

**CMER**  
**January 24, 2006**  
**Ecology Auditorium**  
**Olympia, WA**  
**Minutes**

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**Attendees**

Baldwin, Todd	Kalispel Tribe, SAGE Co-Chair (taking over for Kris Ray)
Barreca, Jeannette	WDOE
Black, Jenelle	NWIFC, CMER Staff
Dieu, Julie	Rayonier, UPSAG Co-Chair
Ehinger, Bill	WDOE
Goetz, Venice	DNR
Heide, Pete	WFPA
Jackson, Terry	WDFW, BTSAG Co-Chair
MacCracken, Jim	Longview Fibre, LWAG Co-Chair
Martin, Doug	Martin Environmental, CMER Co-Chair
McDonald, Dennis	DNR, Watertyping Project Manager
Mendoza, Chris	ARC Consulting
Peterson, Pete	Upper Columbia United Tribe
Reisenhoever, Ken	Port Blakely
Robinson, Tom	WSAC
Rowton, Heather	WFPA, CMER Coordinator
Schuett-Hames, Dave	NWIFC, CMER Staff
Sturhan, Nancy	DNR, CMER Co-Chair

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**Minutes, Decisions/Tasks Review, General Updates:**

Rowton proposed the December minutes be accepted as revised as sent out in the last e-mail.

**CMER Consensus:** Minutes were accepted as amended.

Action items were reviewed.

**Announcement.** Todd Baldwin replaced Kris Ray as SAGE co-chair.

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**Ground rules discussion.** Being prepared for meetings, and refraining from participation when unprepared was the ground rule discussed at the January meeting. Most everyone admitted to breaking it at least once and some break it often. Heide

related that his organization has a phone conference on Monday prior to meetings in order to prepare for CMER meetings. Rowton sent out materials as she received them this month to allow more time for people to review and prepare. Sturhan considered moving up the deadline to allow more time for review, but that was not supported. Heide and Sturhan suggested that perhaps, to address extremely last minute requests, CMER should initiate their decision-making authority to refuse to consider the request unless there is time on the agenda. More information in SAG request forms, especially when request is submitted late, would also be helpful to CMER. Mendoza stated concerns with the standards that different SAGs are held to and said that CMER needs to discuss what “prepared” to discuss really means. Rowton suggested review of PSM for further discussion of this issue.

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**Policy Report.** Martin said that Bernath suggested Policy schedule a budget sub-committee scheduled to formulate recommendations on the Budget retreat. The AMPA position was on the agenda as an update item but no progress has been made. Policy plans to discuss with caucuses, but has not happened yet. Ehinger will temporarily replace Jeannette Barreca on CMER because she is on temporary assignment. The soft-rock geology proposal was discussed and sent back to CMER to go through the CMER prioritization process. There was also discussion of CMER suggestions for the AMPA. Nancy also updated Policy on UPSAG’s landslide study proposals. Policy was provided with a DFC schedule and products to expect by Martin. A Policy Water Typing subgroup has been formed and met and will have ISAG come in to inform them at some point.

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**ISPR Update.** Martin said the RSAG Extensive Riparian review and SAGE Eastside Type F reviews were complete. Vogt (UW) requested a meeting (soon) with CMER to review process and see if the UW can participate more. Schuett-Hames noted that there have been many comments within CMER expressing some dissatisfaction with how the UW is handling this process; a suggestion was made to collect these comments before Martin meets with Vogt. Comments are due to Martin as soon as possible.

Ehinger discussed the need for iterative reviews. Martin noted this process was to be for study designs only. S-H noted that both Eastside Type F and Extensive Riparian would have benefited from an open review. Martin responded that we need to initiate that process. Two current reviews are still in process. Martin noted that we need to state this up-front to reviewers. S-H also noted that cover letters should better explain context and focus review for documents. McDonald asked for clarification of “iterative” review. Mendoza noted the PSM has a hole regarding this review process that we should address. A comment was also made that we need to be specific about what the associate editor’s job is; currently are not finding the associate editor is adding anything beneficial.

MacCracken noted that all information we are describing as necessary in the cover letter should actually be in introduction of document. Reisenhoever noted the associate editor should be doing a lot of the iterative work, rather than making everyone go back to CMER.

S-H noted dissatisfaction with the timeline and a feeling that the UW is not being responsive to CMER needs. Months pass before we even hear anything from UW about the status of reviews, or problems finding reviewers. There is also lack of creativity on part of UW with finding appropriate reviewers. Mendoza suggested that perhaps we should better formulate our response to the UW and delay Martin's meeting to allow CMER to develop a complete response.

**ACTION ITEM:** e-mail suggestions to Martin by February 3 for him to incorporate into his discussion with Vogt.

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**Budget.** There was no budget update at this meeting.

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**CMER Conference.** Rowton has investigated venues. She will obtain information on prices and potential dates (still planning on early April). She will provide this to CMER for decision next month.

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**Website update.** Sturhan met with Jeff Schieber and they are working on getting documents collected and scanned.

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**CMER Workplan Development.** S-H reported he has text from all SAGs and is waiting for ISAG to come to agreement to incorporate. He expects to have a draft ready in a couple weeks. The workplan needs to be approved by CMER at the February meeting and then forwarded to Policy. Heide would like to have a draft to Policy in time for them to discuss prior to their meeting. Rowton said she thought the Workplan was to be the February Science Discussion. S-H recalled that, if CMER decided we needed time, that we would hold a separate meeting to discuss or bump the Riparian Science Session.

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### **SAG Requests.**

WetSAG. Sturhan requested Finalization of the Forested Wetland Regeneration Pilot Report.

**CMER Consensus:** The request was approved.

UPSAG. Request for Final Approval of Regional (Unstable) Landform Identification Project (RLIP). Dieu said this was resubmitted from last month after further reviews. Current request materials include review comments. Venice Goetz has brought final notebooks for review today, if anyone wishes.

**CMER Consensus:** the request was approved.

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## **SAG Issues.**

**RSAG.** Mendoza. Co-chair lack. Tracy Farrel (Squaxin) only person with approval (from employer) to take on co-chair position. However, she has limited participation over last couple years. Therefore, Mendoza and Ehinger have volunteered to support her, along with CMER staff support.

**Eastside Type F monitoring of BTO sites.** Questions and issues raised at December meeting were addressed. RSAG requests permission to proceed with project. Heide feels this needs to be reviewed in the context of overall riparian approach before approval. This needs to be put off for decision until February meeting. Martin reiterated Heide's point; believes no detriment by delaying a month and feels it would be detrimental to rush.

Mendoza feels that RSAG/this study is being held to a new standard that other not held to and that delaying will prevent ability to do field work on schedule. Rowton suggested that CMER approve this study with faith that questions would be resolved next month. Heide suggests that planning can go ahead between now and February and still allow that the study may change after reviewing all studies.

This will be discussed further at the end of this meeting if there is time, since this was not properly submitted as a SAG request.

**BTSAG.** MBG requested for use of CMER work they are doing with Dr. Gregoire for use of project data for educational purposes. DNR approved with specific language that included omission of any landowner information. Appears this will occur.

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## **CMER monthly report to Policy.**

- Will relate two projects approved today
  - Relate results of forthcoming budget discussion
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**February Science session:** Riparian Study Integration.

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**Project Status.** Nancy Sturhan. Handed out list of project status for people to review. Nancy updated chart according to information provided at meeting.

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## **Budget Update and Priorities (Martin)**

Under current funding plans, will have only 147k left after completion of projects that are already ongoing. Therefore, to complete all ongoing projects, we have \$147k to use on new projects. Therefore, most projects started in 2007 will be competing with ongoing

projects for funding. How do we want to handle this? Additional funding may be obtained, and Heide noted that many costs could change substantially if we review them. Sturhan notes that we need to let Policy know the situation and that they need to direct CMER what to do, to prioritize projects and work, and/or find more funding.

CMER should send 6-questions for all studies we propose to start up.

Discussed 2007 start-ups and adjusted budgets according to current status and thinking on those.

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Afternoon Science Session – Department of Ecology Data Management Presentation