

CMER
December 27th, 2005
NWIFC Conference Center
Olympia, WA
Draft Minutes

Attendees

Barreca, Jeannette	Ecology
Beach, Eric	Green Diamond Resources
Dieu, Julie	Rayonier, UPSAG Co-Chair
Ehinger, Bill	WDOE
Heide, Pete	WFPA
Hofmann, Lynda	WDFW, SAGE Co-Chair
Hook, Abby	Tulalip Tribes
Hunter, Mark	WDFW
Jackson, Terry	WDFW, BTSAG Co-Chair
MacCracken, Jim	Longview Fibre, LWAG Co-Chair
Martin, Doug	Martin Environmental, CMER Co-Chair
McDonald, Dennis	DNR, Watertyping Project Manager
Mobbs, Mark	Quinault Indian Nation
Pucci, Dawn	Suquamish Tribe, WETSAG Co-Chair
Ray, Kris	Colville Confederated Tribes, SAGE Co-Chair
Robinson, Tom	WSAC
Rowton, Heather	WFPA, CMER Coordinator
Schuett-Hames, Dave	NWIFC, CMER Staff
Sturhan, Nancy	DNR, CMER Co-Chair
Vaugeois, Laura	DNR

Minutes, Decisions/Tasks Review, General Updates:

Heather read a summary of decisions/tasks from the November meeting. The November minutes were approved.

Ground rules discussion. CMER discussed the ground rules about starting and stopping meetings on time and “ensure that each individual has a chance to be heard”. The two rules can be contradictory in some respects because making sure everyone is heard can take a lot of time, making it difficult to end the meeting on time. One reason for this is that when people do not see their concern written down, they feel the need to repeat it; another issue is people restating the same concern or opinion in a different way. Robinson suggested the use of a talking feather, so only one person has the floor to talk at

any point in time; it was felt that if a talking feather was passed around, people would feel more comfortable that their concern or opinion was heard. .

Policy Report. Martin reported that the DNR compliance monitoring program is getting staffed up, with Leslie Lingley as manager and Larry Dominguez as staff. CMER needs to participate. CMER was also informed that Young plans to talk with every caucus about the new AMPA position. Policy also asked the DFC subgroup for a schedule of products on to be delivered at their next meeting (January 5th). They also discussed the need for SAG co-chairs, which lead to a broader discussion of the structure of CMER and the means of managing projects. Policy does recognize that there is a workload issue. They would like CMER's ideas and proposals for consideration. This should be put on the agenda for the next CMER meeting. Policy also is limited in how many CMER projects they can deal with at one time from CMER and this workload issue should also be kept in mind. .

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ISPR Update. Martin said the riparian extensive review has been returned and RSAG is dealing with the comments. There was no other progress to report.

There was no budget report at this meeting.

Adaptive Management Program Administrator Vacancy. Nancy Sturhan and Heather Rowton led a discussion about the attributes and focus CMER would like to see in the adaptive management administrator. CMER was asked to convey to ideas to Policy about what CMER needs in an administrator. CMER comments and suggestions follow. Too many tasks were delegated to the position and more focus is needed to make the AMPA effective. An emphasis on management was also suggested, as well as an ability to provide leadership on policy issues. Splitting out the science leadership and the budget/contracting responsibilities was suggested. Real connectivity between the AMPA and the project managers to make sure that the work is taking place on schedule is a critical component of the AMPA. Better communication between the project managers and the AMPA on project status will help with this. Too many responsibilities are placed on the AMPA while they are given no authority to delegate. It was also suggested that the AMPA have a permanent seat on policy, and have the ability to get policy direction on dealing with problems. There was very broad agreement that the AMPA needs to have excellent communication skills. The AMPA also must be equally respectful of all caucuses and have good communication with all caucus leads. The AMPA should also be able to provide accountability for projects and staff. There was concern expressed about the potential undue influence of DNR on the AMPA because the person works for, is paid by and are supervised by the DNR.

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Assignment: Rowton and Schuett-Hames will write up the discussion, send out to CMER on Friday for review and accept comments until early Tuesday morning.

Project Status. Sturhan handed out a list of project status for people to review. This list will need to receive detailed review by January in order for CMER to approve work plan according to the schedule. SAGs will be wrapping up revisions to the text and the budget sheet at their meetings in early January. Schuett-Hames will compile and try to get out to CMER in time for the January CMER meeting. Martin and Sturhan will make a proposal for prioritization and bring it to the next CMER meeting.

CMER members were encouraged to act as a CMER body while considering prioritization, not as SAGs. The budget shortfall results in the need to integrate and carefully prioritize. CMER needs to be very careful to meet its goals and make sure high priority projects are completed.

Since prioritization meetings do not always work well, Rowton proposed starting with a proposal from the co-chairs at the next CMER meeting and seeing if CMER can reach a consensus based on that starting point. If that does not work, then we will try to develop an alternative plan. A suggestion was also made to follow the process in the manual. Sturhan and Martin will start with the prioritization done in 2003, and will explain the rationale for any changes. **People should read the revised work plan in preparation for the January meeting.** If this process works, then we will update the PSM to reflect it.

Consensus: CMER agreed to consider a proposal from the co-chairs at the January meeting.

Disclaimer. Jackson handed out two documents. One reflected a revised updated document that included comments made by the deadline. The other included comments sent after the deadline.

Consensus: CMER approved the version first version (without the late comments), and agreed the document can be revised at a later date if needed.

PSM. The PSM group has met and will be working on additions and revisions to the manual. The group did ask what logo CMER would prefer on the cover of the Manual.

Consensus: CMER preferred to use the FFR logo on the PSM.

SAG Requests

RSAG. Eastside Type F BTO. Concerns were raised about long-term response in LWD recruitment over time. CMER expressed a need to understand context of the project with what SAGE is doing, and asked for clarification of how the project relates to the N/F effectiveness project and that schedule of products and deliverables. There were also questions about how CMZs are addressed. CMER asked RSAG to bring the proposal back in January addressing the needs expressed above.

CMER Consensus: This request will be reviewed again in January when the concerns above are addressed.

RSAG. Hardwood Conversion Temperature Study: Request for additional temperature data. This funding will pay for collection of temperature data for another year, specifically equipment, travel and a field technician. WDFW will contribute Mark Hunter's time. There was a question about the study site out near Lake Ozette; this site is not included in the sampling. It was suggested that the proposal would be revised to have the final report due in March of 2007.

CMER Consensus: The request was approved with the date for the final report changed to March 2007.

RSAG. Type N Experimental Buffer Study in Incompetent Lithologies. CMER did not get this request in time to review it. Ehinger summarized the contents of the request for CMER. Martin was concerned that the Policy Group understand that CMER has not tried to integrate this into the overall work plan. Since this was a Policy request, CMER did not believe their approval was necessary.

CMER Consensus: CMER approved the co-chairs taking the assessment to Policy and explaining the proposal and the fact that CMER has not prioritized within their workplan.

BTSAG. Request to share solar data with professor at Yale to use in a biometrics course. Policy has expressed concern about other people drawing management conclusions from CMER data, but this should not be a problem in this case because it is just pre-harvest data; however, landowners should be notified. DNR will check on ownership of data prior to release. Contractors cannot release data to anyone but DNR, then DNR would have to distribute the data. Jackson will talk to Dawn Hitchens at DNR to find out what their policy is.

CMER Consensus: CMER approved releasing the data contingent on DNR approval, and Jackson will report back on what happened.

SAGE. Plan to integrate site selection between SAGE riparian assessment project with the riparian extensive monitoring using CMER staff (Black) and contractor(s). Hofmann went over contents of the memo sent out to CMER. This will involve some small contracts for field personnel to visit sites and contact landowners. There also will be a GIS contract. CMER suggested talking to Dawn Hitchens about opportunities to amend existing contracts. Coordination of methods and data collection on the first 50 sites will

occur with the riparian extensive monitoring project. There is a need to move ahead with site selection in order to get the project on the ground this summer. Ehinger will be meeting with Phil Larsen to discuss how to do the draw. Jenelle will oversee the effort (as the project manager) and coordinate the work of the contractor(s).

CMER Consensus: CMER approved the plan.

WETSAG. Patricia Johnson, project manager for the wetland regeneration project, has requested permission to give a presentation on project at a scientific conference.

CMER Consensus: CMER approved this request provided she acknowledges CMER funding.

SAG Issues

WETSAG. Dave Parks has volunteered to be a co-chair and will replace Andy McMillan. Pucci will be leaving in June. WETSAG is planning to bring the draft report on the Forested Wetlands Regeneration Pilot study to CMER in January.

UPSAG. UPSAG is planning to bring the Regional Landform Identification Project (RLIP) report to CMER in January.

ISAG. ISAG gave a presentation on water typing issues to Jed Herman. The policy subgroup is forming to address this issue and a meeting has been scheduled.

CMER monthly report to Policy- Issue to Bring

- Input on AMPA
- Schedule for DFC projects requested by policy.

January Science Presentation: WDOE data management.

Miscellaneous Issues

- CMER needs to pick a date for the annual science conference
- **January Meeting Location Change:** The January CMER meeting is in the WDOE auditorium