

Timber, Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee

Thursday, July 11, 2024 // 9:00AM – 10:35AM

Virtual Only

Motions	
Motion	Move/Second (Vote)
<p>June 6, 2024, Meeting Notes</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Court Stanley moved to approve the June 6, 2024, meeting notes.</p> <p>The motion passed</p>	<p>Seconded: Cody Thomas</p> <p>Up: Rico Vinh, Cody Thomas, Chris Briggs, Darin Cramer, Ken Miller, Marc Engel, Court Stanley</p> <p>Absent: Westside Tribes</p>
<p>June 12, 2024, Meeting Notes</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Ken Miller moved to approve the June 12, 2024, meeting notes.</p> <p>The motion passed</p>	<p>Seconded: Cody Thomas</p> <p>Up: Rico Vinh, Cody Thomas, Chris Briggs, Darin Cramer, Ken Miller, Marc Engel, Court Stanley</p> <p>Absent: Westside Tribes</p>
<p>TFW Policy Co-chair Vote</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Cody Thomas moved to approve Rico Vinh to be the next TFW Policy Co-chair for a 2-year term.</p> <p>The motion passed</p>	<p>Seconded: Court Stanley</p> <p>Up: Cody Thomas, Chris Briggs, Darin Cramer, Ken Miller, Marc Engel, Court Stanley</p> <p>Abstain: Rico Vinh (sideways, conflict of interest)</p> <p>Absent: Westside Tribes</p>
<p>Master Project Schedule (MPS)</p> <p><u>Motion:</u> Darin Cramer moved to approve the FY 25-27 Master Project Schedule (MPS), with clarifying edits resulting from July TFW Policy meeting conversation.</p> <p>The motion passed</p>	<p>Seconded: Court Stanley</p> <p>Up: Rico Vinh, Chris Briggs, Darin Cramer, Ken Miller, Marc Engel, Court Stanley, Rob Purser</p> <p>Abstain: Cody Thomas (Sideways, we are funding projects that we shouldn't be and admin costs need to be revaluated)</p>

*Department of Ecology and Department of Fish and Wildlife share one State Agency vote.

Action Items	
Action Items	Responsibility

Lori will work with Rico to get the Outside Science discussion ready for the August workgroup meeting	Lori Clark
Add ENREP extended monitoring decision to TFW Policy agenda	Natalie Church
Check with DNR/Legislative Team about submitting separate decision package for the Water Typing projects	Lori Clark

Caucus Updates

- Brandon Austin shared two ground rules:
 - A.3. Participants agree that the purpose of the Adaptive Management Program is the effective implementation of the Forest Practices Act and rules in order to meet its four goals.
 - C.3. Participants state needs, problems and opportunities first and positions last, and avoid hidden agendas.
- Ken Miller thanked Brandon and Rico for their service as TFW Policy Co-Chair's.

Staff Updates

- Contingent upon the outcome of today's meeting, the TFW Policy workgroup will not meet on July 17th. Darin asked when we will get back to the unfinished SAO outside science conversation. Rico Vinh will work with Lori Clark to set up a meeting to discuss outside science.

CMER Updates

Aimee McIntyre CMER co-chair reviewed the CMER SAG Updates document and what was discussed at last month's CMER meeting and thanked Brandon for his service.

Ken Miller asked about the latest update regarding the Riparian Literature Synthesis. Comments were due at the end of June. Anna Toledo shared that the Riparian Literature Synthesis is currently in CMER review stage. CMER reviewer comments are with the document authors, and it will take some time to work through. Expected delivery back to CMER in September.

Cody Thomas asked about the CMER science conference audience, specifically how it relates to targeting legislators as audience members given the increase in funding request for next biennium. Darin mentioned that scheduling the conference during the legislative session could make it hard for them to attend.

Public Comments

- No public comments.

TFW Policy Co-chair Vote

Cody Thomas explained that TFW Policy held co-chair nominations in June. The new co-chair will start in August. Rico Vinh was nominated.

Master Project Schedule (MPS)

The draft FY2026-2027 MPS was presented to TFW Policy in June 2024. The TFW Policy Budget Workgroup and the AMPA updated the Contingency Plan to develop two MPS scenarios for the FY2026-2027 for TFW Policy consideration. Based on the 2023-2025 biennium operating budget projections, the revenue is forecast to be \$16,090,874. Scenario 1 is \$19,924,562 to fund the priorities of the AMP

consistent with the 2023-2025 CMER Work Plan. This results in a \$3.8 million shortfall for the 2025-2027 biennium and will require the active support of the TFW caucuses in the legislature. Scenario 2 represents a balanced MPS with a base level of funding. The revised Contingency Plan outlines how to sequentially work through prioritizing reductions to adjust the MPS to different levels of legislative appropriation beyond the base level of funding.

Lori discussed the 2026-2027 MPS Contingency Plan changes. The first two approaches do not reduce the budget to match the predicted deficit. Two approaches were added: reduce the MPS by \$3.8 million (\$16 million budget) and reduce the MPS by an additional 20% for worse-case scenarios (\$12 million). The addition of several Board priority projects in recent years has certainly expanded the scope of AMP projects, bringing with it substantial expenses. The Project Managers provided the implications of a 20% reduced budget for the current AMP projects. 11 projects are expected to be in implementation for FY26-27 and 8 are in scoping or study design phase. With 11 in implementation, there are significant implications for budget cuts, including greater expenses for the long term and delayed results and recommendations to the Board. The AMP staff are operating at full capacity to manage the 18 active projects. AMP staffing cannot be reduced as a part of the budget reduction strategy unless projects are removed or halted.

Lori reported that she worked with Karen Bunce, Grants Director with the CPL office to see if the Water Typing projects would be eligible for any grants. None seem to be a good fit for PHB/DPC. She stressed the importance of TFW caucuses to advocate for full AMP funding to maintain research/monitoring projects necessary to support the Forest Practices Habitat Conservation Plan (FP HCP) and comply with Clean Water Act assurances and the 2012 legal settlement agreement. Tim Gates, Legislative Manager for DNR will attend the August Policy meeting to discuss suggestions for the best way to engage the legislators and answer questions from TFW Policy caucus representatives about this legislative session. Lori will have an AMP fact sheet to share with TFW Policy representatives to take to the legislators to highlight key issues.

Darin discussed that Policy would need to further prioritize projects or spending cut approach. He shared that prioritization should not be impacted by funding amount.

Rico asked for more clarity on the ENREP project extended monitoring funding. ENREP extended monitoring approval was only for 1-year, with the option to extend further. Lori will clarify this nuance in the letter to the FP Board.

Rico shared that his preference is to fund 80% of projects at 100%, versus 100% of projects at 80%. Darin agreed with this sentiment. Lori shared that the FP Board needs to weigh in on AMP/MPS priorities. Brandon asked if any DNR would be willing to submit a separate Decision Package for the Water Typing projects. Lori agreed to ask DNR/ Legislative Team about this strategy. Darin shared that the counties should help fund water typing as they are the next biggest user.

Chris shared that the Roads Project is a Clean Water Act project. Lori will make this correction in the table. He underscored the need for FP Board to better identify priorities. He pointed out that the Contingency Plan #4 on the prioritization list needs to be edited to reflect the workgroup discussion that none of the state agency contracts are funding work outside of the AMP. Lori will edit.

Darin shared that the number of caucuses who can directly lobby legislators is limited.

List of Attendees

Attendees**Representing**

§Austin, Brandon*	WDFW/TFW Policy Co-chair
§ Briggs, Chris*	Department of Ecology
§Cramer, Darin	Large Industrial Landowner Caucus/WFPA
§Engel, Marc	DNR
§Miller, Ken	Small Forest Landowner/WFFA
§Purser, Rob	Skokomish Tribe/Westside Tribes
§Stanley, Court	WSAC
§Thomas, Cody	Eastside Tribe Caucus/UCUT
§Vinh, Rico	WCA/Conservation Caucus
Clark, Lori	Adaptive Management Administrator
Henkel, Theryn	Supervisory Project Manager/DNR
McIntyre, Aimee	WDFW/CMER Voting Member
Mitchell, Robert	Public
Murray, Joe	RSAG Co-chair
Prescott, Alexander	Project Manager/DNR
Roberts, Dave	Small Forest Landowner/WFFA
Smith, Kendra	Skagit
Toledo, Anna	Project Manager/DNR

§TFW Policy Voting Member

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