

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee
January 23, 2007
9am – 12pm
DNR-OB2
Minutes**

Attendees:

Baldwin, Todd	UCUT
Black, Jenelle	NWFIC, CMER Staff
Cramer, Darin	DNR Adaptive Management Administrator
Dieu, Julie	Rayonier, UPSAG co-chair
Ehinger, Bill	WDOE
Estrella, Stephanie	WDOE
Fransen, Brian	Weyerhaeuser
Heide, Pete	WFPA
Hunter, Mark	WDFW, RSAG
Josephs, Jessica	Rayonier
MacCracken, Jim	Longview Fiber, LWAG co-char
Martin, Doug	WFPA consultant, CMER co-chair
Mendoza, Chris	ARC, RSAG Tri-Chair
Moon, Theresa	DNR Project Manager
Robinson, Tom	WSAC
Schuett-Hames, Dave	NWFIC, CMER Staff
Stewart, Greg	NWIFC, CMER Staff
Sturhan, Nancy	DNR, CMER co-chair

Minutes: December CMER minutes were approved by consensus.

ASSIGNMENTS:

SAG Co-chairs: SAGs need to get updated budget figures for FY 08 to Darin a week before the February CMER meeting

Mark Hunter, Julie Dieu and Doug Martin volunteered to review the SAGE Type N Characterization document for CMER.

Darin will work with **Julie** on preparing the review questions and documentation for the UPSAG Mass Wasting Prescription-Scale Effectiveness study plan.

Doug and Nancy will work on Pete's idea of scheduling progress reports to CMER for ongoing projects.

Darin and Nancy will draft some guidance for the P&S Manual on bringing articles for publication through the CMER process.

Report Back From Policy (Martin):

DFC resample project. Policy is interested in approving the DFC resample but need the budget estimates from Schuett-Hames. Two CMER requests that weren't acted on will be taken up at the next meeting for consideration.

ISPR Update (Martin): RMZ project is at least two months out. UPSAG will be submitting a project for review today.

Budget/Project Management Report From AMPA:

Darin prepared a new budget sheet. Old sheet had many estimates in FY 01-05 instead of actual expenditures. FY 06 numbers have been cleaned up. Darin is concerned that projects of costs for unscoped projects are too speculative and are not useful. Several projects are overspent for the current year. Need to get budget updated for policy meeting in March in preparation for Policy retreat in mid March.

SAGs need to get updated budget figures for FY 08 to Darin a week before the February CMER meeting.

Theresa Moon started last week as the new project manager. Focus will be on managing riparian projects for RSAG and LWAG. Will be meeting with staff, RSAG and LWAG to assume management of those projects.

Web page on completed projects is about ready to be implemented. It will have final reports and other project information (handout). Active project page still needs more work.

SAG Requests:

SAGE

Eastside Type N Characterization Scoping Document. SAGE is requesting CMER review of the Scoping Document. **Mark Hunter, Julie Dieu and Doug Martin** volunteered to review the document for CMER. Nancy will also find someone from her group to review it. Comments are due to Todd by February 1st.

Eastside Type F Riparian Assessment Project Phase I. SAGE request to add \$70,000 to the Phase I sampling budget as Tier 2 money for FY08. SAGE is close to having a contact signed with Mason, Bruce and Girard for the Phase I sampling. CMER approved moving 120K from Tier 2 to Tier 1 making a total of \$270 K available in FY 2007.

SAGE will also propose additional contingency funds for FY 2008.

UPSAG

Mass Wasting Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring Project. UPSAG requests CMER approval of the study design and requests that CMER submit the design to ISRP for review. Julie Dieu discussed changes that were made to the document in response to the CMER review. Response to the comments are listed in a response matrix document. Methods will be developed further. CMER approved the study design and will send it to ISRP for review. **Darin will work with Julie** on preparing the review questions and documentation. UPSAG would like an open review and has some suggestions for reviewers.

RSAG

Hardwood Conversion WDOE Temperature Modeling Project. RSAG requests CMER review of the final report “Sensitivity Analysis of the factors affecting stream temperature to assist the development of the hardwood conversion guidelines for small forest land owners.” CMER identified the following reviewers: Mark Hunter, Doug Martin, Dick Miller. Comments are due back to Bill Ehinger and Chris Mendoza by February 15th. **AFTER-MEETING NOTE: CMER review has been carried out previously. Next step is for Bill Ehinger to produce the comments table, then RSAG will bring the revised report and comments table back to CMER for approval.**

Project Status:

FPA Analysis Documents. RSAG has reviewed documents, gave feedback to Steve M. and is hoping to bring the revised documents to CMER for approval at the next meeting.

RMZ resample. All the chapters have been submitted to LWAG and comments have been returned to the contractor.

RSAG/SAGE meeting to discuss aerial photo application to riparian research and monitoring has been set up for February 15th at the USFS office in Cle Elum.

Type N Incompetent Lithologies project. Scoping is currently underway.

Hardwood Conversion. Mark Hunter plans to submit draft report to RSAG by March.

Eastside BTO add-on. Progress report is planned for spring 07.

Effectiveness of unstable landforms project. Scoping/study design development is currently under way.

SAG Issues:

Effectiveness of unstable landforms project. Closely related to compliance monitoring. May become part of DNR's compliance monitoring program. UPSAG is grappling with the question of sampling rigor. Does the information need to be statistically rigorous. What level of rigor and certainty is needed by Policy? Does the study design need to go to ISPR? Could use Policy guidance.

Progress reports. Pete suggested creating a schedule for progress reports to CMER for ongoing projects on a regular basis. **Doug and Nancy will work on that idea.**

Donato report. Nancy read a recent article on the process around this report. She thinks the problems with that project are instructive to CMER, particularly the publication of preliminary data without review of the funding source. She wants to make sure that CMER and Policy are aware of study results and have a chance to review the project reports before articles are submitted for review. CMER needs a process so scientists know what is expected. **Darin and Nancy will draft some guidance for the P&S Manual on this topic.**

AFTER MEETING NOTE: The relevant documents are posted at the CMER site at NWIFC (<http://www.nwifc.org/nwifcbb/index.php>).

DNR compliance monitoring draft report just came out for review. They want comments by February 16th. CMER needs to know if CMER is supposed to provide a formal review.

CMER Upcoming Staffing Needs: If anyone has need, tell Cramer.

Workplan:

CMER Science Conference

Doug handed out a list of potential topics for the CMER Science Conference. He suggested repeating the 25 minute presentation with questions and answers. Doug would like to finalize the list by the February CMER meeting.

Items for CMER Monthly Report to Policy.

Progress/Status of projects

CMER approved moving 120K from Tier 2 to Tier 1 making a total of \$270 K available in FY 2007

Upcoming Science Session Topics

February: Budget

March: Intensive monitoring