

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee**  
**May 23, 2006**  
**9am – 12pm**  
**NWIFC**  
**Minutes**

---

**Attendees:**

Black, Jenelle	NWIFC, CMER Staff
Butts, Sally	USFWS, BTSAG Co-Chair
Ehinger, Bill	Ecology, RSAG Tri-Chair
Heide, Pete	WFPA
Hofmann, Lynda	WDFW, SAGE Co-Chair
Jackson, Terry	WDFW, BTSAG Co-Chair
MacCracken, Jim	Longview Fibre, LWAG Co-Chair
Mendoza, Chris	ARC, RSAG Tri-Chair
Murray, Joe	Merrill & Ring, RSAG Tri-Chair
Peterson, Pete	Upper Columbia United Tribes
Risenhoover, Ken	Port Blakely
Robinson, Tom	WSAC
Rowton, Heather	WFPA, CMER Coordinator
Stevie, Michelle	WDFW
Sturhan, Nancy	DNR, CMER Co-Chair
Tonnes, Dan	NMFS

**Minutes:** Minutes from the April meeting were approved as submitted.

---

**Report Back From Policy:** Tom Eaton (EPA) presented information about water quality trading (where the landowner gets paid for their water quality protection). More information on this topic will be necessary so people understand the concept and requirements better. There was also a brief discussion about CMER reorganization; a formal discussion will occur on June 7<sup>th</sup>. The DFC model recommendation brought to Policy from RSAG (CMER, April) to compare model output with ORGANON and FVS models, was approved. Policy wantsd this work to commence after July 1, 2006, with money from the FY07 Project Development Fund. .

---

**SAG Requests:**

- SAGE: requested reviewers for the final Type F workplan report to verify that the action plan comments have been incorporated as recommended by the Independent Scientific Peer Review. Jenelle Black has already reviewed the

document; Doug Martin agreed to review it and one more reviewer was requested. Sturhan agreed to review the document. Comments are due by June 9<sup>th</sup>, sooner if possible and should be directed to Lynda Hoffmann (co-chair of SAGE).

---

#### **SAG Issues:**

- RSAG is being run by tri-chairs now including: Chris Mendoza, Joe Murray, and Bill Ehinger. This resolves co-chair issues that RSAG has had for quite some time. Murray is doing most of the administrative work so should be the first contact on those issues. Workplan issues should be sent to Mendoza.
- Bull Trout and PIP issues: Jackson said the PIP subgroup of Policy wants to know if there is any research on the perennial intermittent streams in Eastern Washington. There are resource impact and benefit concerns. There may need to be some additional research by SAGE within a study that is already designed to answer these uncertainties. Hayes has amphibian research and Mendoza did some work with Tribes on this issue. The work Mendoza submitted was done by Drew Coe and includes east and west side information. Heide said he believes it will be more than adjusting the study; it may be a review of ability to meet functions on spatially intermittent portions of the stream. Synthesizing the work that is already done would be helpful before further study occurs. Mendoza said that SAGE and RSAG had an integration meeting to coordinate studies on channel characterization and function.
- Integration meeting on riparian issues: a meeting was held to coordinate these studies but it will be difficult and needs more discussion. At that meeting, it was decided that Greg Stewart, Dave Schuett-Hames, and Bill Ehinger would work with SAGE on integrating the Extensive Riparian Monitoring with SAGE's Current Conditions study.

---

**CMER Reorganization Discussion:** CMER is not expected to produce a reorganization recommendation. There is a meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 at OB-2 in the lookout room to discuss the issue with Policy and CMER representatives. This meeting is an opportunity to brainstorm about how to reorganize CMER. Heide said SAG function is one issue that needs discussion; there are also staff proposals that have been drafted and documentation about administration. The meeting is likely to be about a way of doing business that is more transparent and efficient rather than specific reorganization. Sturhan mentioned that when CMER began having afternoon meetings focused on science it took away the ability for CMER to be updated on the projects various SAGs are working on. Thus, CMER is not as informed as it should be about issues that SAGs are facing or studying.

Robinson suggested that when a SAG is created, it should be a group of experts on a specific topic, and CMER should build from that expertise rather than having SAGs bringing new issues to the table; he added that this may have been more of a problem in

the past than it is now. CMER needs to focus on what is necessary based on the questions Policy has asked. In Robinson's opinion, this means studying the forest practices rules to ensure they are working as intended and do not need improvement, or finding that the rules do need improvement.

Heide suggested that asking the scientists doing the work to present what they are finding during the afternoon sessions would be more productive. Pederson said the history behind the process needs to be understood by all going into the meeting, and CMER cannot possibly do the work the SAGs are doing so keeping them would be helpful. Heide said that CMER has spent a lot of time and money on studies so far, and the legislature has provided funding to CMER through 2027 and likely beyond that as a stable funding source. Since we have a funding source we will need to defend each year in the Legislature, a good workplan will help and summary of results will help. Robinson added that CMER will be expected to provide a business plan to the Governor each year or funding may become endangered. CMER has a multi-million dollar budget, which needs to be defended and spent because state money is not available for carryover like the federal monies.

Sturhan said there are different organizational issues to explore (i.e. lack of support and lack of experts). She would like to see each SAG be able to contract out work to get it done, making the SAG an oversight committee. Mendoza said part of the issue is that when FFR was negotiated, many issues were thrown to adaptive management, making the current rules very uncertain. This discussion is a prelude to what will be discussed on May 31<sup>st</sup> when the agenda is developed.

Additional ideas can be sent to Nancy Sturhan so she can bring them forward to the 5/31 meeting.

---

**CMER Monthly Report to Policy:** There is no monthly report for Policy but the discussion of CMER reorganization will be discussed on June 7th.

---

**Science topic for June:** WETSAG will not be ready by June CMER to present their wetland mapping proposal. The ISAG Fish passage studies will be presented as the science session on the afternoon of the June CMER meeting.

---

**Morning Science Session – DFC:** Chris Mendoza, Ash Roorbach, and Dave Schuett-Hames presented information focused on the DFC projects that Policy assigned to RSAG after the DFC workshop last August.

For a copy of this presentation, contact Dave Schuett-Hames. These minutes will not record the presentation made.

---