.

Riparian Characteristics and Shade (RCS) Study Design Update

Teresa Miskovic, AMP, provided an update on the RCS study design, which she said has had some setbacks. Miskovic shared a one-page handout updating Policy on the study design (see handout for

details). After several meetings between CMER, the project manager, reviewers, contractor and RSAG, disagreements remain with elements in the draft study plan.

Type Np Workgroup Update

Cramer updated Policy that the workgroup held its second meeting on Monday, December 2 and Tuesday, December 3. The Canadian contract scientist was able to attend this meeting. The workgroup considered using Structured Decision Making as a formal process for coming to an agreement. On the second day, the workgroup received a BCIF presentation and went on a site visit to a BCIF study site. The workgroup has planned meetings for January 9 and a February date. Meetings are open to the public.

Cramer noted the scope of the project has been determined.

Decisions on Small Forest Landowner (SFL) Template Workgroup Recommendations

The Co-Chairs introduced Elaine Oneil, WFFA Executive Director, who took Barnowe-Meyer's seat at the Policy table. The Co-Chairs also noted that Harry Bell, WFFA, and Rachel Aronson, Triangle Associates, had joined the meeting via conference phone.

Rentz reminded Policy that at the October 31 meeting, they reviewed the recommendations from the SFL Template Workgroup and are set to make decisions about those recommendations at this meeting. She explained she worked with Barnowe-Meyer and Engel on initial language for motions regarding the SFL Template Workgroup recommendations.

Policy reviewed the assignments the Forest Practices Board gave to them including:

1. *Beginning no later than October 2015, determine whether the alternate plan template proposal meets the criteria outlined in WAC 222-12-0403 and consider different strategies moving forward.*
2. *Beginning October 2015 initiate a literature synthesis to evaluate forest practices functions of the riparian zone.*
3. *Provide a recommendation of next steps to complete the evaluation of the proposal at the May 2016 Board meeting.*

Policy convened the SFL Template Workgroup to address Task 1. The Co-Chairs noted that to date, assignment two regarding the riparian function literature synthesis has not been completed.

Policy reviewed the SFL Template Workgroup's recommendations to Policy. The Workgroup recommends that:

1. *The SFL AP template proposal, in whole or in part, does not meet the criteria of a template per the rule standards in WAC 222-12-0403.*
2. *The State Caucus and other interested parties continue to work on the experimental conifer restoration and conifer thinning alternate harvest prescriptions and develop finished recommendations for Policy by May 2020.*
3. *Policy sanction a work group to evaluate if or under what site-specific conditions a 75 foot and 50 foot buffer, respectively, would be acceptable as an AP template prescription(s) for Type F streams; and, if or under what site-specific conditions a 25 foot buffer would be acceptable as an AP template prescription(s) for Type Np streams. The work group should perform the evaluation and develop prescription recommendations for Policy by May 2020.*

Policy discussed the task of the SFL Template Workgroup and affirmed their understanding that the Board intended for the Workgroup to consider if the proposed template “in whole or in part” met the requirements of an Alternate Plan (AP) Template.

Oneil reminded Policy that their decisions do not take place in a vacuum. She also shared a story about the Nourse Tree Farm, located in the Stillaguamish Valley that worked with their local conservation district to reestablish salmon habitat. The Nourse Tree Farm received the 2019 national Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year Award.

Policy discussed the SFL Template Workgroup’s first recommendation and the language in *WAC 222-12-0403*, and noted that *WAC 222-12-0403 (3)* is particularly relevant.

Engel noted that during the review of the proposed AP Template, the State Caucus, including DNR, proposed a fixed width conifer thinning and a conifer restoration experimental alternate harvest prescription to reach a similar intended outcomes as the SFL’s proposal. Multiple Policy members affirmed their interest in working toward the policy objective to provide regulatory alternatives to the SFLs.

Discussion on SFL Workgroup Recommendation Three

In the spirit of looking for solutions, Swanson recommended and Policy accepted a discussion regarding the Workgroup’s third recommendation first.

The Co-Chairs clarified that in setting up the SFL Template Workgroup, Policy deviated from the usual AMP protocol. Typically, before a scientific document goes to ISPR, CMER reviews and works towards consensus on the scientific document so there is a common understanding of the science. CMER then works towards consensus after the ISPR review so there is agreement on the science findings information provided to Policy. The issue with the proposed AP Template is not in the ISPR process. Instead, CMER did not come to consensus before or after the ISPR review, which are steps that are intended to allow Policy to feel comfortable with scientific information provided to them.

Ken Miller, WFFA, made a motion, seconded by Swanson, regarding the third recommendation (see decision below). The motion passed.

Decision: Form a small technical workgroup to evaluate under what, if any, site-specific conditions a 75 foot and 50 foot buffer, respectively, would be acceptable as a prescription for Type F streams; and under what, if any, site-specific conditions a 25 foot buffer would be acceptable as a prescription for Type Np streams. The workgroup shall provide a recommendation to Policy by May 2020.

The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; Westside Tribes, WDFW, and DNR caucuses voted thumbs sideways; Counties, Conservation, Small Forest Landowners, and Industry caucuses voted thumbs up.

Discussion on SFL Workgroup Recommendation One

Policy discussed the Workgroup’s first recommendation and Workgroup Co-Chair Miller noted that the Workgroup passed this recommendation with a non-consensus majority vote.

Policy discussed their assignment from the Board and expressed some confusion regarding the meaning of *WAC 222-12-0403*.

Peters made a motion, seconded by Engel, regarding the Workgroup’s first recommendation: *Move that Policy recommend to the Forest Practices Board that the SFL AP template proposal does not meet the criteria of a template per the rule standards in WAC 222-12-0403 (3)*. The motion failed to reach

consensus as the Westside Tribes, Conservation, WDFW, and DNR caucuses voted thumbs up; the Counties and Industry caucuses voted thumbs sideways; and the SFL caucus voted thumbs down. The Federal and Eastside Tribal Caucuses were absent.

Miller said he could not support the above motion and is hopeful there is a way forward with the individual prescriptions. Alec Brown, shared that Miller reached out to him in the week prior and thanked Miller for a conversation that resulted in a better understanding of each other's interests.

Miller made a motion, seconded by Cramer, regarding the first Workgroup recommendation (see decision below).

Decision: Recommend to the Forest Practices Board that the SFL AP template proposal does not meet the criteria of a template per the rule standards in WAC 222-12-0403 (3) in whole, but may in part be a template or other form of prescription with more site specific criteria (see motion four).

The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up. The motion passed.

Discussion on SFL Workgroup Recommendation Two

Miller made a motion, seconded by Conklin, regarding the second Workgroup recommendation (see decision below).

Decision: Form a technical workgroup including the State caucuses and other interested parties to continue to work on the experimental conifer restoration and conifer thinning alternate harvest prescriptions, including consideration of a monitoring and evaluation component that would later be developed by CMER. The workgroup shall provide a recommendation to Policy by May 2020.

The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; the Conservation and Industry caucuses voted thumbs sideways; all other caucuses voted thumbs up. The motion passed.

Policy discussed the timeline for the two new workgroups. Policy members suggested that these workgroups should be small in membership. Caucuses noted they needed to wait until the January meeting to discuss membership.

Action Item: Policy caucuses will consider involvement in and identify possible caucus representatives for two different workgroups resulting from the SFL AP template proposal.

Action Item: The Co-Chairs will work with Hicks to develop draft charters for two different workgroups resulting from the SFL AP template proposal.

Peters spoke to the Westside Tribes' commitment to the TFW process and explained the Caucus signed up to work collaboratively to protect salmon habitat. He shared there is historically a large chum fishery in south Puget Sound that is important to many Tribes that have a Treaty Right to fish. He noted that the chum runs are so low that WDFW has had to close the fishery and that salmon runs are decreasing by "death from a thousand cuts." He said the Westside Tribes cannot support measures that would reduce salmon habitat. He also called the decisions made by Policy in this meeting a successful outcome.

Discussion on Forest Practices Board Assignment Two

Swanson made a motion, seconded by Miller, regarding the Board's second assignment to initiate a Riparian Literature Synthesis.

Decision: Fund a specific line item for the Riparian Literature Synthesis and move it to the implementation phase in the MPS, and request that CMER complete the Riparian Literature Synthesis.

Recommend that CMER work with the AMPA to complete any necessary contracting for the completion of the Riparian Literature Synthesis as soon as possible.

The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; Industry caucus voted thumbs sideways; all other caucuses voted thumbs up. The motion passed.

Next Steps

Rentz reviewed with Policy the potential agenda items for their January 6 meeting, which will take place in the Natural Resource Building in Olympia.

- Receive the BCIF Study Findings Report, including a Transmittal Letter, and Six-Questions.
- Receive a BTO Add-on presentation and the Findings Report, including a Transmittal Letter, and Six-Questions.

Brown noted that he may be on parental leave in January.

The Co-Chairs noted that this may be the final Policy meeting for Kendra Smith, County Caucus, pending new contracting and thanked Smith for her continued service and contributions to TFW.

The Co-Chairs thanked Policy representatives for their work in the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Next meeting date: The next Policy meeting will occur on Monday, January 6, 2020.

Attachment 1 – Participants by Caucus at 12/5 Meeting*

Adaptive Management Program

Jacob Hibbeln, AMP and DNR
Mark Hicks, AMP Administrator and DNR
Teresa Miskovic, AMP and DNR

Conservation Caucus

*Alec Brown, Washington Environmental Council
Chris Mendoza, CMER Co-Chair

County Caucus

Kendra Smith, Skagit County
*Scott Swanson, WSAC

Industrial Timber Landowner Caucus

*Darin Cramer, WFFA

Small Forest Landowner Caucus

Bob Loiselle, WFFA - Pacific County Chapter
Elaine Oneil, WFFA
*Steve Barnowe-Meyer, WFFA
*Ken Miller, WFFA
Harry Bell, WFFA, CMER member
Nick Somero, WFFA - Pacific County Chapter
Vic Musselman, WFFA

State Caucus – DNR

*Marc Engel, DNR

State Caucus – Ecology & WDFW

Don Nauer, WDFW
*Chris Conklin, WDFW
*Melissa Gildersleeve, Ecology
Terra Rentz, WDFW and Co-Chair

Tribal Caucus – Westside

Ash Roorbach, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Curt Veldhuisen, Skagit River System Cooperative and Co-Chair
*Jim Peters, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

*caucus representative

Others

Thomas Christian, Triangle Associates
Rachel Aronson, Triangle Associates

