

# Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Committee

Tuesday, May 25, 2021 using GoToMeeting

Meeting 9:00 am – 2:08pm

Motions for May 25th, 2021	
Motion	Second (Vote)
<p><b>Meeting Minutes</b></p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Aimee McIntyre, (<i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>) moved to approve the April Meeting Minutes with amendments.</p> <p><b><u>Motion Passed</u></b></p>	<p>Seconded: Mark Mobbs, (<i>WTC Quinalt</i>) Up: Harry Bell, Julie Dieu, Patrick Lizon A.J. Kroll, Doug Martin, Aimee McIntyre, Chris Mendoza, Mark Mobbs, Debbie Kay, Jenny Knoth Down: none Absent: Todd Baldwin</p>
<p><b>Updated Forested Wetlands Effectiveness (FWEP) Project Charter</b></p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Mark Mobbs, (<i>WTC Quinalt</i>) moved to approve the FWEP Project Charter.</p> <p><b><u>Motion Passed</u></b></p>	<p>Seconded: Todd Baldwin, (<i>Kalispel Tribe of Indians</i>) Up: Todd Baldwin, Harry Bell, Julie Dieu, Patrick Lizon, Doug Martin, Aimee McIntyre, Chris Mendoza, Mark Mobbs, Debbie Kay, A. J. Kroll, Jenny Knoth Down: none</p>
<p><b>Hard Rock Phase II Study Executive Summary</b></p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Debbie Kay, (<i>Suquamish Tribe</i>) moved to approve the Hard Rock Phase II Study Executive Summary.</p> <p><b><u>Motion Passed</u></b></p>	<p>Seconded: Mark Mobbs (<i>WTC Quinalt</i>) Up: Todd Baldwin, Harry Bell, Julie Dieu, Patrick Lizon, Doug Martin, Aimee McIntyre, Chris Mendoza, Mark Mobbs, Debbie Kay, A. J. Kroll, Jenny Knoth Down: none</p>
<p><b>eDNA Six Questions and Final Report</b></p> <p><b><u>Motion:</u></b> Aimee McIntyre, (<i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i>) moved to approve the eDNA Six Questions document.</p> <p><b><u>Motion Passed</u></b></p>	<p>Seconded: Chris Mendoza, (<i>CMER co-chair</i>) Up: Todd Baldwin, Harry Bell, Julie Dieu, Doug Martin, Aimee McIntyre, Chris Mendoza, Mark Mobbs, Debbie Kay, Jenny Knoth Absent: A.J. Kroll, Patrick Lizon Down: none</p>

Action Items for May 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	
Action Items	Responsibility
1. WFPA – Smart Buffer Study Design	Doug Martin, ( <i>WFPA</i> ) to mail the Smart Buffer Study Design for review
2. Hard Rock Phase II Six Questions	Aimee McIntyre, ( <i>Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife</i> ) to mail the HR Phase II Six Questions document this week with a request for comments

<b>3. SFL Template Workgroup Update</b>	SFL Workgroup will be bringing their review of comparisons/findings to CMER next month.
<b>4. Eastside Forest Health Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMER members who are interested in participating in the workgroup are to let Teresa Miskovic know by May 25<sup>th</sup>. Once the date for the first meeting is set an invitation will be sent to CMER as an FYI for people to attend if they want.</li> <li>• Yellow flag from CMER to Policy concerning projects being developed</li> </ul>
<b>5. CPEACE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a summary/updates</li> <li>• How to incorporate the learnings</li> </ul>
<b>6. CMER/SAG Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update Tracking Chart Format</li> <li>• Revising text and bullets on today's decisions (Chris Mendoza sending edit requests to Heather Gibbs)</li> </ul>
<b>7. MPS</b>	Mark Hicks, ( <i>AMPA</i> ) to mail MPS Spreadsheet to members

## MINUTES

### Welcome, Introductions, and Old Business

Jenny Knoth / Chris Mendoza, (*CMER co-chairs*)

Jenny Knoth opened the meeting. Two of the ground rules were read.

### Introductions:

Lori Clark (*DNR*) introduced herself as the new supervisor for DNR Forest Practices Project Managers. She added that she has a MS in Soil and Water Science and over 15 years of experience in environmental science and natural resources management. Lori noted that she served as Interim Division Director for the Island County Environmental Health Department. She also noted that her home is Oak Harbor, Whidbey Island.

### Action Items/ Accountability:

Jenny Knoth, (*CMER co-chair*) reviewed the action items from the CMER April Meeting:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| WFPA Smart Buffer Design Study                           | Jenny noted that though this is not on the agenda today, we are working on getting answers for the study.           |
| WFPA Smart Buffer Design Study                           | Jenny noted that there will be a presentation today by Doug Martin on the Lidar-derived model for estimating shade. |
| Wetland Intrinsic Potential (WIP) Six Questions Document | Jenny noted that and this will be presented to Policy at their June Meeting.  |

CMER's Role In PI

Jenny noted that they have received no comments to date, and she requested feedback from the members.

eDNA Six Questions

Jenny noted that there was a late mailing Friday and it will be up for a decision today.

### **Updates:**

Jenny Knoth, (*CMER co-chair*) announced that she is now one of the eleven voting members in CMER.

### **Agenda Updates:**

- Executive Summary for the Hard Rock Phase II Study has been shifted to 11:00 am.
- Updated Forested Wetlands Effectiveness (FWEP) Project Charter time has been shifted to 10:30 am.
- eDNA Six Questions document is not an update today but a decision item.

### **April 27 2021 Meeting Minutes:**

After edits from the members, Aimee McIntyre, (*Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*) made the motion for the April Meeting Minutes to be approved. Mark Mobbs, (*WTC Quinault*) seconded the motion.

**The motion passed.**

### **Science Session WFPA Smart Buffer Study Design (SBD)/ LiDAR Modeling**

*Eszter Munes (DNR) and Doug Martin (WFPA)*

Doug Martin noted that the Smart Buffer Study Design has been ongoing for over two years and today he will be reviewing what they are currently working on and why. Doug gave a brief background on the process which started with Policy reviewing the results of Soft Rock and Hard Rock studies and resulted in a Technical Type prescription Np workgroup being created. He added that the workgroup was charged with reviewing alternatives for buffering headwater streams. Doug reviewed the criteria which included minimizing probability of exceeding the temperature, postharvest wind throw and avoiding economic harm. He then talked about the options considered by the workgroup.

Doug noted that very few studies have tested the effectiveness of riparian treatment tailored to site specific conditions for headwater streams. He added that the term "effective shade" is the ratio of solar incoming radiation subtracting ground radiation and is a good method to understand what is actually being blocked.

Ash Roorbach, (*Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission*) asked if effective shade captures diffused radiation. Doug responded that diffused radiation is a small percentage of radiation that is heating the water. He added that diffused radiation is difficult to measure and model.

Doug mentioned that a manual using a solar path finder was created in the 90's to measure shade and that his team have just released a study that reviews riparian buffers for headwater streams in the Pacific Northwest. He noted that very few studies have tested the effectiveness of riparian treatment tailored to site specific conditions for headwater streams. Doug reviewed the problem statement.

### Study Design Methods

Doug reviewed the hypothesis, goals and study approach. He noted that the basis of the study was based on a LiDAR based modeling process and added that the sub canopy radiation is derived from this model. He then showed slides that outlined comparisons of shade measurements in the study sites and presented how estimates were made when you manipulate the buffer. Doug reviewed the shade shed approach and presented how LiDAR is used to design buffer widths.

### Comments and Questions:

Greg Stewart, (CMER) noted that because LiDAR is absorbed by water and wet areas cannot get LiDAR returns, you can over estimate canopy and underestimate the heating of water. He asked how they were addressing this issue. Doug responded that because the canopy is so dense, they are using 2 meters as a ground return as opposed to 1 meter, and by using 2 meters it adjusts for that concern. Doug added that they used one of Bob McCoy's models from the University of Washington Forest Division where he advised this level.

Mark Mobbs, (WTC Quinault) noted from chat box: *"Ash raised my concern: if a tree does not provide shade at harvest age (say age 35) but would provide shade at a later age (say age 50 or more), it could be removed at age 35, thus precluding the full riparian value we were thinking of during our negotiations. We were working with an assumption of 50 year rotations, and now we are seeing more 35 year rotations, and we were seeking a riparian forest approximating old growth - with age 140 used as an interim target. Removing trees at age 35 that could provide riparian function later is an issue to me."*

Harry Bell, (Washington Forest Protection Association) added from chat box *"Each option involves a different balance (trade off) between ecological protection and cost of that protection. Who and how is the selection made?"*

Chris Mendoza, (CMER co-chair) commented that the Type Np technical group Findings Report cited is currently under review by Policy who have yet to provide comments on whether they met their assigned work tasks, particularly regarding economic harm, which is conducted by the FP Board during their rule making process using a CBA and SBEIS.

Patrick Lizon, (Dept. of Ecology) commented that he would encourage the workgroup to try to extract the economic consideration out of the purpose and objectives and try not to decrease the size of the buffer because this will clash with other considerations. Patrick noted he was confused as to how LiDAR is being used to determine buffer width because you are not looking straight down at the ground but at a different angle. Doug responded that the LiDAR sweeps 30 degrees in either direction which is close to what the solar angle would be at its peak. He added that we are assuming the shade shed incorporates various angles and noted that this is our model assumption and we will find out how that works out.

Ash Roorbach, (Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission) commented that it might be more clear if the workgroup refer to buffer performance as shade performance and asked if they need buffers or not? Doug responded that he didn't see the need to retaining artificially designed buffers at that location in the watershed or the ecological benefit of keeping the trees.

Joe Murray, (Washington Forest Protection Association) commented that there has been studies on how ingrowth performs in these buffers. Regarding Doug's example of a treatment adjoining an existing PIP buffer to a contiguous RMZ, Chris Mendoza, and (CMER co-chair) noted that there have been several wind throw studies that showed if you reduce the length of edge, then you reduce the edge effect.

Eszter Munes (*DNR*) updated the next steps for Smart Buffer Design:

- The Smart Buffer Design Study was updated last month.
- CMER agreed to have a subgroup discuss remaining concerns and the possibility of an outside technical review. The subgroup was to meet on May 24<sup>th</sup> and provide an update to CMER but the meeting had to be rescheduled pending the latest revisions to the SB design.
- An updated version of the Study Design will be sent out at the end of this week.

### **Updated Forested Wetlands Effectiveness (FWEP) Project Charter**

*Eszter Munes (DNR) / Debbie Kay (Suquamish Tribe)*

Eszter Munes gave an update to the FWEP Project Charter:

- The Charter includes an updated problem statement.
- All sections in the Charter incorporated major changes.
- The Charter's deliverables and timelines are completely new.
- The Charter includes an updated budget estimate.
- The Charter's project team had some changes.

Joe Murray, (*Washington Forest Protections Association*) noted that he couldn't find the purpose statement in the Study Design. Eszter responded that the data aligned with the objectives and critical questions but she would look for discrepancies. Jenny Knoth, (*CMER co-chair*) asked if a vote can be taken today or do the members need clarification on the purpose statement. Chris Mendoza, (*CMER co-chair*) stated we could approve the Charter on the contingency that the purpose statement might be different. Chris asked whether the language "listed species" should also include "covered species". Debbie Kay, (*Northwest Indian Fish Commission*) responded that our intention was listed and covered species and that lives if all creatures considered are listed. It was decided to add "listed and covered species" to the purpose statement.

Mark Mobbs, (*WTC Quinault*) moved to approve FWEP Project Charter. Todd Baldwin, (*Kalispel Tribe of Indians*) seconded the motion.

**The motion passed.**

### **Executive Summary for the Hard Rock Phase II Study**

*Aimee McIntyre (Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife) / Heather Gibbs (DNR)*

Heather noted that the Executive Summary was updated with all comments and edits. Chris Mendoza, (*CMER co-chair*) asked why the Executive Summary has to go to ISPR since CMER approved all the chapters and the summary is a reflection of all chapters. Heather responded that because of the extensive comments received from ISPR and changes made as a result, CMER asked that we summarize each chapter. CMER agreed that we could put the summary for all chapters in one document which is the Executive Summary document.

Debbie Kay, (*Suquamish Tribe*) moved to approve Hard Rock Phase II Study Executive Summary. Mark Mobbs, (*WTC Quinault*) seconded the motion.

**The motion passed.**

## **Hard Rock Phase II Six Questions**

Aimee McIntyre, (*Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*) mentioned that they are adding a final edit to the Six Questions document and it should go out tomorrow. She added that they will provide 14 days to review CMER comments and incorporate edits.

## **SFL Template Workgroup Update**

*Jenny Knoth (CMER co-chair)/Eszter Munes (DNR)*

Eszter mentioned that they met a month ago and agreed to an approach that compares the various reviews of the SFL template and that Harry Bell and Debbie Kay developed tables that compared these reviews by prescription and function, respectively. Jenny Knoth, (*CMER co-chair*) noted that they are drafting a document incorporating the comparisons of the reviews by function and prescription and that the group will review this document in June. Jenny noted that the group is working at having this ready for CMER by July. Mark Hicks, (*AMPA*) noted that the six questions document will go to CMER for approval.

## **eDNA CMER Six Questions Update**

*Eszter Munes (DNR), Mark Hicks (AMPA), Jason Walter (ISAG co-chair)*

Eszter gave an update to the Six Questions Document. She noted that the document was sent out for review in a delayed mailing because the group had met last Wednesday. Eszter added that the memo that was sent with the Six Questions document provided a background on the final report, dispute and questions. She added that in their February meeting, which was the first formal dispute resolution meeting, the group decided to capture any remaining concerns about the final report in the Six Questions document.

Eszter pointed out some items in the report:

- A lot of the concerns were captured in Section 4 B: What does the study not tell us?
- The final section of document refers to issues not resolved.

Jenny Knoth, (*CMER co-chair*) asked that any members not comfortable with this becoming a decision item today should speak up. There was agreement that this should be a decision item today.

Aimee McIntyre, (*Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife*) moved to approve the eDNA Six Questions document. Chris Mendoza, (*CMER co-chair*) seconded the motion.

**The motion passed.**

## **Eastside Forest Health Strategy**

*Todd Baldwin (Kalispel Tribe of Indians) / Teresa Miskovic (DNR)*

Teresa gave an update of the Eastside Forest Health Strategy. Teresa noted that at the last Policy meeting Todd Baldwin gave an ETHEP presentation that showed the link between past projects and how they are linked to the development of the eastside projects. She added that they decided at that meeting that a workgroup be formed to develop an eastside strategy and to determine how the ETHEP project would fit into that. She noted that it was decided that the workgroup would incorporate both Policy and CMER members. She added that Policy requested that the workgroup create a purpose statement to be presented at July Policy meeting. Teresa extended an invitation to CMER members to participate in this group. Doug Martin (*Washington Forest Protection Association*) asked if the workgroup should be defining the underlining concern for us to better understand the problem before they begin work on a purpose

statement. Jenny Knoth, (*CMER co-chair*) responded that the first step is to define the problems and a strategy to investigate, but also to incorporate a forest health component in regards to the eastside strategy. Todd Baldwin noted that there are several documents that are CMER approved that they are reviewing for insect disease and fire potential near fish bearing streams. He added that the goal of the workgroup is to determine if there are issues and bring those issues back to the members of Policy and CMER. Chris Mendoza, (*CMER co-chair*) noted his concern that without a formal motion from Policy this would be bringing something to CMER that was in non-consensus by all stakeholders. Jenny Knoth, (*CMER co-chair*) mentioned that at the Policy meeting they realized there needed to be a permeable wall between CMER and Policy to help understand what questions Policy needed to ask. Jenny added that the goal was to have an eastside strategy with a workgroup that was made up of both CMER and Policy. Teresa Miskovic (*DNR*) mentioned that she had concerns that Policy is sending something to CMER without a clear direction. Jenelle Black, (*CMER*) noted that the group should add “Riparian” to the group name to avoid confusion with DNR Forest Health.

Jenny copied the Policy action items for the Eastside Forest Health Strategy in the chat box for clarification:

1. *Subgroup to be formed to discuss the fire resiliency incorporation into the ETHEP Strategy. This initiative will be put on the July agenda as a purpose statement after which steps will be taken to make it more formal.*
2. *An initial informal TFW policy /CMER/SAGE Eastside strategy workgroup to include: SFLO, Todd Baldwin, Jenny Knoth, Darin Cramer, Brandon Austin and Teresa Miskovic as the organizer.*

Harry Bell, (*Washington Forest Protection Association*) noted that there was a workgroup that had both CMER and Policy members a few years ago. Mark Hicks (*AMPA*) noted that the involvement of both CMER and Policy in a workgroup does blur the Policy-Science fire wall, but they haven’t crossed the line at this point. Chris Mendoza, (*CMER co-chair*) added that the AMP process is cleaner when Policy passes a motion and that a workgroup created to involve both Policy and CMER members raises a Yellow Flag. Jenny Knoth noted that the invitation to CMER members to join the workgroup would be an action item and they should notify Teresa if they would like to join. Todd Baldwin added that anyone interested in joining the workgroup should review some historical documents and what SAGE has done in regards to fire in riparian areas. Chris Mendoza requested to be added to the group.

#### Action Items:

- CMER members interested in participating in the workgroup are to let Teresa Miskovic know by May 25<sup>th</sup>. Once the date for the first meeting is set an invitation will be sent to CMER as an FYI for people to attend if they want.
- Yellow Flag is raised from CMER to Policy concerning projects being developed.

#### **CPEACE Process**

Jenny Knoth, (*CMER co-chair*) asked members to share their experience in the CPEACE training and if they felt a debriefing committee would be valuable.

#### **Comments:**

Chris Mendoza, (*CMER co-chair*) mentioned that his group made a commitment at the CPEACE training to propose using the CMER Science session at each meeting to work on problem solving issues. Joe Murray, (*Washington Forest Protection Association*) noted that he would like this put on the agenda as well. Ash Roorbach, (*Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission*) mentioned that his group recommended an annual or semi-annual tune up with Policy and CMER members in a 1 or 2 day workshop where they could go

over ground rules, have transformation and teambuilding exercises, and build personal relationships. Jenelle Black, (*CMER*) mentioned that it would be a good idea to allocate time at our CMER meetings to tackle some of the issues that we could change and improve how CMER operates. Heather Gibbs, (*DNR*) noted that her group talked about rebuilding trust that involved how we understand the process and how we follow the process. Mark Hicks, (*AMPA*) noted that the next step is to get the principals back together whether in caucus work or between caucus work.

Action items:

- Provide a summary/updates at the June meeting
- How to incorporate the learnings

### **CMER SAG Updates**

*Jenny Knoth, Chris Mendoza, (CMER co-chairs)*

Jenny Knoth asked the SAG co-chairs for updates to their projects:

#### WetSAG

Debbie Kay, (*WetSAG co-chair*) noted that the Charter Study has more encompassing language than the Study Design. She also noted that the WIP Tool is going to Policy. Eszter noted that the purpose statement was not included in the Study Design but that it did include objectives and critical questions. She added that there is no new language in the Charter. UPSAG

Julie Dieu, (*representing UPSAG co-chairs*) noted that work is continuing on the Deep-Seated Landslide study design development, with the current target being to have a draft study design by this fall. She added that they have had two meetings in the last month because of the slow progress and the group has a renewed commitment to get back on track.

#### ISAG

Jason Walter, (*ISAG co-chair*) noted that besides the eDNA project that is being worked on, the ISAG water typing subgroup is continue to work on revising the PHB study design as directed by the FP Board. Jason noted that a statistician contractor is providing ISAG with consultation on the PHB Study Design.

#### LWAG

Aimee McIntyre, (*LWAG co-chair*) noted that HR chapters 1 through 9 have been approved by CMER and the HR Executive Summary was approved today in CMER. She noted that there will still be some technical editing and combining of various drafts of all the chapters. Aimee mentioned that the HR Six Questions document is on its way to CMER for review and they hope to have it finalized by June. Aimee noted that in regards to the Amphibian in Discontinuous Type Np waters, the draft Scoping Document will be delivered to CMER at the end of June.

#### SAGE

Todd Baldwin, (*SAGE chair*) noted that the ENREP is moving forward as scheduled and the ETHEP Six Questions document is getting ready to go to Policy.

#### RSAG

Joe Murray, (*RSAG chair*) noted that in regards to the RCS study that was sent to ISPR without the additional treatments, there has been conversations as to how we might consider adding treatments on at a later date. He added that a number of options were discussed including incorporating this into a Type F study. Joe noted on the Westside Type F Riparian Prescription monitoring project a field trip is being planned. He added that the WFPA Smart Buffer was not approved by CMER and Doug Martin gave a presentation today on the Lidar-derived model.



### Road Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring Project

Julie Dieu (*representing co-chairs*) noted that most of team were out in the field this week doing first ditch-line hydraulics. She added that additional tipping buckets have been completed and trough covers are currently being fabricated. She added that tubs are scheduled to be cleaned next week and they are scheduling a meeting with the project team. Greg Stewart noted in regards to criteria they are a couple months behind in the schedule but it won't hold anything up.

Chris Mendoza (*CMER co-chair*) suggested that the CMER/SAG updates be edited "live" at the CMER meetings since they are delivered to Policy the following week for their monthly meeting. He also requested changes to the CMER/SAG anticipated document table. The following were added as action items:

- Update Tracking Chart Format in anticipated documents for CMER consideration/review
- Revising text and bullets on today's decisions (Chris Mendoza sending edit requests to Heather Gibbs)

### TFW Policy Update

*Mark Hicks (AMPA)*

Mark Hicks gave an update from the Board Meeting:

- The Board approved the MPS and CMER work plan without change.
- The Board accepted the work plan that SAO recommended for improving our process.
- The Board viewed the presentation of EMEP and agreed with Policy's recommendation that no formal action is warranted.

Mark noted that it was extremely important that the budget was approved for the continuation of our projects over the next two years. Jenny mentioned that the fact that the vote from Policy for the budget was not unanimous was a concern to CMER. Mark responded that though sensitive to all concerns, the Board approved the MPS and by approving the budget they are approving our priorities.

**Action Item:** The MPS will be sent out as an excel spreadsheet.

### **Public Comments:**

There were not public comments.

Mark Hicks, (*AMPA*) announced his retirement as of June 30, 2021.

The action items and motions were reviewed, after which the meeting was adjourned.

### **List of Attendees**

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Representing</b>
§Baldwin, Todd	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
§Bell, Harry	Washington Forest Protection Association
Black, Jenelle	CMER
Chesney, Charles	Member of General Public
Clark, Lori	DNR
§Dieu, Julie	Rayonier

Ehinger, William	Department of Ecology
Hicks, Mark	Department of Natural Resources – AMPA
Hooks, Doug	Washington Forest Protection Association
Debbie Kay	Suquamish Tribe
§Knoth, Jenny	Washington Farm Forestry Association/ WSAC, CMER Co-Chair
§Kroll, A.J.	Weyerhaeuser
§Lizon, Patrick	Department of Ecology
§Martin, Doug	Washington Forest Protection Association
§McIntyre, Aimee	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
§Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus – CMER Co-Chair
Miskovic, Teresa	Department of Natural Resources
Mobbs, Mark	WTC Quinault
Munes, Eszter	DNR
Murray, Joe	Washington Forest Protection Association
Roorbach, Ash	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Spilsbury-Pucii, Dawn	Island County
Stewart, Greg	CMER
Walter, Jason	ISAG co-chair
Volke, Malia	CMER