# Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER)

## April 23, 2013
## DNR/DOC Compound

| Attendees | Representing |
|---|---|
| *Hick, Mark | Department of Ecology, CMER Co-Chair |
| *Mendoza, Chris | Conservation Caucus Contractor, CMER Co-Chair |
| Hotvedt, Jim | Department of Natural Resources, AMPA |
| Surlock, Mary | Conservation Caucus Contractor – Policy Member |
| *Miller, Dick | Washington Farm Forestry Association |
| *Martin, Doug | Washington Forest Protection Association |
| *Dieu, Julie | Rayonier |
| Kurtenbach, Amy | Department of Natural Resources |
| *Lingley, Leslie | Department of Natural Resources |
| Roorbach, Ash | CMER Staff, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission |
| *Sturhan, Nancy | CMER Staff, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission |
| Terwilleger, Karen | Washington Forest Protection Association – Policy Member |
| Stewart, Greg | CMER Staff, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission |
| Shramek, Patti | Department of Natural Resources, CMER Coordinator |
| *Baldwin, Todd, (ph) | Kalispel Tribe of Indians |

* Indicates official CMER members and alternates; ph indicates attended via phone.

**Agenda –** Patti Shramek reported that there was in error in the agenda and that the status of ISPR review for the Hardwood Conversion Study is just a status update as the report is still in the initial writing stage.

**CMER Monthly Science Session:**

- **Stillwater Response Matrix**

Chris Mendoza gave a PowerPoint presentation on CMER's response to the Stillwater Sciences independent review of the "CMER Adaptive Management Program review of science" (Ralph and Boone 2009).

The intention of the review was to answer the following five questions about the CMER Workplan:

1) Is the Work Plan clearly and effectively focused to answer the two FFR adaptive management key questions?
2) Estimate the progress towards answering adaptive management key questions.
3) Are there critical gaps in the work plan?
4) Are there areas of unnecessary focus in the work plan?

5) Recommendations on how to focus the work plan to answer the adaptive management key questions.

The review was conducted in 2009 and CMER formed a sub-group to respond to the report. The report was finalized in January of 2012.

The presentation summarized Stillwater's recommendations for improvement of the Workplan and CMER's responses to the recommendations.

Chris reported that the response matrix is now ready to be posted on the DNR website with a cover letter, which he will write. Mark Hicks asked him if he would like the approval of the members to present the presentation to Policy. Chris replied that he doesn't think Policy has the time right now. He would, however, like the members to review the cover letter before it is posted on the website. Mary Scurlock requested that items on the task list that need to be put on the Policy agenda be flagged.

- **CMER Task List**

The members went over the most current task list and items that were completed were removed and the remaining items were revised and new start and end dates were added.

**Business Session:**

**Decisions:**

- **LWAG/RSAG -** Westside Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Study (Hard Rock) – *Approval of a coordinated review process* – **CMER approved the coordinated review process.**

Amy Kurtenbach reported that the CMER comments and revisions to the Westside Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Study (Hard Rock) Coordinated Review were incorporated into the document and Aimee Mcintyer updated the chapter due dates in the table. There were no changed made to the substance of the document. She requested that CMER approve the coordinated review process.

Mark Hicks moved to approve the revised document.

CMER approved the revised document.

Amy requested volunteers for reviewing chapters. The following people volunteered:

Mark Hicks – review all
Doug Martin – review all
Dick Miller – chapters 5 & 17
Nancy Sturhan – chapter 10

Chris Mendoza mentioned that the conservation caucus will be hiring someone from the caucus to help review the report and they will split the chapters. He will get back to Amy with the name(s) of the reviewer(s).

Dick Miller reported that Pete Bisson will be willing to review chapters starting in July.

Amy suggested that the topic be added to the agenda for the May meeting to continue to add reviewers.

**Request for Comment:**

- **TWIG –** Eastern Washington Type N Prescription Effectiveness TWIG – *Request for consideration and comment.*

Amy Kurtenbach reported that the deadline for submitting comments on the Eastern Washington Type N Prescription Effectives memorandum was extended to the morning of Wednesday April 24th.

**Discussion:**

There were comments regarding inconsistencies and lack of clarity in the document. It was suggested that more context should be added and the same terminology should be used throughout the document. The document needs to be clear and concise if asking for approval from Policy. Amy responded that they would like to send as clear a document as possible and encouraged the members to get their comments and suggestions into Greg Stewart by the comment deadline.

**Updates:**

**Report from Policy -** April 4th meeting – Mark Hicks reported:

- **CMER Budget**
  The Van Dyke salamander study was deemed unnecessary at this time and was moved out one year. Extensive Type N& F Monitoring Eastside was changed to $25,000 and $15,000 respectively for FY 14 for study design only. There was some confusion about how much money was for strategy development in the Wetlands Rule Group budget.

- **CMER 2014 Work Plan**
  The work plan was approved and will be moving on to the Board for approval at the May meeting.

- **Type N Strategy**
  Policy provided recommendations that need to be built into the work plan over the next year.

**Discussion:**
Nancy Sturhan suggested adding this to the CMER task list and sending the recommendations to the SAG chairs as they are assignments. Dick Miller asked if the plan is to pull out the recommendations and assign them to SAG's or if they will be incorporated when working on the work plan. Mark Hicks replied that it will be a combination of working the easier recommendations into the work plan next year and working out the more complicated issues. Dick suggested that some items could be assigned to the SAGs and they can work on them when they have time.

The co-chairs agreed that some of the items can go on the CMER task list and the items with a SAG connection will be assigned to them. Chris Mendoza stated that he and Mark will work on breaking them out.

- **Post Mortem**
  Policy accepted the package of materials but modified the disclaimer from standard language. The language was changed to:
  *This document was reviewed by CMER and was assessed through the Adaptive Management Program's independent scientific peer review process. This is a non-consensus CMER report not supported by all CMER members. The minority reports are appended to the report.*

**RSAG –**

- **Effectiveness of riparian management zone prescriptions in protecting and maintaining shade and water temperature in forested streams of Eastern Washington – Status of ISPR review**
  Amy Kurtenbach reported the comments were posted to the document at the April 2nd reviewer meeting and author has accepted changes as stated. The document was forward to the AMPA who forwarded it to University of Washington for ISPR review. Chris Mendoza complemented Amy K for her work on finally getting the report to ISPR review after multiple RSAG/ CMER reviews over a longer than expected review process.

- **Hardwood Conversion Study – Status**
  Ash Roorbach reported that the draft of report was sent to the co-authors and SAG members. A tentative meeting is scheduled for early May meeting for a preliminary review and after which it will be sent to RSAG for review.

**LWAG –**

- **Buffer/shade (amphibian) report – Status on ISPR review**
  Amy Kurtenbach reported that the ISPR comments have been received for the report. WDFW has reviewed the comments and they are clear enough to respond to. The only obstacle is that they don't have time until end of June to work on the response.

- **Tailed-frog literature review – Status on ISPR review**
  Amy Kurtenbach reported that the ISPR comments have been received for the report. She has sent them to Marc Hayes and he hasn't gotten back to her that there are any

issues. Marc requested an open review and when he is done responding to the comments he can go ahead with the open review if it is necessary.

**LEAN –**

- **Westside Type F Riparian Buffer Effectiveness project initial writing team**
  Chris Mendoza reported that no work was done this month and that he will report on the progress next month.

- **Unstable Landform Criteria Scoping project**
  Chris Mendoza reported that an initial writing team still needs to be formed and CMER is having difficulties finding volunteers.

**CMER/SAG Recap of Assignments/Decisions**

- Discuss performance targets at future CMER meeting (next couple of months)
- Parking lot – project management – lessons learned
- Sampling issues with not including SFLO
- Assignment of additional CMER reviewers for the Westside Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment in Hard Rock Lithologies Study report.
- Co-Chairs will go over the Policy Type N Strategy recommendations and break them out into CMER and SAG tasks.
- Chris Mendoza will write the cover letter for the Stillwater response matrix.
- Mary Scurlock asked for flagging of issues from Stillwater report for Policy.

Meeting Adjourned