

Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee
Jun 26, 2007
9am – 4pm
NWIFC Conference Center
DRAFT Minutes

Attendees:

Almond, Lyle	Macah Tibe
Baldwin, Todd	Kalispel Tribe, SAGE co-chair
Black, Jenelle	NWIFC, CMER Staff
Butts, Sally	USFWS, BTSAG co-chair
Cramer, Darin	DNR, AMPA
Dieu, Julie	Rayonier, UPSAG co-chair
Ehinger, Bill	Ecology, RSAG Tri-Chair
Fremens, karen	Simon Fraser University
Giglio, David	OFM
Haque, Sarah	Squaxin Island
Heckel, Linda	DNR Forest Practices, CMER coordinator
Heide, Pete	WFPA
Hicks, Mark	Ecology
Hunter, Mark	WDFW, RSAG
Jackson, Terry	WDFW, BTSAG Co-chair
Jacobsen, Deanna	Suquamish Tribe
MacCracken, Jim	Longview Fiber, LWAG co-chair
Martin, Doug	WFPA contractor; CMER co-chair
McConnell, Steve	UCUT
Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus contractor, RSAG Tri-Chair
Miller, Adrian	WFPA
Miller, Dick	WA Farm Forestry Association
Mobbs, Mark	Quinault Indian Nation
Moon, Teresa	DNR Project Manager
Pavel, Joseph	NWIFC
Schuett-Hames, Dave	NWIFC, CMER Staff
Sturhan, Nancy	<u>DNR Forest Practices, CMER Co-chair</u>
Vaugeois, Laura	<u>DNR, UPSAG co-chair</u>
Veldhuisen, Curt	<u>Skagit River Co-op</u>

Assignments:

CMER program strategy proposal	Cramer/Sturhan/Butts
Clean up DFC/FPA Synthesis document, send to Hunter	Miller
Revise Synthesis document, send to Mendoza, Cramer, McConnell	Hunter
Send DFC/FPA Synthesis document to CMER	Cramer/Mendoza
Discuss ways to smooth site approval process within agencies	Black, Butts, Sturhan,

	Cramer
Draft CMER staff position description; to CMER for review	Cramer, Schuett-Hames
Send out query for people interested in fish passage subgroup	Sturhan
Set up meeting to discuss fish passage issues	Jackson
Send out IMW presentation	Martin/Sturhan
Send out Darin's memo to Policy from the budget retreat	Sturhan
Send out status tracker	Sturhan

Recognition of newly approved CMER members: Sturhan

Mark Hunter
 Steve McConnell
 Todd Baldwin
 Curt Veldhuisen
 Lyle Almond

CMER member roles: Sturhan

- Attend meetings
- Be prepared beyond your SAG
- Participate
- Volunteer to review or find reviewers
- Inform your Policy representative; make sure you understand CMER issues
- Be an advocate of CMER as a whole
- Be aware of and follow CMER ground rules
- Read Procedures and Standards Manual cover to cover

Nancy will be updating PSM in the summer and will discuss and define CMER member duties at that time. Nancy will incorporate known updates and changes to the Manual and bring the new draft to CMER for review and further editing.

Minutes from May meeting & Review action items: Sturhan

Minutes from the May meeting were approved as sent out. Minutes from all previous meetings are now on the CMER web site at <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/forestpractices/> under Adaptive Management/CMER meetings.

Policy Meeting Report: Cramer

CMER had no request of Policy for the meetings, just updates.

Policy CMER Budget Retreat: Cramer

New Projects Policy considered at June 2007 budget retreat.

Project	Status
Type N Windthrow Assessment	Policy recommended dropping this study; they don't see a need for this information
Eastside Type N Char	\$60k to Tier 1

Amphibian use in Intermittent Streams	\$ remains Tier 2
BCIF Westside Type F	\$60k remains Tier 2, rest pushed out
<i>Extensive Rip.-Temperature</i>	<i>\$280k Tier 2 → Tier 1</i>
<i>Extensive Rip.-Veg</i>	<i>\$ stays Tier 2</i>
DFC Site Class Validation	stays on table, but Tier 2
DFC Plot Width	stays on table, but Tier 2
Eastside Type F – Instream	no change
BTO Temperature Monitoring	Increase Tier 1 to \$181k
Mass Wasting Rx-scale Effect.	no change
Unstable Landform ID	no change
LHZ	removed from CMER budget, along with independent funding from IAC
Effectiveness of Stream Sim Clvrt	send to peer review, but Policy subgroup will continue to consider
Fish movement culvrt flume	send to peer review, but Policy subgroup will continue to consider
Wetland Mitigation Effectiveness	scoping \$ to Tier 1
WMZ Effectiveness	don't work on
DNR GIS wetlands update	add \$45k to Tier 2
RMZ resample	\$20k to Tier 1
Intensive/N-soft	\$100k to Tier 1

Note: Tier 1 projects will be proposed to the FPB in Sept. for approval to move forward. Tier 2 projects will need to be approved by the FPB when they are ready to move ahead (when they have been through CMER and Policy approval processes).

- Agreed to add a project manager to CMER staff, housed at DNR
- Data Management (line 144): moved to Tier 2
- DFC maintenance: moved \$20k from FY'07 to Tier 1, added \$30k to Tier 2
- SRC Peer Review: increased to \$110,000 to cover overhead as we now don't get zero-overhead status
- FY08 budget total is \$3.3M for Tier 1 (11 projects and CMER costs)
 - Last year (FY2007) was \$2.3 to \$2.8M (not yet reconciled)
- RSAG co-chair issue
 - Mark Hunter had concerns about RSAG workload. Sturhan suggested RSAG discuss the workload and report back to CMER. CMER can carry this issue to Policy who has the power to assign more folks, free up the time of folks to participate more fully, or to reduce workload.
 - several studies are actually multi-part studies; part of RSAG's workload problem is that projects could be more fully integrated; integrate projects overlapping with BTSAG and SAGE;
- Still need to step back and reevaluate strategy overall; Policy agrees, and expects Darin (and SAG co-chairs) to do this; needs to be done both top-down but still with

input from SAGs, so do cooperatively. When will this get done? Ongoing process, based on projects as they come up; Darin, Sally, Nancy continuing to assess and revise overall strategy and framework while project-level integration continues; Darin hopes to have this overarching strategy in place by next workplan.

- Need to look at study objectives, in terms of a strategy, so should probably have a strategy in place before we worry too much about revising projects; still should continue to develop projects, but keep in mind what is happening on the Strategy track. Darin lead CMER program strategy discussion in July.
- Darin send out memo from Budget Retreat to CMER. Moving project management entirely to DNR and away from current CMER staff. Idea that CMER staff focus on scientific support, not project management; issue not fully cooked nor was there consensus at Policy

ISPR Update: Cramer

- Post mortem and Rx-scale effectiveness have had some initial comments which UPSAG has seen; trying to set up conference call with reviewers for late July.
- RMZ resample is queued up for this fall

SAG Requests

- RSAG – DOE Temperature modeling report and six questions ready for CMER approval (Ehinger) (**APPROVED, no further discussion**)
 - will now go to Policy small forest landowner advisory subgroup
- RSAG – DFC/FPA Analysis (Mendoza)
 - Field Check Report; reviewed by CMER and RSAG; McConnell responded; RSAG and CMER reviewers have approved responses; request approval from CMER today (**APPROVED**)
 - Synthesis document – request CMER approval today
 - please correct grammatical error on pg. 10;
 - make stronger statements of conclusion and of suggesting improvements to the model – response is that more of that is done in the Model Analysis report, but still mostly is a critique rather than a suggestion for improvement
 - Miller notes that there is a contradiction between growth and basal areas of hemlock and Douglas fir within report that needs to be clarified;
 - Miller requests that the synthesis document be cleaned up and brought up to standard prior to sending on to Policy; Miller will clean up the document (editorially) and send to Mark Hunter, who then will send to Darin, McConnell and Mendoza. Then send revised version to CMER. Document approval is **postponed and will be addressed again in July.**
 - 2 more DFC reports are expected next month: model analysis; sensitivity test
 - Six-questions on field check report (**APPROVED**)
 - CMER's 2-pass review process and closure is necessary. Dissenting information needs to be documented and kept in the record and go

with the report to Policy. Dissenters can also brief their Policy reps on lingering concerns.

Project Updates (Sturhan)

- status tracker and end of quarter update on all projects postponed until next month; Nancy will send out status tracker
- Darin plans to have the Project Managers submit 1-pg quarterly progress report for each project (starting in September; distributed to CMER) The reports are intended to keep everyone in CMER informed about all projects. Darin also recommended that every project hold one science session per year/project
- Consider in strategy discussions, that if some projects are not going to be able to be managed, perhaps schedules can be adjusted to reflect management availability so that SAGs currently pushing hard to meet schedules can perhaps readjust *their* schedules

SAG Issues:

- Dick Miller noted that too much time was spent on all the McConnell report documents and yet products still are not as good as we would like. A lot of time could be saved if products were betterwritten in the initial review products. Perhaps CMER should have a technical writer to revise documents before they go to review. Dick Miller will discuss this further with Mendoza to come up with ideas on how to smooth the review process on large documents like this. Mendoza defends process and notes that there were many comments which were well-organized and addressed, under adverse CMER circumstances and deadline shifts with the person performing the work. **Having Project Managers ensure that CMER reports are ready for technical review before sending them out** (and perhaps also having project manager act in associate editor role to ensure that comments are adequately addressed would help.
- Should AMPA usually write the responses to the 6 questions?
 - o Darin does not feel this should be a regular AMPA job
 - o Consensus is that study author and PM draft first version; SAG review it;and, if no consensus can be reached ,goes to AMPA for final resolution.
- Should we re-arrange CMER meeting agenda by doing the science session first?
 - o At least within meetings, science has been subjugated to the administrative aspects for CMER committee,; perhaps members would enter business portion of meeting more enthused about the science if the science session were first
 - o Emphasis made that Science Sessions should be protected for science, not used for more business discussions.

- Whenever they are held, CMER members need to be there for them because participants need help and by abdicating responsibility, the projects are short-changed of those valuable inputs
 - **Let's try it next month and see whether it works for people.**
 - Site selection issues (Mendoza)
 - CMER can only address so many of the issues; Policy also needs to get into the process to address some things outside of CMER, and can we/Policy reps help facilitate process by educating other, non-CMER layers of agencies to facilitate
 - **Sturhan, Butts, Black, Cramer meet to discuss ideas for how to facilitate this process. Return in July with proposal**
 - Suggestion that a checkbox could be included on FPA form for landowners that they would be willing to consider allowing CMER research or monitoring studies on their property. Note that the FPA form is closely managed at DNR, and adding a box can be an arduous process.
 - BTSAG needs new co-chair to replace Sally or leave Terry as solitary chair
 - Terry will operate as solitary chair, with Sally remaining as SAG member
 - Options for assessing CMER staff position skills needs
 - CMER coordinator develop table of need types, fill in with general CMER needs and circulate to SAGs for additional input? Too time-consuming.
 - **Darin and Dave send out draft for review, comment, and input from SAGs.**
 - Fish passage extensive next steps – need to gather data available
 - Study design accepted in past, but set aside pending compilation of available data. Who will compile existing data? Priority for Policy. Need to log what exists, what are they collecting, what do they address and not address? Assign to CMER staff? WDFW? Hire contractor? Do we want to continue to collect data in the Roads sub-basin study regarding initial fish passage screen? (Probably yes) **REVIEWERS – WHAT DID WE DECIDE ABOUT THIS(both Roads sub-basin and gathering fish passage data)?**
- Fish Passage research studies – two study designs have been submitted to CMER (Fish Passage Capability – also known as the flume study; and Effectiveness of Stream Simulation). Policy wants both studies to be peer- reviewed while the Policy sub-group works to define fish passage research strategy. Terry Jackson volunteered to **set up meeting to prepare studies for peer review and develop list of possible peer reviewers. Nancy will send query to CMER for interested parties.**

Recognition of Doug's service as co-chair and changing of the guard

- Doug has co-chair since 2001, involved with CMER since before 1990, and still has energy and enthusiasm for the role. Now will have time and energy to devote to CWE project and other CMER work.

- Doug says he has learned a lot, especially about agency roles and what they do. Has learned a lot about how to work Process (and says he is still learning this one!), appreciates having been through the development of CMER and the whole CMER process.
- Welcome Sally Butts as new incoming energy for co-chair role.
- Cake will be offered after lunch during science session.

CMER monthly report to Policy (Sturhan), brief your Policy folks

- temperature modeling report to subgroup
- Field check report

Updates to CMER's web site? Updates to CMERlist? (Sturhan)

- New attendees gave Nancy their cards to add to CMER list

July agenda items:

- other McConnell DFC reports
- special FPB meeting now July 25th
- SAGE Eastside Type F Riparian Assessment interim report (Black)
- Darin to lead CMER program strategy discussion

July Morning Science Session: Eastside Type F Riparian Characterization - interim report (Black)

(August = UPSAG Accuracy and Bias study plan)

Afternoon session: Intensively Monitored Watershed study/Type N Experimental – soft lithologies (Martin)

Scoping document, with some new material, presented and discussed. Doug will send all CMER the presentation and a revised scoping doc.