

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER)**  
**October 22, 2019**  
**DNR/DOC Industrial Park, Tumwater WA**

| <b>Attendees</b>    | <b>Representing</b>                                      |
|---------------------|--|
| §Baldwin, Todd (ph) | Kalispel Tribe of Indians                                |
| §Bell, Harry        | Washington Farm Forestry Association                     |
| Black, Jenelle      | Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission – CMER Staff       |
| Clark, Kris         | Environmental Monitoring Technologies                    |
| Davis, Emily        | Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission – CMER Staff       |
| Gibbs, Heather      | Department of Natural Resources                          |
| §Hayes, Marc        | Department of Fish and Wildlife                          |
| Hicks, Mark         | Department of Natural Resources – AMPA                   |
| Hooks, Doug         | Washington Forest Protection Association – CMER Co-Chair |
| §Kay, Debbie (ph)   | Suquamish Tribe  |
| Krauz, Eric (ph)    | Colville Confederated Tribes                             |
| §Kroll, A.J. (ph)   | Weyerhaeuser   |
| §Lizon, Patrick     | Department of Ecology                                    |
| §Martin, Doug       | Washington Forest Protection Association                 |
| §Mendoza, Chris     | Conservation Caucus – CMER Co-Chair                      |
| Miskovic, Teresa    | Department of Natural Resources                          |
| §Mobbs, Mark        | Quinalt Nation   |
| Murray, Joe         | Washington Forest Protection Association                 |
| Ojala-Barbour, Reed | Department of Fish and Wildlife                          |
| Roorbach, Ash       | Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission                    |
| Stewart, Greg       | Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission – CMER Staff       |
| Shramek, Patti      | Department of Natural Resources – CMER Coordinator       |
| Swanson, Scott (ph) | Washington State Association of Counties                 |
| Walter, Jason (ph)  | Weyerhaeuser   |

§Indicates official CMER members and alternates; (ph) indicates attended via phone.

\*Indicates Decision

Marc Hayes reported that he is retiring next year (end of October 2020). Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) isn't sure who will be replacing him at this time, so over the next year he is bringing Aimee McIntyre and Reed Ojala-Barbour alternately with him to meetings so they are up to speed on DFW positions. Mark Hicks asked if DFW was going to have them approved by the Board. Hayes replied not at this time, since he will be attending meetings for the next year.

**Science Session:**

**P Values - Presentation**

Gregg Stewart gave a presentation on P-values and answered questions.

## Decisions:

### CMER

- ◆ **\*Approval of May and June 2019 Meeting Minutes – approval**
  - **May 2019 Meeting Minutes**  
Chris Mendoza provided minor edits.  
Mendoza moved to approve as revised, Hayes seconded - **Approved**
  - **June 2019 Meeting Minutes**  
Mendoza and LWAG provided minor edits. Hayes moved to approve as revised, Mark Mobbs seconded - **Approved**

- ◆ **\*ENREP – Approval of Answers to Policy Question #1**  
Hooks reported that the project team’s answers to questions 2-4 from the Timber, Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee (Policy) were presented at the October 3, 2019 Policy meeting, and that a group of CMER members got together to work on the answer to question one. Mendoza remarked that Ehinger was not able to attend the meeting, but reviewed the edits to the document that went out in the CMER mailing. The edited version was reviewed, discussed, and revisions made.

Hayes moved to approve question one as revised, Mendoza seconded - **Approved**

**Next Steps:** Question one answer will be presented to Policy at their October 31, 2019 meeting.

### RSAG

- ◆ **\*Eastside Type F Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring (BTO Add-on) – approval of ISPR reviewed final report**

Hooks reviewed the history of the document and asked for a motion to approve.

Todd Baldwin moved to approve, Hayes seconded - **Approved**

**Next steps:** The answers to the six questions will be on the CMER December meeting agenda for approval and once approved all documents will be forwarded to Policy

- ◆ **\*Hardwood Conversion Six Questions – approval**

Hooks reported that the informal dispute resolution was held where a solution was identified to resolve the issue and revisions were made to the answers accordingly.

Mendoza moved to approve the six questions, Harry Bell seconded - **Approved**

Hooks remarked that the dispute resolution worked well, and there is no reason to be afraid of it.

◆ **\*Westside Type N Buffer Characteristics, Integrity, and Function (BCIF) – approval of ISPR reviewed final report**

Hooks reported the final ISPR comments have been incorporated and it is ready for approval.

Hayes moved to approve the report, AE letter, and AMPA cover letter be sent to Policy, Bell seconded - Approved

**Next steps:** The answers to the six questions will be ready for CMER approval in December. Once approved, the report, AE letter, and AMPA cover letter will be forwarded to Policy.

**Discussion:**

◆ **Policy's request to have full access to IMS**

Hicks reported that Policy would like full access to IMS. In the past, CMER was concerned about Policy having full access to draft reports and non QA/QC'd data. He thinks some CMER reps are giving to their Policy reps anyway, so would like to see everyone have access, since it is all subject to public disclosure, and would like to know if any CMER members think otherwise. Discussion revolved around when non QA/QC's data is considered publicly available. Mendoza remarked that he is okay with Policy having access, but he feels they need a tutorial on how to navigate through the system to avoid the potential misuse of pre-ISPR draft reports as final.

Hicks asked if there any objections to move forward with allowing Policy access, otherwise he is going to give it to them. There are definitely improvements that need to be made, but he feels they all need access. There were no objections.

◆ **Extended Status and Trends Monitoring Workshop for Policy**

Hooks reported that RSAG brought forward the extensive monitoring recommendations to Policy and Joe Murray and Mendoza gave a presentation to them at their last meeting. Murray and Mendoza reported on the presentation. Policy requested a workshop, which would include DNR and other funded research. Mendoza said they did not get a formal request and would need one before moving forward. Teresa Miskovic said it would be helpful if they also let CMER know what they wanted to get out of it before moving forward. Hicks agreed, but suggested giving them examples to help them identify what they need. What do they want to learn and at what rigor do they want it? Murray replied that RSAG would be happy to put that together.

- ◆ **Next Steps:** RSAG will put together a recommended agenda for an extensive monitoring workshop to present to Policy. Hicks will inform Policy that RSAG is working on this.

### Updates:

- ◆ **Report from Timber, Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee (Policy) – October 3, 2019 meeting**

Hicks reported on CMER related items from the meeting. He also reported that Policy asked that all member be given access to the CMER Information Management System (IMS). He will pass out the access information to all Policy members at their October 31, 2019 meeting.

Timber Fish & Wildlife Policy meeting minutes are located on the Department of Natural Resources web page at <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/about/boards-and-councils/forest-practices-board/tfw-policy-committee>.

- ◆ **CMER Budget**

Hicks reported that the Policy budget sub-committee met and has identified \$600,000 that will be underspent in the first fiscal year (FY20) of budget, but will be slightly over in the second FY. He found out that the OFM budget office does not look at it that way, they view it as an under expenditure, regardless of the fact that it will be spent in the following FY. He also found out that CMER regularly leaves a half million dollars per biennium unspent, and that is not good either. CMER needs to do a better job at projecting their budgets and rates of expenditure. Discussion revolved around where the under expenditures are occurring. Mendoza remarked that it would be good to develop tiered budgets and get back to having the two-day budget retreats with Policy. He gave examples of existing AMP tools used in the past that could help with budgeting. Bell suggested that SAGs start working now on projects that can be ready in case there are extra funds to be spent at the end of the biennium. Hicks replied that it was a good idea, if the SAGs have the time for it.

- ◆ **AMP Positions – update on EP5, EP4, Administrative Assistant, and CMER Scientists recruitments**

Hicks gave an update on the recruitment of the positions. All of them have closed and DNR is moving forward with interviews. Jenelle Black reported on the open positions at the Commission.

Hayes asked what the plan is for covering Emily's projects. Hicks replied that DNR is working hard to hire replacements quickly, but in the meantime, her workload is re-distributed among the other PMs. Luckily, there is a little lull now, so it should be doable until the new person is on board.

◆ **Roads Study**

Heather Gibbs reported that there will be a Roads monthly verbal update at the CMER meetings, outside of the CMER/SAG updated, because the Roads Study is under CMER oversight and not a SAG. She reported on what is happening on the study right now. The RFQQ for data collection has closed and she is in the process of checking references. A public works solicitation is being drafted for continuing road maintenance. Mendoza asked if CMER, as the overseeing committee, should review contractor proposals. Gibbs remarked that members of the project team reviewed the proposals, and Julie Dieu, a member of CMER and the project team, was on the evaluation committee. Mendoza remarked that there could be a potential for conflict of interest if members of the project team have working relationships with RFQQ candidates that is forbidden by DNR contracting policies. The charter needs to be updated when the new contractor is on board to include them and their roles.

◆ **CMER and SAG updates** – *answer questions on written updates*

Hooks reviewed the SAG updates and noted the ones that are coming to CMER and Policy in November and December. Jason Walter reported that the ISAG updates hadn't been incorporated into the document that was sent out to CMER. He will send minutes for the last ISAG meeting to Patti Shramek for distribution to the CMER email list.

**Public Comment**

No public comment

**Recap of Assignments/Decisions**

- ◆ May 2019 meeting minutes approved.
- ◆ June 2019 meeting minutes approved.
- ◆ ENREP CMER answer to Policy's question one approved.
- ◆ BTO Add-on report approved. Six questions document to come to CMER for approval in December.
- ◆ Hardwood Conversion six questions approved.
- ◆ BCIF report approved. Six questions document to come to CMER for approval in December.
- ◆ Mark Hicks will pass out access information for the CMER Information Management System to Policy members at their October 31, 2019 meeting.
- ◆ RSAG will put together a recommended agenda for an extensive monitoring work shop to present to Policy. Hicks will inform Policy that RSAG is working on this.
- ◆ Patti Shramek will send out the ISAG October 2019 minutes.

**Adjourned @ 1:08 pm**