

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee
October 23, 2007
NWIFC
Final Notes**

Attendees:

Beach, Eric	Green Diamond
Black, Jenelle	NWIFC, CMER Project Manager
Black, Tami	NMFS
*Butts, Sally	USFWS, CMER Co-chair
Cramer, Darin	DNR Forest Practices, Adaptive Management Administrator
Heckel, Linda	DNR Forest Practices, CMER coordinator
Hunter, Mark	WDFW
*Jackson, Terry	WDFW, BTSAG Co-chair
Kurtenbach, Amy	DNR, CMER Project Manager
*Martin, Doug	WFPA contractor
*McConnell, Steve, v	UCUT
*McCracken, Jim	Longview Timberland, LWAG Co-Chair
*Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus contractor, RSAG Tri-Chair
*Miller, Dick	WA Farm Forestry Association
*Mobbs, Mark	Quinault Indian Nation
Moon, Teresa	DNR, CMER Project Manager
Robinson, Tom	Counties
Sturhan, Nancy	NWIFC, CMER Co-chair
*Vaugeois, Laura	DNR Forest Practices, UPSAG co-chair
*Veldhuisen, Curt, v	Skagit River System Cooperative

* indicates official CMER members

v indicates attended via video-conferencing; ph indicates attended via phone

Assignments:

From October Meeting:	
Set up a date two weeks prior to the conference for dry run.	Sally Butts
Presentations due to Linda by noon on 2/19/08 to load onto the laptop for conference.	All Presenters
Accuracy and Bias Study report and recommendation back to CMER in December	Laura Vaugeois/Jenelle Black
Ask Dave Shuett-Hames to send me the table of CMER staff needs	Linda Heckel
CMER Comments to Jenelle on the SAGE Type F Riparian Assessment Project Report outline by October 31 st .	All
Headwater scoping document – to CMER in November	Sturhan
List of topics and presenters for conference from the SAGs to CMER in Nov.	All SAGS
Send Jenelle '08 workplan in Word format	Linda Heckel
Update on the Data Mgmt System Pilot Project (make sure Chris is on the list)	Nancy Sturhan

Assignments:

From September Meeting:	
Update CMER and SAG Co-chair names on the Website	Linda Heckel
Fix the numbering system in the 2008 Workplan	Jenelle Black
Update the CMER membership rosters with phone numbers	Linda Heckel

2008 Annual CMER Science Conference – Sally

Sally presented the draft conference outline and presentation guidelines paper for the upcoming conference. As people have comments about the paper, please send them to Sally.

Today is the official request for the SAG co-chairs go back to the SAGs and discuss what they would like to present. SAG co-chairs need to bring their recommendations for topics and presenters to the November CMER meeting. Sally suggested that the presentations would be 15 minutes each with a 5-minute Q&A period after each one. There are 14 presentation slots, an introduction, breaks, door prizes, and a suggested panel discussion to finish the day. The panel session has not been figured out. Abstracts are due no later than the January 14th, to Linda Heckel, one week prior to the January CMER meeting.

The group reviewed the presentation/presentation guidelines. One suggestion was that during the Q&A portion, ask the presenter to repeat the question. There still needs to be more work and discussion about poster guidelines. This could possibly be held in the foyer. Poster guidelines have yet to be determined.

Discussed table of resources, possibility of having door prizes. DNR is providing the snacks and coffee service.

Announcements have already been sent out. Already signed up 52. Please send your name in to Linda if planning on attending. Linda is in charge of signs/directions for the lobby. We are hoping to have an IT person on call all day for possible glitches (Linda will find someone). Sally will check with RTI for streaming video and Linda will notify TVW of the conference in case they can also record.

Mark Hunter suggested having an ortho photo exhibit demonstration/display by DNR Photo & Map Sales out in the foyer. Jenelle will check in with them to see if it is something they could do. Chris commented that it would be good to have a facilitator providing a context for CMER and what they are doing, for the layperson. That would help out as the presenters start and would also tie presentations back to the workplan. A lot of people aren't privy to what we are doing on a monthly basis. Need a session introduction at the beginning and then maybe one slide at the beginning of each presentation.

Darin, Sally, Nancy and Linda will set up a meeting about two weeks prior to the conference, to review the draft presentations, and all are invited. Abstracts are still due in January 14th, one week prior to the meeting to send out with the agenda. Dick Miller would also like to participate in the review of presentations.

Science Session: Accuracy and Bias – Laura/Jenelle

Laura reviewed some of the comments and UPSAG's responses on the study design. UPSAG didn't feel it needed ISPR review, but suggested a statistician review the CMER responses and if they felt it needed to go to ISPR it could be sent.

Next steps, UPSAG is going to work the comments into their report and bring the report and recommendation to CMER at the December meeting. Once the report is revamped, they plan to have a statistician review the statistics.

Chris M – bigger issue is the direction of information flow. There is a problem with landowners regarding researchers turning in violations that they see while doing their research. Compliance monitoring is looking for violations, but researchers are not, so we have to be careful how CMER research and compliance monitoring are combined, if that is what we want to do. If compliance monitoring information flows into CMER that would be fine. That would augment CMER's information. When info goes from CMER to compliance monitoring, then CMER research information could result in a violation being surfaced. CMER research is not intended to result in violations. We could help compliance monitoring get up to speed with the information flow coming out of the accuracy and bias study. More discussions could happen in the future as compliance monitoring matures.

Dick – statistical review is very important. Maybe this should be a standard procedure. Add this to the CMER staff position discussion.

Minutes from September meeting and action items – Sally/Linda

Minutes from the September meeting were approved. Action item list was reviewed.

Policy Meeting – Sally/Nancy

Policy was concerned about the headwaters water quality (soft rock) study design proposed. A draft scoping document is being written and it is being reviewed by a couple of folks and then it will be sent out to CMER in November. Concern whether water quality and temperature is going to be included in the study. Will report back to CMER next month.

Tim Quinn's presentation on Seep study was well received. Generated an idea to do a roll up of amphibian information and present to policy sometime next year. Other programs will follow with mini workshops for policy so they get a broader understanding of what has been learned.

There is going to be a CMER strategy workshop primarily for policy representatives on November 28th at the NRB.

The SFLO Advisory Group proposed to the Board to form an economic group, like a SAG, but they would assist in decision-making on the economic functions. Details are still being worked out.

On the DFC reports, policy answered question #7 and they are working on questions #8 and #9.

CMER Budget - Darin

All of the FY 07 expenditures have been reconciled. Beginning in 09 you will see the new revenue stream coming in called the Forests & Fish Support account (FFSA). Additional information will be coming to CMER on this account. DNR is working with OFM to understand the nuances of this account.

ISPR Update - Darin

One report should be coming out of ISPR which is the UPSAG mass wasting post-mortem study design possibly out in three weeks. The Culvert Test bed fish passage study design went to them last week

SAG Requests - Terry

Terry reviewed with the group where she was with accepting/responding to comments for Stream Simulation Study Plan. She received some late comments that were not addressed. Some of the comments seemed more like misunderstanding but some did address relevant issues. The study design will go to ISPR. Terry and Nancy are going to meet with the commenter and discuss the concerns. Nancy offered to do a CMER 101 for new CMER representatives or anyone else.

DNR is funding Bob Barnard (WDFW) to look at stream simulation culverts on state lands. The sites will be stratified across DNR regions. Some CMER participants questioned the need to continue further with CMER funding, since there would already be sites on DNR state lands. Terry mentioned that including more sites on Forests & Fish industrial lands would further add to the range of data surrounding the design criteria, which was an important component of the study to the forest landowners. Stream Simulation was approved by CMER to go to peer review.

SAG Issues

CMER Staff Position - Darin

Darin updated the group on the CMER staff position. He received feedback from some of the SAGs and talked with Dave, Nancy and Sally.

Previous advertisement for geomorphology expertise is close to what is needed, but may need some minor editing with experimental design focus. As soon as Dave can put it together it will go out.

For our other needs we have talked about (stats, technical writing, etc.), we need to look at an open contract for these services. Darin will be looking into possibilities for statistical and other assistance while we are advertising for the geomorphology position. These services would be paid for out of project development funds.

Concerns were expressed about holding off for another 6 months to fill the geomorphologist position and work being slowed down as a result. Even if we hold off another month it will still be two months before someone is in that position. We have a need now for experimental study design, technical design.

Concerns were also expressed about the process used to decide on the skill sets desired for this position. The needs assessment table prepared by Dave Schuett-Hames for the October meeting and other information was not distributed to CMER. An opinion was expressed that the process could have been more inclusive.

CMER agreed to move the advertisement forward with the geomorphologist position with the understanding that we are going to look for statistical assistance via contract.

Darin is going to look at what assistance options DNR or the state already have under contract for technical writer/editor and statistician, and will bring back additional information next month on contracts.

RMZ Resample – Teresa

The Contractors are working on addressing the CMER comments and filling out the review matrix , which is due November 15th . The revised report will then go back to the CMER reviewers.

Eastside Type F riparian assessment draft outline – Jenelle

Handout distributed to attendees in Olympia

This group was directed to create an outline and discussed with the contractor what objectives and questions they should focus on. The contractor outlined how they were going to lay out the report. Jenelle wanted to give CMER an opportunity to comment and add their input to the outline. There are two major ways to look at data – current regulatory context and ecological based decisions.

Please send CMER comments back to Jenelle by October 31st.

Project managers' project reports – Darin

These reports will be updated and distributed to CMER every quarter. They will contain what is going on and what is coming up for the projects. It is a desire that these reports be concise and to the point.

Steve asked if what he interpreted from Teresa's summaries was accurate, as it appeared that CMER had paid on 6 contracts, amounting to more than \$490,000+ but did not have a final product from these projects. Darin said that this was correct. Darin is working with the contractor, WDFW, attempting to get final products. Darin said that there would

not be more money allocated to finalize these projects for tasks such as preparing comment matrices and responding to CMER and ISRP review. These contracts preceded Teresa and Darin's involvement with CMER.

If there are any editorial comments on these reports they can be sent to the project manager with a copy to Darin.

CMER Data Management System Pilot Project – Nancy

A rough draft proposal for data management was distributed to CMER. NWIFC has volunteered to construct a pilot project as to what a management system might look like. They are going to take on a couple of completed projects (Road sub-basin and DFC) and construct a mini information system. Dave Schuett-Hames and Nancy Sturhan are heading this up. Dave has a list of folks who might be interested and they are meeting in mid-November to see what expectations are of the pilot. Once a draft is done, it will be coming to CMER for review.

Chris mentioned he wanted to be on the pilot project group.

PNW Experimental Station Directory of Research Programs – Dick

Dick handed out (to Olympia attendees) the above booklet and pointed out that these people, and their projects, which operate in Alaska, Oregon and Washington, could possibly help CMER with our projects, etc.

Protocol and Standards Manual – Nancy

Nancy is willing to take on a couple of chapters and then bring to CMER for review and editing but does not have time to incorporate comments/edits. What would the group like to do with this manual? Nancy could take this on after her co-chair reign is done. It would be nice to get this done sooner than later, but does this group have time to take this one now? The current PSM has flaws but the fact that there is an existing manual gives some guidance. Consensus - keep the status as is and wait for Nancy to take it on after June 30, 2008, when her CMER co-chair term ends.

2008 Workplan – Nancy

Steve sent some comments at the end of the review period, a lot of which was incorporated into the 2008 workplan. However, some comments were difficult to incorporate into the 2008 workplan and were brought to CMER for discussion. Nancy offered to send out Steve's version of the comments for folks review, but in the interest of avoiding the potential confusion of having more than one version floating around, these were summarized at the meeting:

Some of these suggestions will be incorporated in the new workplan or in other forums, as appropriate:

- CMER project prioritization hasn't been looked at for 5 years can we do it again? The 2009 strategy will involve this.

- Projects need better descriptions – hardwood conversion – need to look at the whole thing, DFC project – needs a cohesive write-up by one author, bull-trout – “policy decided no further work is needed” - we need to clarify what they meant, in order to be able to recognize if a situation arises in which more work would be valuable; additional information on that decision would be helpful. A lot of water typing projects are the same way too, memorialize them more.
- CMZ delineation and where they occur– brought up and prioritized in the workplan
- Consider resampling sites used in the FPA Field Check study because the data collected has pre- or immediately post-harvest wind throw data.
- How about the projects that don’t pan out? Some of them have ended for various reasons; need to be clearer on reasons why. Did the studies produce anything of value? If so, where is it?

The type of document such as the 2008 work plan is still needed; it is an encyclopedia of work projects.

PSM manual - Steve’s comments.

- concerns about AM process changed into the FPB’s process. Put it in the PSM so people know how it works.

We will make sure these are incorporated in the 2009 workplan or other appropriate documents (i.e., PSM Manual).

Policy 2009 CMER Workplan Strategy – Darin

Darin updated the group on the November 28th strategy meeting. It is primarily for the policy representatives to review the information and give broad level feedback on information that would be necessary for them to make decisions/priorities in the future. What are they going to need to know to make these high level decisions? It is the hope to transition the workplan over time to create a tool that people will use for a variety of purposes. More information to come in the future. The policy budget committee is also working on a similar track with project prioritization and funding issues.

CMER Report to Policy – Sally

Sally mentioned the following as going to Policy at their November meeting:

Project status reports will be posted on the website

Fish passage studies off to peer review

CMER strategy meeting on 11/28

Reminder of the budget committee

Science sessions in November (headwater sediment study/scoping document) and

December (tentatively scheduled - Hardwoods Commission project status-CMER was a partial funder).

Reminder that Nancy is leaving, as co-chair, in June 2008.

Future Meetings

CMER 2007 Regular Meetings: December 18, 2007, NWIFC

CMER 2008 Regular Meetings: January 22, February 26, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, September 23, October 28, November 25th and December 16.

2008 Science Conference: February 20th, 2008, OB2