

Timber, Fish, & Wildlife Policy Committee
 April 5, 2018 Meeting Summary

Decisions and Actions from Meeting

Action	Responsibility
Present the 2019 budget to the Board at their May meeting	Hans Berge
Present the list of discussions to occur at Policy to set the MPS for the next biennium, and Eastside Tribes' Addendum to the Budget to the Board at their May meeting	Scott Swanson
By April 17, review Type N Chapter 17 Summary and Discussion and send requests for Hard Rock Study additional reports or information to Howard Haemmerle for the June Policy meeting	Caucus representatives

Decision	Notes
Approve 2019 budget, with attached list of discussions to occur at Policy to set the MPS for the next biennium, and Eastside Tribes Addendum	Thumbs up: Industrial Timber Landowners, Small Forest Landowners, State Caucus-DNR, Counties Thumbs sideways: State Caucus-Ecology and WDFW, Tribes-Westside, Tribes-Eastside, Federal Caucus, Conservation Caucus
Accept Fire Salvage Literature Synthesis	Federal caucus absent, thumbs up from all other caucuses

Welcome, Introductions, & Old Business- Policy Chair Scott Swanson led a round of introductions. The Chair thanked Policy for their flexibility in changing venues and Washington Forest Protection Association for hosting the meeting. The Chair also thanked the budget subgroup for their efforts between meetings.

Mary Scurlock announced her Policy replacement, Alec Brown. Alec works for the Washington Environment Council. Alec will begin as the Conservation caucus lead at the May 2018 Policy meeting.

Terra Rentz introduced Chris Conklin, who is Terry Jackson's replacement at Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Terra will remain the Policy representative for the time being.

With consent from Policy, the Chair tabled the March meeting summary to the May meeting in order to devote more time in this meeting to other topics.

Update from CMER Co-Chairs on March CMER Meeting- Doug Hooks, CMER Co-Chair, presented the CMER meeting summary. The Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project (ENREP) study design

came to CMER from Independent Scientific Peer Review (ISPR) and was approved by CMER. The Federal caucus raised concerns about the ENREP study, and it was noted that Policy could determine whether or not to fund the study.

Update on Water Typing Rule Progress- Marc Engel, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), let Policy know that DNR is developing a packet for the Board based on Board-approved analysts of three potential habitat break (PHB) options. The Board Manual group for the Water Typing rule has started to meet. The draft rule will be mailed next week. Two rule-making meetings will be open to stakeholders.

DNR expressed a desire to have known earlier that organizing WTMFs was a valuable task. The Federal caucus shared their position that “end of fish” data is a consistent stumbling block, and in 1996, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), in addition to many times over recent years, notified DNR of the need to organize water typing data. ~~In 1996, this task was an unmet condition of funding USFWS already provided to DNR.~~ The Chair encouraged caucuses to bring statements to the Board on the importance of the data.

PHBs are a key component of the Board-approved Fish Habitat Assessment Method (FHAM). DNR needs to run FHAM with all three options to compare the differences with current rule. DNR will schedule an application of the FHAM with each of the three PHB options in the same stream. This field test will be open to the Board Manual group and other attendees if desired. DNR will provide a memo and update for the May Board meeting. The results of the comparison of the three PHBs will be documented and available.

Other Updates

- Update on Board Subcommittee for AMP Improvements: Hans noted that the contractor has been contacting people for interviews. The AMP Improvements Subcommittee will meet in May.
- Ken Miller announced that Small Forest Land Owners (SFLOs) plan to have a study bill in the next legislative session that will serve as a 20-year review of Forest and Fish impacts on small landowners. Caucuses noted that communication about legislative matters should be directly between legislative liaisons.
- The SFLO Template Subcommittee is on track to meet the Board’s requests and PI review. The Subcommittee met in early April with the contractor who plans to have a first draft assessment of the science used in the WFFA PI in one to two months, with a final assessment by mid-summer for ISPR. The assessment will likely return from ISPR by the end of the year.
- Clean Water Act (CWA) Assurances for Roads Maintenance and Abandonment Plan (RMAP) Checklist: One of the CWA milestones is the assessment of the status of SFLO roads. With the RMAP reform, SFLOs turn in a checklist RMAP for forest practices roads. A small committee has put together a survey that will be sent to SFLOs through the Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA), Northwest Natural Resource Group (NNRG) and Washington Tree Farm Program. The survey will come with an offer to do a full roads assessment with landowners. Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) funding is available for SFLOs who cannot afford to update a fish passage

without financial assistance. Jim Peters, Westside Tribal Caucus, noted that tribes offer roads assessment assistance to SFLOs.

Master Project Schedule and Budget- Terra Rentz reviewed the work of the budget subcommittee. Terra reviewed potential decisions, including extended monitoring, staffing, low cost alternatives, and then potential available funding. Any projects that were not scheduled to start this biennium were not discussed. The budget subcommittee did not have a lot of flexibility but tried to promote CWA projects where possible. The budget subcommittee did look at out years for the consequences of Fiscal Year (FY) '18/'19 decisions.

The budget subcommittee presented Policy with different versions of the budget, with different extended monitoring scenarios. The draft budgets listed unfunded projects in a green holding box, where they could be seen and considered but not incorporated into the budget calculations. Terra noted that some of the projects in the hold bucket in the draft budgets were Board-directed.

The subcommittee noted the administrative and communication issues between the Board, Policy and CMER, including a mismatch in timelines and different levels of responsibility to understand how funding decisions affect schedules and vice versa. Caucuses discussed how it is incumbent on members of Policy to advise the Board clearly and directly on fiscal realities, and to remind the board that Board-directed projects will affect priorities, whether Board-directed or CMER-driven. DNR plays a particular role in this process of providing feedback to the Board. The budget subgroup recommended that after this meeting a group should meet to work through those issues. The Chair noted that the Board continues to address these issues.

Policy agreed to limit its conversations at this meeting to the '19 budget, with further biennia to be discussed in the May and June meetings. The Federal caucus noted that their vote does not supersede or replace the responsibility to make sure Federal processes and outcomes are met.

Not having consensus on the budget versions as initially presented, Policy addressed several items during its discussion:

- Recommendation for the AMP to seek innovative funding mechanisms, especially with university researchers
- Commitment from the AMP to prioritize the hiring of an east side CMER scientist
- Extended monitoring

Policy made line-by-line edits to the 2019 agenda based on this conversation. Policy also developed a list of topics that would need to be addressed in order to develop the next biennium's budget and attached it to the budget.

Ray Entz delivered additional text from the East Side Tribal Caucus that was attached to the budget.

Decision: Policy voted to approve the updated Master Project Schedule for 2019 with the additional list of topics and the East Side addendum. The Industrial Timber Landowners, Small Timber Landowners, DNR, and County caucuses voted thumbs up; all other caucuses voted sideways.

Hans Berge will present the 2019 budget without out years or the “green box” of nonconsensus projects to the Board at their May meeting. Scott Swanson will present the additional list of topics and East Side addendum to the Board. The full spreadsheets, including the different versions, will be shared with the budget subcommittee for future reference.

Hard Rock Study: Findings Report for Chapter 17- Howard Haemmerle, DNR, presented the findings report. Hans Berge reminded Policy that the offer of additional information is still open. Policy determined that there are still outstanding requests for more information before Policy will accept the study and start the clock. Caucuses were offered a period of time to deliver questions to Howard, with additional findings reports potentially available in June.

Fire Salvage Literature Synthesis- Angela Johnson, DNR, presented the FSL synthesis and findings report from SAGE. Angela recommended accessing an article by Carr, available from DNR’s Box site, on mitigating impacts from salvage logging as further reading.

Decision: Policy accepted the literature synthesis with no action. The Federal caucus was absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.

Upcoming Events- May 8, 2018, is the CMER Science Conference.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:39 PM.

Attachment 1 – Participants by Caucus at 4/5 Meeting*

Conservation Caucus

*Mary Scurlock, M. Scurlock & Associates
Chris Mendoza, Mendoza Environmental

County Caucus

Kendra Smith, Skagit County
*Scott Swanson, WSAC, Chair

Federal Caucus

*Marty Acker, USFWS

Industrial Timber Landowner Caucus

Doug Hooks, WFPA
*Karen Terwilleger, WFPA
Meghan Tuttle, Weyerhaeuser

Small Forest Landowner Caucus

*Steve Barnowe-Meyer, WFFA
*Ken Miller, WFFA

State Caucus – DNR

*Marc Engel, DNR
Joe Shramek, DNR

State Caucus – Ecology & WDFW

*Rich Doenges, Ecology
Bill Ehinger, Ecology
Mark Hicks, Ecology
Don Nauer, WDFW
*Terra Rentz, WDFW
Chris Conklin, WDFW

Tribal Caucus – Westside

*Jim Peters, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Ash Roorbach, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Curt Veldhuisen, Skagit River System Cooperative

Tribal Caucus – Eastside

*Ray Entz, Kalispel/UCUT

Marc Gauthier, UCUT

Eric Krausz, Colville

*caucus representative

Others

Hans Berge, Adaptive Management Program Administrator

Howard Haemmerle, Adaptive Management Program (DNR)

Angela Johnson, Adaptive Management Program (DNR)

Greg Stewart, CMER staff

Rachel Aronson, Triangle Associates

Attachment 2 – Ongoing Priorities Checklist

Priority	Assignment	Status & Notes
Type N	Policy to Board	Policy agreed by consensus on recommendations to the Board which were presented in November 2017.
Type F	Board & Technical Group	Policy delivered consensus recommendations to the Board in May 2017; the Board determined some areas that needed work by a technical group (primarily on potential habitat break criteria). DNR is developing the rule language.
Small Forest Landowners Westside Template	SFLOs Template Subgroup	Subgroup is meeting separately; co-chaired by Marc Engel and Ken Miller.
Ongoing CMER reports reviewed by Policy	Doug Hooks & Jenny Knoth, CMER Co-Chairs	CMER Co-Chairs give regular written and/or verbal update(s) to Policy.

Attachment 3 – Entities, Groups, or Subgroups: Schedule and Notes

Entity/Group/Subgroup	Next Meeting Date	Notes
TFW Policy Committee	May 5	
CMER	April 24	
Forest Practices Board	May 9	
Small Forest Landowners Template Subgroup		

Attachment 4: Additional Language Attached to Budget

In addition to approving the 2019 budget, Policy approved the following language:

1. List of discussions to occur at Policy to set the MPS for the next biennium (2020-2021):

Type F TWIG project continuity
Extended monitoring
DSL strategy
Physicals and model study implementation
Extensive implementation
CMER science staff
Project administrative staff
“Green box” projects/studies
Pairing decision criteria how to use results with study designs
Rule change for eastside riparian buffers
Legislative outreach- sharing potential legislation in the fall with legislative representatives at Policy
Subcommittee to develop recommendation for communication and deadlines with CMER
TFW Policy Committee Facilitation
CWA Project Identifiers vs CWA Project Needs

2. Eastside Tribes Addendum:

“The eastside tribes are in non-consensus with the CMER MPS budget for FY 2019 and beyond. The MPS budget includes longstanding budgetary issues that remain unresolved and in non-consensus. Extended Type N data collection and placeholders for unsupported studies continue to remain on the budget and are in non-consensus.”
“The effect of extended and add-on type N data collection and analysis have the effect of tying the budget up for the next seven years eliminating opportunities for new rule effectiveness projects and new priorities. These extended and add-on data collection projects have not been approved by CMER core membership or ISPR. “
The eastside Tribes recommend adopting the 2019 budget with a proviso that Policy resolve remaining non-consensus MPS budgetary issues. Those include the following:
Ending all Type N extended monitoring and add-on projects starting in 2019
Remove projects from the MPS list that remain in non-consensus.
Priorities for new rule effectiveness work
Priorities for regional and statewide priorities – fire and forest health
Prioritize an eastside CMER scientist for 2019 as full time
Remove Van Dykes out-year funding, intermittent stream amphibian out-year funding, and eastside amphibian out-year funding – have not had consensus since 2014”