

# Timber, Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 // 1:00 – 3:40PM

Virtual: Zoom (Link Listed Below)

In-Person: 401 North Riverpoint Boulevard Spokane, Washington 99202

Motions	
Motion	Move/Second (Vote)
<p><b>September 2024 Meeting Notes</b></p> <p><u><b>Motion:</b></u> Ken Miller moved to approve the September 2024 meeting notes.</p> <p>The motion passed.</p>	<p><b>Seconded:</b> Brandon Austin</p> <p><b>Up:</b> Brandon Austin/ Chris Briggs, Darin Cramer, Marc Engel, Ken Miller, Rob Purser, Court Stanley, Cody Thomas, and Rico Vinh.</p> <p><b>Down:</b></p> <p><b>Sideways:</b></p> <p><b>Absent:</b></p>
<p><b>Westside Type F Findings Report</b></p> <p><u><b>Motion:</b></u> Darin moved to take action on the Westside Type F Findings Report.</p> <p>The motion passed.</p>	<p><b>Seconded:</b> Brandon Austin</p> <p><b>Up:</b> Brandon Austin/Chris Briggs, Darin Cramer, Marc Engel, Dave Roberts, Rob Purser, Court Stanley, and Cody Thomas.</p> <p><b>Down:</b></p> <p><b>Sideways:</b> Rico Vinh – lack of clarity around how Policy treats these type of reports.</p> <p><b>Absent:</b></p>
<p><b>Schedule L-1 Memo for Subject Matter Expert (SME) Formation Process</b></p> <p><u><b>Motion:</b></u> Brandon Austin moved to approve the Schedule L-1 Memo for Subject Matter Expert (SME) Formation Process Memo and Guidance and that TFW Policy receive updates.</p> <p>The motion passed</p>	<p><b>Seconded:</b> Rico Vinh</p> <p><b>Up:</b> Brandon Austin/Chris Briggs, Marc Engel, Dave Robers, Rob Purser, Cody Thomas, and Rico Vinh.</p> <p><b>Down:</b></p> <p><b>Sideways:</b> Darin Cramer – wants process to get started however wanted a more accurate framing. Court Stanley – wanted more input accepted and more clarity. Dave Roberts – wanted more of a framework.</p> <p><b>Absent:</b></p>

<b>CMER Reform</b>  <u>Motion:</u> NO MOTION – action delayed.	<b>Seconded:</b>  <b>Up:</b>  <b>Down:</b>  <b>Sideways:</b>  <b>Absent:</b>

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

Action Items	
Action Items	Responsibility
Clarify the action/no action in the Policy Manual	Lori/Rico
Bring SL-1 updates to the TFW Policy workgroup.	Theryn
AMP participants find prior reports on identifying CMER problems and potential solutions and post in a SAO Policy Workgroup folder.	AMP Participants

### Caucus Updates

- none

### Staff Updates

- Natalie Church is out on medical leave for approximately 8 weeks.
- As a reminder, AMP staff have worked swiftly to be responsive to the Zoom bomb by providing an update to the virtual Zoom platform that will allow a safe environment for the public meetings. Most AMP participants have figured out the new platform and AMP staff continue to make improvements to the meeting management to support inclusive dialogue for members and attendees. AMP staff will be available to assist up until 10 minutes before meetings. Please do not expect a response from AMP staff during meetings.
- Lori introduced the newest addition to the AMP staff team, Vaughn Hage. Vaughn is the CMER science technician supporting the water typing projects.

### CMER Updates

Aimee McIntyre CMER co-chair reviewed the CMER SAG Updates document and what was discussed at the CMER meeting. All votes were approved. Ben Spei provided a presentation on ETHEP with an update on the field effort. Scoping Template and Guidance Document was approved. Discontinuous flow Scoping and Schedule L-1 group formation process memo were also approved.

## **Public Comments**

No public comments.

## **Adaptive Management Program Legislative Fact Sheet**

Lori shared the Legislative Fact Sheet with TFW Policy members to review (9/17-9/24) and offer feedback at the 9/24 meeting. Tim Gates, DNR Legislative Manager, attended the August TFW Policy meeting to share the most effective strategies for TFW Policy to engage with the legislature for the 25-27 biennium budget request. DNR did submit the Decision Package and will need TFW Policy to support the full AMP request. The AMP fact sheet was prepared for TFW Policy members to use when talking with legislators. This may be used alongside letters sent to key legislators the 1st week of December and when we attend in-person meetings in Jan/Feb.

Rico asked to change the language to be clear that we are developing the SAO SDM process. Chris thanked staff for developing the fact sheet. Chris suggested spelling out acronyms FP HCP and CWA assurances. Darin will provide suggestions in writing. Collapse list of individual projects into groups. Focus more details on what they will get for the money. Darin requested changing the picture to a forester/forestry scene, more clearly linked to AMP activities. Darin shared that there will be 30 new legislators, and the existing ones may not know that much about the AMP/FFRs. Give Lori comments by EOW.

## **Westside Type F Findings Report**

Per Board Manual, Section 22, “upon receipt of the findings report, the Policy Committee has 45 days to review the findings and to make a consensus decision as to whether the information merits taking action or not”. With this timeline, TFW Policy can discuss the Westside Type F Exploratory Report findings package at today’s meeting, but they do not have to make a decision until October 11th. Since there is not a meeting the first week of October, if TFW Policy is not ready to make a decision today, we would need to call a special meeting. There may be a motion for no action but TFW Policy should make a motion to document what action is taken with this findings package. Other options, in addition to “no action” include, directing CMER to further develop the Type F Experimental project or adding sites to the Extensive Monitoring project sites, or other options that Policy decides.

Chris Mendoza shared that the Westside Type F exploratory preferred alternative was originally to inform the BACI. The Project Team and AMPA recommended a different Type F Experimental project given the conclusions from the Exploratory Report. Policy could recommend incorporating alternative buffer treatments.

A motion was made to take action, the motion passed. Nature of the action will be discussed and voted on based on the timeline outlined in BM 22.

## **Schedule L-1 Memo for Subject Matter Expert (SME) Formation Process**

Theryn Henkel shared the SME group formation process memo and SME guidance document with TFW Policy. This was a decision item at the CMER meeting and was approved. The SMEs will be chosen via the ISPR contract to ensure that the scientists are objective for making recommendations for changes to the Schedule L-1 Performance Targets. Darin referred to the workgroup memo (5 steps identified). Step 1 is historical review, and he didn't recall seeing the results of that. Theryn indicated that a review was done as part of the prioritization process but that it will be ongoing throughout the process, and that SME's will be expected to review some of the historical documentation that discusses how the Functional Objectives

and Performance Targets were established. The review will include portions of the EIS, relevant CMER studies and other relevant documents. SMEs will review the alternatives analysis to see how the targets were informed in the development of the Schedule L-1. Chris M. said that only completed reports can inform the SMEs. Narrowed down which chapters from the FEIS and HCP that will be relevant.

Darin indicated that the task for the SMEs is large and a heavy lift. Theryn discussed that the vagueness of the guidance document was intentional because the workgroup wanted to provide guidance to the SMEs about expectations but did not want to bias them by steering them in a direction by providing too much guidance. We want their objective recommendations. Theryn and the CMER scientists will be there to tie the SMEs into the AMP. Dave asked for clarification that the Schedule L-1 cannot look outside of the species listed in the FPHCP. Cody shared that they may recommend different functional objectives. They are not really looking at species-specific targets. Brandon asked why would a species in the HCP dictate in the Schedule L-1, since SL1 was developed before the FPHCP as part of Forests and Fish and was adopted into the FPHCP. Chris responded that the performance targets are not limited to the species listed under HCP. Ecology's Water Quality standards as an example cover a wide breadth. Over 20 years of science has happened since the original Performance Targets were developed and this effort will provide the update. Darin suggested that we figure this out as we go. Court likes suggestion for TFW Policy to get updates. The memo and guidance document was approved with a motion that included regular updates to TFW Policy.

### **CMER Reform**

Lori shared the background information about CMER reform. This is an issue that was brought out of the Office of Washington State Auditor's (SAO) Recommendations. The Board approved the Net Gains options which included Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Committee (CMER) initiating dialogue with TFW Policy on CMER reform options on potential reforms and changes for Adaptive Management Program (AMP) efficiency and reform, including CMER membership, process improvements, and other relevant topics. Efforts began in late 2022 to address this SAO Net Gains option including a TFW Policy request that the AMPA meet one on one with each caucus representative to collect input on areas in need of CMER reform and potential improvements. A memo was delivered to TFW Policy summarizing the input and highlighting areas of shared agreement on options to be considered for improvements to support a more efficient and science centered CMER. There was no consensus at TFW Policy to advance any of the options that were identified to address the SAO recommendation. TFW Policy and CMER co-chairs met to discuss options for CMER reform. And the AMPA worked with CMER to make improvements to the Protocol & Standards Manual (PSM) to address this recommendation and support better meeting management and improved decision making, accountability, and transparency. Lori reported to the FPB in February of 2024 that should the PSM revisions not address the issues at CMER that TFW Policy would take back up the CMER Reform discussion. CMER continues to experience issues that result in meeting management issues, a breakdown of relationships and respect, and delays with AMP priorities. Lori's recommendation is for TFW Policy to consider the options that were approved in the Net Gains memo and make a recommendation to the Board. These options were discussed at the TFW Policy SAO Workgroup on September 18th and there seemed to be some agreement on potential paths ahead.

Cody suggested this go back to the SAO workgroup to decide how to move forward. One idea is one vote per caucus. Moving some aspects of CMER outside of the program (independent organization). CMER would retain some form. Court said we are looking for solutions without understanding the problem.

Need to do some prep. It has been 2 years since Policy had discussions about this topic. TFW Policy and SAO workgroup had perceptions of what was going on to put together a package of items. We agree with the problem. There may be other variations/alternatives. Darin suggested that TFW Policy work with CMER on these issues. Rico suggested that we articulate what we are trying to fix. To get true progress on this issue we would need to get buy-in from CMER. Cody suggested we convene a TFW Policy/CMER workgroup. Rico suggested we ask CMER what they see as the issue and what they see as an implementable solution. Would not need CMER to be in consensus. Look over the information we already have. Cody asked that Lori interview CMER members on their opinions on reform improvements (alternatively could be an online questionnaire). Darin shared that we have done surveys before Francine to better understand the CMER issues and potential solutions. Brandon shared that when Lori went through the interviews and then relayed the information and did a good job. She remained anonymous and objective. Amount of information out there, including the Francine report. Brandon supports the idea of the workgroup, for transparency and buy-in. Maybe the issues at CMER are also at TFW Policy. Chris Mendoza shared that CMER members did a tally of the issues. Court suggested that we each need agreement on the problem.

## List of Attendees

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Representing</b>
§Austin, Brandon*	WDFW
§Briggs, Chris*	Department of Ecology
§Cramer, Darin	Large Industrial Landowner Caucus/WFPA
§Engel, Marc	DNR
§Miller, Ken/ Roberts, Dave**	Small Forest Landowner/WFFA
§Purser, Rob	Skokomish Tribe/Westside Tribes
§Stanley, Court	WSAC
§Thomas, Cody	Eastside Tribe Caucus/UCUT
§Vinh, Rico	WCA/Conservation Caucus/TFW Policy Co-chair
Bell, Harry	WFFA– Small Forest Landowners
Black, Jenelle	CMER Scientist
Bretherton, Welles	CMER Voting Member/Department of Ecology
Clark, Lori	Adaptive Management Administrator
Greenwood, Emma	Spokane Tribe
Hayward, Deidre	WDFW Habitat Program
Hawkins, Tracy	DNR
Heimburg, John	WDFW
Henkel, Theryn	Supervisory Project Manager/DNR
Hooks, Doug**	WFPA/Caucus Alternate
Kroll, A.J.	Large Industrial Landowners
McIntyre, Aimee	WDFW/CMER Voting Member
Mendoza, Chris	CMER Voting Member/Conservation Caucus
Murray, Joe	RSAG Co-chair

Playfair, Patti	Small forest landowner
Prescott, Alexander	Project Manager/DNR
Penn, Keith	Makah Tribe
Roorbach, Ash	CMER Co-chair/NWIFC
Schofield, Jenny	Project Manager/DNR
Smith, Kendra**	Skagit County/Counties Caucus Alternate
Toledo, Anna	Project Manager/DNR
Williamson, Tanner	CMER Scientist
Zirkle, Karen **	DNR/ Caucus Alternate

§TFW Policy Voting Member

\*Department of Ecology and Department of Fish and Wildlife share the State Agency vote

\*\*TFW Policy Caucus Alternate