

# Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research (CMER) Regular Meeting MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 // 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Motions August 25, 2020	
Motion	Move/Second (Vote)
Approve the July 28 <sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as amended.	Aimee McIntyre/Julie Dieu (Up: Chris Mendoza, Ash Roorbach, Harry Bell, Aimee McIntyre, Julie Dieu, Patrick Lizon, Todd Baldwin; absent: A.J. Kroll.
Approve the LWAG Amphibians in Intermittent Streams Charter with amendments.	Harry Bell/Patrick Lizon (Up: Chris Mendoza, Ash Roorbach, Harry Bell, Aimee McIntyre, Julie Dieu, Patrick Lizon, Doug Martin); sideways: Todd Baldwin; absent: A.J. Kroll)
Approve the Deep-Seated Landslide (DSL) 6 Questions and Scoping documents.	Chris Mendoza/Doug Martin (Up: Chris Mendoza, Debbie Kay, Harry Bell, Aimee McIntyre, Julie Dieu, Patrick Lizon, Todd Baldwin, Todd Baldwin, Doug Martin; absent: A.J. Kroll)

Action Items August 25, 2020	
Action Item	Responsibility
Ben Flint's scoping document presentation will be sent out to the CMER Distribution list as well as the SAG co-chairs.	Jacob Hibbeln
All comments regarding the SFL Template Proposal are due to Jenny Knoth by September 22 <sup>nd</sup> . Jenny Knoth will organize a meeting with the official reviewers to put the comments together.	Jacob Hibbeln/CMER Co-chair Jenny Knoth
CMER agreed by consensus that collaborative comments on the SFL Template Proposal are due by October 20 <sup>th</sup> for approval at the October 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting.	CMER
Answers to the SFLO Template 6 questions and supporting document will be sent out to the CMER distribution list	Jacob Hibbeln

The current version of the work plan and project summary sheets will be sent out to the CMER distribution list.

Jacob Hibbeln

## **Welcome, Introductions, and Old Business**

*Chris Mendoza, CMER co-chair*

Mendoza went through the remote meeting conduct and introduced Aimee McIntyre, WDFW, as the newest CMER voting member. She is filling in for Marc Hayes, WDFW, who will be retiring soon. Ash Roorbach, NWIFC, will be filling in for Debbie Kay, Suquamish tribe. Mendoza then asked if anyone had suggested additions to the agenda.

Harry Bell, WFFA, commented on how the Hard and Soft Rock data were captured in last month's meeting minutes. Mendoza responded that minutes are intended to document the conversations, which don't always end in decision. A decision regarding what to do with this data was not made at the July meeting. Members agreed that a decision will only be made once Bill Ehinger, Ecology, gives a presentation to CMER.

Aimee McIntyre, WDFW, then moved to approve the July minutes. The motion passed.

## **Protocol and Standards Manual (PSM) Presentation**

*Ben Flint, DNR*

Flint reviewed the importance of the standardization of documents and then gave his presentation after which CMER members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

Jenelle Black, CMER staff, commented that it is necessary to determine what products CMER will need to answer critical questions with consensus. Mendoza then stated the importance of SAG co-chairs presenting this information all their meetings and requested that this presentation be sent out to all CMER.

## **WFPA Smart Buffer Review**

*Mendoza*

Doug Martin, WFPA, has many comments to work with which might take until September to finish. The goal is to get a response back in time for the September CMER meeting. Once comments are compiled, CMER will decide whether or not this should go through a peer review process. Mendoza suggested that CMER members read the Forest Practices Board (FPB) Manual Section 22 to get a sense of what they think should be done since conducting a peer review is decided on a case by case basis.

## **Work Plan Updates**

*Mendoza*

Due to time constraints, there has not been time to make any changes. In the past, Work Plan updates have been done at the SAG level and have been spread out as opposed to having one meeting dedicated solely to work plan updates. Joe Murray, WFPA, stated that RSAG is planning on assigning sections to people by the table of contents.

Mendoza commented that Updates are due by the January CMER meeting in time for the February Forest Practices Board (FPB) Meeting and to keep in mind that there are two holiday months before this.

### **Summary Sheet Updates**

*Flint*

The difference between these and the CMER Work plan updates are that summary sheets are intended to transmit information about implementation, project phasing, and budget. SAGs should focus on work plan updates before summary sheet updates which are due in March when budgets are due.

Murray commented that project summary sheets are useful because they are a good way to present project information to the TFW Policy Committee.

Flint commented that summary sheets can be used to request a change in project budget as the sheets would be approved by CMER before being sent to Policy as part of their budget meeting. A CMER SAG request would need to accompany the summary sheet if significant budget changes are needed. For more minor cases, it can be determined on a case by case basis. If funding is exceeded, an official request must be submitted to the AMPA. Mark Hicks, AMPA, stated that if a SAG realizes more funding is needed before updates are given, a request would have to be made as a standalone object through both CMER and Policy. Mendoza added that any changes regarding the scope of funds also needs to be approved by CMER.

Murray requested that a current version of the work plan be sent out to CMER as well as current versions of project summary sheets.

### **Landscape and Wildlife Advisory Group (LWAG) Updates**

*McIntyre and Heather Gibbs, DNR*

McIntyre reviewed the updates to the Amphibians in Intermittent Streams Charter and the changes in the project charter. Mendoza commented that Curt Veldhuisen, Skagit River System Cooperative, was at one point a member of Policy and how this could be potentially problematic. McIntyre responded that Veldhuisen has made it clear he is no longer a Policy co-chair. Mendoza requested a statement from Curt making it very clear that he is no longer a Policy co-chair. McIntyre agreed to send an email Veldhuisen wrote to eliminate any confusion of his involvement with Policy.

Regarding the other advisory members listed on the charter, Mendoza requested that all those names should be put on the project team member list despite their somewhat limited participation. Baldwin commented that he would not like people on the official project team list if they have limited involvement with the project, but wanted some clarification on Veldhuisen's involvement.

Hicks added that there has not been a long-term issue with people going back and forth between CMER and Policy, so he does not see this as a huge concern at the moment.

Roorbach stated the importance of being clear about people's role in the project and oversight committee. SAGs can play the advisory role and advise on decisions to maintain communication outside of the project team. While it is good to have people advising a project, that is what the SAGs are for. There needs to be a communication plan that clearly articulates who is doing what and where. Hicks concurred, stating that project teams should be small and consist only of people with the time and expertise to conduct their part of the project outside of the SAG process.

McIntyre clarified that LWAG envisioned an iterative review process. The project team will not work in a bubble and will fully keep LWAG in the loop.

At the end of the conversation, McIntyre agreed to remove the advisory member's. Black agreed with this action, but made it clear that Greg Stewart, CMER Staff, and herself are peripherally involved.

Changes were made to the charter to remove the advisory member's line, after which Bell motioned to approve the updated charter. Motion passed.

### **Deep-Seated Landslide 6 Questions**

*Flint*

Flint first went over the document and explained that no substantive changes were made to the scoping document and no changes were made to the 6 questions. This is supposed to be the foundational project that will spur further research. It is essential because it will start informing about potential impacts of anthropogenic factors on Deep-Seated Landslides.

Mendoza commented that any language that would clarify when the study will be completed and what it will do would be helpful.

Mendoza then motioned to approve the 6 Questions and Scoping documents and the motion passed.

### **CMER Use of Outside Sciences/ SFL Template Proposal**

*Mendoza*

After reviewing Policy's discussion of the SFL Template Proposal and the task of reviewing the template proposal in the 6 questions format, it was expressed that another 30 days might be necessary to review the document. Jenny Knoth, co-chair, clarified that Policy specifically gave CMER 90 days after receiving the 6 questions document and therefore CMER should not ask for an extension at this point.

Murray suggested that since CMER will have to review the comments left on the 6 questions document that time should be built into the timeline. Bell agreed, suggesting that someone be assigned to put the comments together. Hicks suggested that a small writing team work with submitted comments while Mendoza expressed that volunteer reviewers should be the ones to compile all the comments.

Bell stated that he intends to run his comments by RSAG in order to have a more detailed discussion about comments and would like to have a special meeting to work on revisions. Mendoza agreed that this is acceptable, but is reluctant to bring RSAG into the official process because it might extend the process. It was decided that Knoth would coordinate with the reviewers to work through all the comments.

The timeline agreement is as follows: There are 30 days to provide comments, 30 days for collaborative revisions, and then 30 days for CMER to review the comments. All comments should be submitted to Knoth by September 21<sup>st</sup> and collaborative comments are due by October 20<sup>th</sup> for approval at the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. By the time the collaborative process is complete, it should be clear whether or not CMER needs to request an extension from Policy.

### **CMER SAG Updates**

*Mendoza*

Mendoza reviewed the main points of the document, noting a brief clarification in the SFL PI section that Flint agreed to correct.

### **Report from TFW Policy and the Forest Practices Board (FPB)**

*Hicks*

Hicks went through the main decision points made at the August Board Meeting, the most significant of which was that the FPB approve the 21-23 MPS which will be used as a basis for any requests from the legislature.

Hicks then covered several personnel changes within Policy, introducing Marc Engel, DNR, as the new Policy co-chair. Meghan Tuttle will be confirmed as the new co-chair at the September Policy meeting. Ray Entz is stepping in as the representative for the Eastside Tribes and Don Nauer is stepping back from role in Policy.

### **Roads Prescription Project Update**

*Flint*

Since CMER is the oversight committee, Flint thinks it's suitable to give updates every meeting. There were several large revelations that happened since the last meeting, much of which had to do with tipping bucket repair. None of this will impact the results of the study or the budget.

### **Public Comment**

Charles Chesney commented that for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 or the first quarter of 2021, there should be strategies for causal inference in natural experiments as well as causal inference in other experiments. He suggested this be made an action item.

## List of Attendees

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Representing</b>
§Baldwin, Todd	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
§Bell, Harry	Washington Farm Forestry Association
Black, Jenelle	CMER
chesney, charles	Member of Public
§Dieu, Julie	Rayonier
Ehinger, William	Department of Ecology
Gibbs, Heather	Department of Natural Resources
Flint, Ben	Department of Natural Resources
Hicks, Mark	Department of Natural Resources – AMPA
Hooks, Doug	Washington Forest Protection Association
Knoth, Jenny	Washington Farm Forestry Association/ WSAC, CMER co-chair
Krausz, Erik	US Fish and Wildlife Service
§Kroll, A.J.	Weyerhaeuser
§Lizon, Patrick	Department of Ecology
§Martin, Doug	Washington Forest Protection Association
§McIntyre, Aimee	Washington Department of Natural Resources
§Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus – CMER Co-Chair
Miskovic, Teresa	Department of Natural Resources
Murray, Joe	Washington Forest Protection Association
Munes, Eszter	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Ojala-Barbour, Reed	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Roorbach, Ash	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Stewart, Greg	CMER
Volke, Malia	CMER