

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee
May 27, 2008
NWIFC Lower Conference Room
Final Notes**

Attendees	Representing
*Almond, Lyle (v)	Makah Tribe, RSAG Co-chair
*Baldwin, Todd (v)	Kalispel Tribe, SAGE Co-Chair
Black, Jenelle	NWIFC, CMER Project Manager
*Butts, Sally	USFWS, CMER Co-Chair
Cahill, Candace	Rayonier, WETSAG Co-Chair
Cramer, Darin	DNR, Adaptive Management Administrator
*Dieu, Julie	Rayonier, UPSAG Co-Chair
*Ehinger, Bill	DOE
Furman, Kira	Student, Simon Frasier University
Gerlinger, Rose (V)	Colville Tribe
Haque, Sarah	Squaxin Tribe
Heckel, Linda	DNR, CMER Coordinator
Heide, Pete	WFPA
*Hicks, Mark	DOE
*Jackson, Terry	WDFW, BTSAG Co-chair
Kurtenbach, Amy	DNR, CMER Project Manager
*Martin, Doug	WFPA Contractor
*McConnell, Steve (v)	UCUT
*Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus Contractor, RSAG Tri-Chair
*Miller, Dick	WFFA
Moon, Teresa	DNR, CMER Project Manager
O'Sullivan, Alison	Suquamish Tribe
Schuett-Hames, Dave	NWIFC
*Sturhan, Nancy	NWIFC, CMER Co-chair
*Veldhuisen, Curt (v)	Skagit River System Cooperative

* indicates official CMER members and alternates

v indicates attended via video-conferencing; ph indicates attended via phone

Nancy Sturhan asked for a moment of silence for Laura Vaugois. Laura recently passed away. She was a valuable member of DNR, CMER, UPSAG as well as a good friend. She will be missed.

Agenda Review – Butts

Sally asked if there were any other items that needed to be added to this month's agenda. Dick asked that telecommunications/eastside meetings and the hardwood conversion temp report be added under the SAG Items portion of the agenda. Steve asked about a motion made at the previous Policy meeting where CMER should discuss their

involvement with the CWA Assurances review that is currently underway. Sally said this had not been directed to CMER yet and may be on a future agenda.

Science Session – Eastside Studies - Baldwin

Todd Baldwin, SAGE Co-chair, presented documents and updates on the Eastside Studies. He was requesting CMER approval of the Type F Channel Wood Characterization Project (ECWP) Scoping Document and Six Questions and provided an update on Phase II of the Riparian Condition and Assessment Project. Chris Mendoza asked if the scoping document could be resent with track changes. Todd will send the document to Linda for mailing.

Riparian condition and assessment study

It was discussed that SAGE needs to do further data analysis on Phase I and get clearer direction on what the focus and priorities should be in Phase II. It was also decided that CMER needed to talk to Policy about the level of precision desired to make sure they are okay with that level and formalize that conversation for future projects.

Todd would like CMER to review and provide comments on the Phase II proposal and get specific comments directly to him by June 4th. It was suggested that Todd change the title and add a footer with the author, date and page numbers and resend the document.

Sally suggested CMER needs to have a more structured science session on the eastside projects. It would be helpful to spend a greater amount of time on it and do additional preparation for the discussion. SAGE, RSAG and BTSAG co-chairs should talk and put together materials to connect things together.

Lastly, Todd presented the Channel Wood characterization Project SAGE request, scoping document, and six questions. Doug had comments on it previously. SAGE worked with Doug to get those addressed and now would like to propose moving that forward to Policy. The document satisfies Doug's concerns. Next step would be to prepare a study design possibly in-house.

This request was approved.

SAG Requests

LWAG – RMZ study Re-sample project

Teresa Moon, project manager, updated CMER as to where we are with this project. There has been difficulty in getting a document from the contractor free of grammatical errors and the reviewer comments addressed. Teresa has had several discussions with the authors and the contractor's management personnel and is still not satisfied that CMER will ever get a clean report from the contractor. LWAG would like to send the report to ISPR in order to complete the process for this project. The question is if CMER could take ownership of the data now and also tell the contractor that someone else that CMER selects would finish editing their report. This is a question of "authorship" of reports. Darin suggested meeting with the contractor again and telling them we need the data and are taking over authorship of the report and ask how they would like to work with CMER

on that issue. It was suggested that DNR needs to have legal counsel on this and Darin should follow up with the AGs office.

The final decision was for LWAG and Darin to contact the contractor, get the data, talk to them about assuming authorship of the report, and let their contract expire. The contractor will be paid for the portion of the contract as agreed upon by DNR and LWAG.

It was agreed to send the entire report to ISPR for review with directed questions. After the ISPR review, CMER will have to decide on what options to take. LWAG and/or Teresa needs to keep CMER updated on the status.

BTSAG and RSAG

Terry Jackson presented a request for merger of BTSAG and RSAG under RSAG for greater efficiency. Shade/Solar/Temperature study will come under RSAG. See handout for details. **Approved.**

BTSAG

Terry Jackson presented a request for up to an additional \$4,000 to do QA/QC for the Bull Trout Overlay Temperature and Solar Radiation/Effective Shade Projects from project development funds. **Approved.**

Discussion ensued about these requests. Does policy or DNR support contingency funding? Darin – the approach we have taken is to try to get an increase in the project development fund to cover these costs. Capture for the future discussions with Policy.

MINUTES

Sally reported that Steve had sent in additional comments on the March and April minutes that were late for incorporation, but asked Linda to incorporate these edits and send out for review by the CMER members. We will postpone approval of the March and April minutes until next month.

POLICY MEETINGS

Darin reported on items from the May 1, 2008, Policy meeting

- Policy sending direction to CMER to work with DOE on CWA. Tom Robinson is the lead on this issue.
- Board Manual Section 21 was approved.
- There are ongoing discussions on DFC.
- An update was given for the Stream simulation and Culvert test bed projects.
- An update on the Post-mortem study was given and Policy gave the green light to go forward with field study.

Darin reported on the May 20, 2008, Policy strategy session

- Began the strategy review with Policy.
- May 20, 2008, compiled the feedback from the caucus members. Condensed down into SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) categories.

Groups divided into the four SWOT categories and came up with 3-5 draft strategic goals.

- Meeting again on June 5th [Linda, is this right? Is this next meeting after the Policy meeting on the 5th?]. Need to pare down the list for 3-5 overall goals, come up with objectives and plan to achieve the goals.
- Update again at the next CMER meeting.

FOREST PRACTICES BOARD MEETING

Darin reported on the May 21, 2008, Board meeting

- The CMER workplan and budget for '09 was approved.
- DFC – the rule options the board has in front of them have been slightly modified and UW is helping DNR to scope up to 7 additional options for possible future consideration.

ISPR

Darin stated that there was nothing at ISPR right now, but two products will be going shortly (RMZ Resample and Accuracy and Bias). The UW requested advanced notice of potential reviewers for reports and study designs since finding reviewers tends to be one of the bottlenecks in the process.

SAG ITEMS

Fish Passage Group

The culvert test bed course of action, study design and reviewers comments are out of CMER and into the Policy Fish Passage sub-group. The stream simulation study course of action went through CMER review and comments are being addressed by Bob Barnard (WDFW). There is a meeting set for early June to get the CMER reviewers together to make sure that their comments are addressed and to come up with an approved course of action. Terry was hoping that as soon as comments can be resolved to the satisfaction of the CMER reviewers, that the document be sent on to the Policy subgroup, instead of waiting for another CMER meeting. This is how it was done for the Culvert Test Bed Study course-of-action. Chris agreed, but stressed the importance of making sure that the reviewers be allowed the time they need to respond to the comments and not rush the process.

Post-Mortem Project Status and Budget

The project manager and contract administrator are working on getting the contract finalized; it is at OFM for approval and due to be signed next week. Next week the contractor will be talking with UPSAG about the field work. UPSAG will come back to CMER in August with an update. In addition, since the Leg didn't provide all the funding requested, UPSAG might be asking for more money for the field survey component of the study.

Information Management Group

CMER received an update from Dave Schuett-Hames. Ron at the NWIFC provided a revised proposal to populate the database system. They are considering adding 8-10

more projects to the original design so that we can get a feel for how it will work with many projects. This will become a regular recurring update every month at CMER.

Hardwood conversion

Dick Miller asked for an update on the hardwood conversion temperature report and also the Hardwood bibliography. Lyle Almond said the bibliography is done and they are looking at CMER comments from the review. They were very good and helpful comments. They are determining how to handle the workload and to bring it back to CMER in a better condition. As for the temp report, they are still holding on to it, and it hasn't been released for CMER review. There are issues that still need to be resolved with WDFW to address review comments. RSAG has repeatedly asked for specific revisions concerning the distinction and use of descriptive statistics vs. statistical tests and how the results are graphed and displayed. RSAG's comments were sent to WDFW last year in memo form. WDFW agreed to do another round of revisions. The contract expires in June and after June 10th, the author won't be available to work on it anymore. They might be in the situation of having a final report that doesn't meet standards. If WDFW can revise the report and improve its technical accuracy, CMER may have to accept it, but grammatically it might not meet everyone's desires. This may end up being a similar situation as the RMZ resample report. We should be getting the report back from WDFW in the next week or so; RSAG will need to decide the best course of action following receipt of the final report.

Dick Miller also talked about teleconferencing and the possibility of meeting in Eastern Washington and finding available sites for our CMER meetings. The forest service has video conferencing in their facilities in Wenatchee, Colville, Seattle and the Olympia and Wenatchee Lab facilities. We would have to make special arrangements to log in. Todd Baldwin mentioned that we could always use the Casino in Spokane. Curt suggested the possibility of setting up an eastside meeting with a field day in Eastern Washington.

CMER Meeting Agendas

Chris Mendoza asked if CMER could review the agendas and how they are laid out. His preference would be to do the CMER business in the morning and the science session in afternoon. Sally asked if anyone had other ideas for the science sessions in the future. Dick proposed 1. DOE/CWA – meet at the DOE office and get briefed on their water quality databases, and 2. A LIDAR research briefing. It was decided to line up the science sessions and then pick the order of the agenda. Sally said to send an e-mail to her about any science session topics that are of interest and also feedback about the order of the CMER meeting agenda. She'll report back in June on any feedback that's received from CMER folks.

Action Items:

1. Todd will add a title and footer to the Phase II document send it to Linda to send out to CMER. Specific comments due to Todd by June 4th.
2. Channel wood characterization project - scoping document request – **approved**, going to policy.

3. Teresa will contact LGL and get the data for the RMZ Resample project and then talk to them about CMER assuming authorship of the report, and then let their contract expire. Darin will send to ISPR for review of the entire document with directed questions. Upon review, we will have to decide on what options to take. LWAG and Teresa need to keep CMER updated on the status.
4. Request for merger of BTSAG and RSAG under RSAG for greater efficiency. Shade/Solar/Temperature study will come under RSAG. **Approved.**
5. Request for up to an additional \$4,000 to do additional QA/QC for the Bull Trout Overlay Temperature and Solar Radiation/Effective Shade Projects from project development funds. **Approved.**
6. Postpone March and April minutes for approval until next month.
7. Information management group – Dave Schuett-Hames or Nancy Sturhan give an update monthly.
8. CMER – send science session topics and any feedback on CMER meeting agenda order to Sally via e-mail before June CMER meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Future Meetings

CMER 2008 Regular Meetings: June 24 DNR Compound, July 22 DNR Compound, August 26 DNR Compound, September 23 DNR Compound, October 28 DNR Compound, November 25 DNR Compound and December 16 DNR Compound.