

Timber, Fish, & Wildlife Policy Committee
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 7, 2020 // 9:00AM – 2:40 pm
Remotely held using GoToMeeting

Prepared for TFW Policy by Jacob Hibbeln, AMP Senior Secretary

Motions 5/7/2020	
Motion	Moved by/Second (votes)
Table the April regular and emergency meeting minutes until June.	Steve Barnowe-Meyer/Scott Swanson (all caucuses up, Eastside Tribes and Federal Caucus absent)
Approve the Eastside Timber Habitat Effectiveness Project (ETHEP) Charter.	Darin Cramer/ Steve Barnowe-Meyer (All caucuses up, Eastside Tribes and Federal Caucus absent)

Action Items 5/7/2020	
Action	Responsibility
A written update of where the Type Np Work Group is in relation to the timeline in the charter should be given to Policy at the July meeting.	Darin Cramer, Jim Peters.
If the Center for Conservation Peace building process is not brought up at the May Forest Practices Board Meeting, a formal request will be submitted for more information	Co-chairs
At the June Meeting, Policy should determine whether or not the Extensive Riparian Vegetation Monitoring (ERVM) Model Transferability Findings Report warrants any action by the Forest Practices Board.	Policy
A work group consisting of Peters, Cramer, Nauer, and Brown will work on the WDFW Proposal Initiation. After the May Forest Practices Board meeting, Rentz will touch bases with everyone on how to proceed.	Rentz
Review the Board Manual 22 section regarding the Proposal Initiation process (Part 3.1, Policy Screening and Recommendation, Page 10)	Policy
Review the Board Manual 22 section regarding the Dispute Resolution Process (Part 5.4, page 19)	Policy
Table the Bull Trout Overlay (BTO) discussion until July.	Co-chairs, Hibbeln

Minutes

Introductions

Rentz and Veldhuisen

After doing roll call, Terra Rentz, co-chair, began the meeting by reminding Policy that Curt Veldhuisen's last meeting as co-chair is in June and hers is in July. There were no volunteers or suggestions for co-chair replacements.

Ken Miller, SFL caucus, asked when he could discuss the potential for Dispute Resolution regarding the Technical Prescriptions Work Group. Rentz responded that can be discussed later today after Alec Brown, Conservation caucus, gives an update on the work group. Policy co-chairs and Mark Hicks, AMPA, are figuring out an appropriate approach to this.

Because the April minutes were not sent out in this month's mailing, motion #1 to table the April minutes was made.

CMER SAG Updates

Chris Mendoza, CMER Co-chair/Conservation caucus

Mendoza began by going over the SAG Updates document. Main points included he and Jason Walters, Weyerhaeuser/ISAG co-chair, presented the CMER approved Water Typing Strategy with the Forest Practices Board (FPB) and the eDNA draft report going into Dispute Resolution, stating that he and Hicks would be meeting with the appropriate parties and he hopes to have this resolved quickly.

Darin Cramer, Large Forest Landowner caucus, inquired about the status of the Hard Rock study. Hicks responded that the Adaptive Management Program (AMP) recently got three sections of the report back from ISPR and comments have been provided to the project team. Currently, the Primary Investigators (PI's) are working to come up with a single approach to address the structural concerns raised. They will meet with the associate editor in order to find an efficient solution.

Hicks announced that Jenny Knoth, WFFA, will be taking over for Doug Hooks, WFFA, as CMER co-chair. Jenny is representing the Small Forest Landowners (SFL) caucus.

Curt Veldhuisen, co-chair, asked which studies are being impacted by COVID-19 and potential costs. Ben Flint, DNR Project Manager, responded that there are certain field work tasks that various project teams have not been able to work on during the pandemic. No field work has been completed since March. There is field work that needs to begin in in May, some of which will be difficult to carry out with social distancing. Project Managers are awaiting a decision from DNR executive management about completing field tasks during the "stay home, stay safe"

order. The AMP will know more about specific impacts to projects as time passes. The magnitude of the impact partially depends on the governor's orders for re-opening the state.

Technical SFL Workgroup

Alec Brown, Conservation Caucus

Brown began by giving a brief history of what has been discussed at past meetings. The workgroup met on May 6th and discussed state agencies comments on technical prescriptions. There is a discrepancy between how workgroup members see the science. They will report their findings at the June Policy meeting.

Miller then spoke about the potential Dispute Resolution, explaining that the main source of disagreement is in Riparian Management Zones (RMZ) widths and even age harvesting. The document he sent out yesterday is a rough draft of dispute language from his caucus.

Rentz explained that there was not time put on the agenda to discuss the SFLO proposal for Dispute Resolution because it was submitted the day before this meeting. The Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA) states that the agenda must be made available to the public at least 24 hours in advance.

The co-chairs and AMPA will consult CMER co-chairs Hooks, Jenny Knoth, and Mendoza to work through this, since they have experience in Dispute Resolutions. Once the SFL caucus distributes the Dispute Resolution language to Policy, all caucuses need to agree that the dispute is framed appropriately. The plan is to discuss this more in depth at the June meeting, after everyone has time to review the Board Manual.

Mendoza stated that going through historical records of how dispute resolutions have been handled is very important as well as keeping accurate minutes going forward.

Type Np Prescriptions Workgroup Update

Darin Cramer, ILO Caucus and Jim Peters, Westside Tribal Caucus

Cramer stated that the group is in the process of putting together a written document outlining alternatives in addition to a list of outside science publications. Field trips were scheduled but were postponed due to COVID 19. Cramer thinks it is necessary for the group to meet in person to have a final product. Overall, however, the group is on track.

Peters explained that there will be a more formal update in June.

Referencing the charter, Rentz reminded Cramer and Peters that a written progress report is due to Policy in June. The co-chairs requested that part of that report include where the group is at in relation to the charter timeline.

Extensive Riparian Vegetation Monitoring (ERVM) Model Transferability Findings Report Presentation

Andrew Cooke, UW Precision Forestry Initiative

Cooke gave a presentation on the ERVM Model Transferability Findings Report, after which Policy members had the opportunity to ask questions.

Hicks reminded Policy that this is a pilot study and more work needs to be done before any monitoring would begin. For that reason, he does not recommend that the group take formal action. Instead, Policy should resolve any outstanding questions and identify how much time and funding they would like allocated to this. Overall, the goal should be to use this information to determine whether or not Policy wants to develop a long term state wide monitoring program. In June, the vote should be on whether or not this report warrants any action.

Forest Practices Board (FPB) Meeting Preview

Rentz and Veldhuisen

The point of this conversation was to give caucuses the opportunity to discuss issues to be addressed at the upcoming FPB meeting.

Hicks stated that he will be presenting the agreed upon version of the Master Project Schedule (MPS) to the FPB and asking for support.

Ash Roorbach, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC), gave an update on the Water Typing Sub-committee and the Anadromous Fish Floor GIS Analysis. The main point is that they now have to use a competitive bidding process instead of a sole-source contract which will extend the timeline by approximately one month. The hope is to have a product by fall.

Don Nauer, State caucus (WDFW), reported on the water typing study designs (PHB Validation, Default Physical Criteria and LiDAR) under review by the Instream Scientific Advisory Group (ISAG). The main points are that the LiDAR study should be delayed as it is not yet ready and sequentially, not a priority and there are some fundamental issues with both the PHB and the Default Physical Criteria studies which still need to be worked out by ISAG/CMER.

Marc Engel, DNR Caucus, spoke about the Water Typing Rule. A timeline of deliverables has been requested for the Anadromous Fish Floor GIS work. The FPB has asked staff to continue work on the water type system rule as the cost-benefit analysis work continues.

Cramer briefly spoke about the WFWA Proposal Initiation, stating that his request to the FPB is a petition for pilot rulemaking to allow landowners to implement experimental buffers that differ from the Rules, which would be necessary to implement aspects of the research study outlined in the proposal.

Steve Barnowe-Meyer, SFL Caucus, asked about the process on the Center for Conservation Peacebuilding and Hicks responded that there are no updates. If this is not brought up at the upcoming Board meeting, Policy will submit a formal request for a status update.

Eastside Timber Harvest Effectiveness Project (ETHEP)

Teresa Miskovic, DNR Project Manager

Miskovic went over the main tenets of the charter, pointing out that Malia Volke, Eastside CMER Scientist, is taking over as the Project Investigator. The project is in the scoping phase.

Scott Swanson, Counties caucus, asked for project checkpoints to be provided to Policy so that the committee can stay up to date on the project progress. Rentz outlined when there are typically opportunities for this to happen:

1. Charter Development
2. Scoping phase (once the scoping document is complete); this is a time for Policy members to look critically at alternatives.
3. Study Design phase – although this is an approval phase, it is still an opportunity for caucuses to ask questions. Hicks clarified that the Policy approves funding for the study to be implemented, not the document itself.

Nauer asked about how the project evaluates the current rule. Miskovic responded that it does not do this, but the charter is based on findings from the Bull Trout and Eastern Washington Riparian Assessment Projects (EWRAP) studies which makes it clear that the current classification rules are insufficient.

Swanson asked about the cost, to which Miskovic responded that cost will be estimated during the scoping phase.

Motion #2 was made and passed.

WDFW Proposal Initiation Workgroup Initiation

Veldhuisen & Rentz

The WDFW PI to evaluate how AMP's past work has reduced uncertainty warrants a Policy track assignment because it is not a science proposal and does not address a specific Forest Practices rule. Policy's task is to develop a charter for the workgroup with assistance from Amy McIntyre and Tim Quinn, WDFW.

Cramer, Peters, Nauer, and Alec will be part of the workgroup. This project is not funded in the present MPS and is not a time-sensitive issue.

WFPA Proposal Initiation

Hicks

Rentz first recapped the process for submitting Proposal Initiations. The task for the meeting was to make a determination for whether or not the PI warrants action in the Adaptive Management process and what type of path this should take.

Hicks then went through the main points of his memo to Policy, recommending the PI be rejected because it does not fit within the limited situations provided in WAC 222-12-045(2)(d).

After Rentz asked for caucus comments, Cramer asked about DNR's official interpretation of the WAC which Hicks referenced, stating his disagreement with how it was interpreted.

Brandon Austin, State caucus (Ecology), stated that he has reviewed this with Ecology and the main concern is with how the PI is presented and the inconsistencies with past science as well as the fact that it is a pilot project.

Roorbach, speaking on behalf of Peters (temporarily away from table), stated the importance of the WFFA project to consider a full range of ecosystem functions and not just shade. He said this project should not delay the work of the Type Np Prescriptions Work group. Additionally, it is important to follow the Ecology lead to keep on track with maintaining the Clean Water Act (CWA) Assurances.

Brown asked why the PI is being presented to Policy and then the Board. Rentz stated that what is being presented to the Board is a discussion of a pilot rule making, whereas this is a Proposal initiation. Hicks then explained the two processes for bringing a PI forward. He also noted that if the Board approves the pilot study, it would pave a way for the WFFA to use outside science.

Next Steps

Veldhuisen & Hibbeln

Jacob Hibbeln, AMP Administrative Assistant, then recapped the motions and action items made and the meeting was adjourned.

Attendees by Caucus

All attendees by video conference and/or phone participation

**Caucus Representative

Conservation Caucus

**Alec Brown (WEC)
Chris Mendoza (CMER Co-chair)

County Caucus

**Scott Swanson (WSAC)
Kendra Smith (Skagit County)

Eastside Tribal Caucus

John Sirois (Upper Columbia United Tribes)
Todd Baldwin (Kalispell Tribe of Indians)

Large Industrial Landowner Caucus

**Darin Cramer (WFFA)
Doug Hooks (WFFA)
Meghan Tuttle (Weyerhaeuser)

Small Forest Landowner Caucus

**Steve Barnowe-Meyer (WFFA)
Ken Miller (WFFA)

Jenny Knoth (WFFA/CMER co-chair)

State Caucus

**Brandon Austin (ECY)
**Don Nauer (WDFW)
**Marc Engel (DNR)
Terra Rentz (WDFW / Co-Chair)
Marc Ratcliff (DNR)
Joseph Shramek (DNR)

Westside Tribal Caucus

**Jim Peters (NWIFC)
Ash Roorbach (NWIFC)
Curt Veldhuisen (SRSC / Co-Chair)
Joseph Pavel (Skokomish Indian Tribe)

Adaptive Management Program/CMER Staff

Mark Hicks (AMPA)
Ben Flint (DNR)
Jacob Hibbeln (DNR)

Jenelle Black (NWIFC/CMER)
Teresa Miskovic (AMP)
Andrew Cooke (UW)

Federal Caucus

Dan Brown (EPA)

Non-Caucus Participants

Andrew Cooke (UW)

