Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER)
July 23, 2019
DNR/DOC Industrial Park, Tumwater WA

Attendees	Representing
§Baldwin, Todd (ph)	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
§Bell, Harry (ph)	Washington Farm Forestry Association
chesney, charles (ph)	Member of Public
Gibbs, Heather	Department of Natural Resources
Haemmerle, Howard	Acting Adaptive Management Program Administrator
§Hayes, Marc	Department of Fish and Wildlife
Hernandez, Emily	Department of Natural Resources
§Hicks, Mark	Department of Ecology
Hooks, Doug	Washington Forest Protection Association – CMER Co-Chair
§Kay, Debbie (ph)	Suquamish Tribe
§Kroll, A.J. (ph)	Weyerhaeuser
§Martin, Doug (ph)	Washington Forest Protection Association
McIntyre, Aimee (ph)	Department of Fish & Wildlife
§Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus- CMER Co-Chair
Murray, Joe	Washington Forest Protection Association
Schuett-Hames, Dave	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission - CMER Staff
Stewart, Greg	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission – CMER Staff
Roorbach, Ash	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission – CMER Staff (proxy for Debbie, Kay)
Thomas, Cody (ph)	Spokane Tribe

§Indicates official CMER members and alternates; (ph) indicates attended via phone.

*Indicates Decision

- It was noted that Forest and Fish Account funding was extended through 2045 in legislation.
- CMER participants were encouraged to send a list of possible science-session presenters to Chris Mendoza and Doug Hooks.
- Work Plan summaries. CMER discussed ideas for improving the process of providing information on current projects to Policy.
    - Chris discussed his idea of providing a list of projects that are currently funded to Policy with Hyperlinks to their descriptions in the Workplan. Chris said he would provide a markup version of his vision to the group. Hyperlink version. Striving to make Policy's job easier.
    - Dave Schuett-Hames suggested grouping by past, active, and future projects
- The IMS was not funded in the biennial budget. It is not clear how this will be maintained at the current time.

Decisions:

CMER

- ***SAG requests for additional funds –** *Riparian Characteristics and Shade Study (RCS), Wetlands Intrinsic Potential Tool (WIP), and Hard Rock Amphibian Genetics*

  Background: Recommendations/requests for funding go to the Adaptive Management Program Administrator (AMPA). At the May meeting, the Forest Practices Board (Board) asked the AMPA if there were opportunities to locate program funds that could be allocated for a water typing strategy and asked the AMPA to work with CMER to see if funds could be found, and to bring back recommendations to the Board in August. Limited funds have been found thus far. Howard Haemmerle remarked that he was not going to shift money for new requests because they were still working through the process of looking for extra funds for the water typing strategy. He recommended the SAGs/Projects request more funds from the Board.

  WetSAG Request: Heather Gibbs reported that Greg Stewart and Dave Schuett-Hames are reviewing the ArcPro deliverables for the WIP tool. WetSAG is requesting an additional $10,733 funding to bring the draft to completion

  There was discussion about where the project is going, where the tool will be housed when completed, and when it will move to Timber, Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee (Policy).

  Mendoza moved to recommend the AMPA approve the total estimate cost of $10,733 to update the software and troubleshoot, Ash Roorbach and Marc Hayes seconded - **Approved**

  RSAG Request: Joe Murray reviewed the RSAG request for $5,000 from the AMP contingency fund to complete the RSAG/CMER review of the Riparian Characteristics and Shade (RCS) study plan.

  Discussion revolved around the need to tighten up the scope of work in this and future contracts.

  Mendoza moved to recommend the AMPA approve $5,000 to complete the RCS Study, and RSAG/CMER review. Harry Bell seconded - **Approved**

  Hard Rock Amphibian Genetics Request: Heather Gibbs and Marc Hayes reported that the project team will finalize the project needs and there is no request for additional funding. The project team will finalize the project needs without additional funding.

- ***Findings Report Template** – *approval*

  Chris Mendoza reported that CMER previously had approved guidelines for answering the CMER Six Question in the Policy / CMER interaction framework document out of the AMP Board Manual. Different versions of the six questions have been used by different PIs. He would like to approve the prior version approved by CMER in 2012 moving forward.

  Discussion revolved around whether or not a request should be made to change Board Manual, Section 22. Full agreement for Policy may be required before taking the request to the Board who directs BM revisions. At the very least it should be included in Chapter 8 of the Protocol and Standards Manual (PSM), but should not conflict with Board Manual, Section 22.

  Mendoza moved to approve use the 2012 version of the findings report, preapproved by CMER and to add the finding report to Chapter 8 of the PSM, Roorbach seconded - **Approved**

- ***Extended Monitoring** – *approval of sub-group recommendations*

  Background: Mendoza remarked that the Board asked CMER/Policy to report on when and why the AMP may consider extending monitoring for active projects beyond their initial design. Hooks replied that this process that does not require CMER and Policy approval, but the sub-group decided that a consensus product was appropriate. Is there a need to extend the monitoring process based on current project knowledge? Trigger a dialogue between Policy and CMER.

  Discussion:
  Mark Hicks expressed concerns regarding the form and the funding needs. The decision does not necessarily need a process. If it was determined there was not enough sites, the study should not have moved forward in the first place. A specific process should not need approval. Mendoza prefers to get approval. If 30 days is needed for additional review/comment, it is worth the time to get CMER approval. Hooks remarked that the goal is to get something to the Board in August. Hicks remarked that there is a need for clarity on what information we are trying to provide. It could pose trouble with how we do business. Mendoza remarked that this is not an opportunity to open-up discussion on the project approval process that has already been completed by CMER and Policy. It may be as simple as requesting revisions to the language in the Charter to clear up the purpose. Haemmerle mentioned that this is a subgroup of Policy & CMER members, recommendations need to be taken to Policy because they were the driver of this

discussion. This plays a large role in future discussions of future budgets and projects, and is not ready to go beyond initial discussions. Joe Murray remarked that he likes the idea for additional time for people to weigh-in on this. Mendoza stated that the focus is this effort isn't going to change the purpose of the study, it's just an exercise to determine if and when extended data collection is needed. Ash Roorbach remarked that there's a need to make the distinction between extending the data collection for a project versus changing its scope.

Mendoza moved to extend review period of the Document. Comments due to Mendoza, Hooks, and Patti Shramek by August 13, 2019 in anticipation of upcoming CMER meeting. Hicks seconded – **Approved**

LWAG

- ***Stable Isotopes** – *timeline and recommendations*

  Gibbs and Aimee McIntyre reviewed the LWAG request. LWAG asked for approval to include the Stable Isotopes results as a section in the Hard Rock Phase II report instead of as an appendix like it was in the Hard Rock Phase I report.

  Mendoza moved to include the Stable Isotope section in the body of the report, under the condition that the background materials submitted to ISPR include the Phase I Report and the disclaimer describing why the Stable Isotopes chapter was relegated to an appendix, because it did not receive ISPR approval. Hayes seconded - **Approved**

- ***Post-harvest Genetics Report for the Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Project in Hard Rock Lithologies** – *final approval*

  Hayes reviewed the LWAG request and requested approval and McIntyre reported that the ISPR process went smoothly.

  Mendoza moved to approve the report, Mark Hick seconded – **Approved**

  Next Steps: Report will be transmitted to Policy and the project team will work on the Findings Report.

RSAG

- ***Hardwood Conversion Summary Report** – *final approval*

  Murray reviewed the RSAG request and asked for approval of ISPR approved final report. He reported that RSAG is currently working on Findings Report.

Hicks moved to approve the ISPR approved version of the Hardwood Conversion Summary Final Report, Hayes seconded – **Approved**

Discussion:

- **CMER Co-Chair** – *replacement for Doug Hooks*
  Hooks reported that there is still a continuing effort to find someone to replace him. This will be a quarterly ask moving forward. Mendoza asked if there have been any nominations and Haemmerle replied no.

- **SAG Request for additional** funds – *eDNA, Eastside Modeling Effectiveness Project (EMEP), and FWEP*
  - eDNA – Brooked Penaluna presented to ISAG at the July meeting. Haemmerle is currently working through contractual discussions and how to proceed. It may be possible for ISAG to complete the work internally, rather than having to develop or extend a contract.
  - EMEP – Hernandez is currently investigating status of the project. A second round of ISPR comments recently resurfaced that have preliminary been identified as having not been addressed.
  - FWEP Gibbs reported that there might be a future request for additional funds to finish the literature synthesis.

- **Review roles and responsibilities of SAG Co-chairs and members**
  Mendoza reported that he will be providing a CMER Protocols and Standards Manual overview at the upcoming SAG meetings of the roles and responsibilities of SAG members. At a minimum, key decisions at the SAG level need to be recorded, and there is a need for uniform response/guidance for CMER from the SAGs.

- **CMER Ground Rules**
  Discussion was about including revisions as a supplement to existing ground rules in the PSM and work towards a future merge with the current ground rules from the Adaptive Management Board Manual.

  Hernandez will merge ground rules. Members who would like to provide comments/additions need to submit them to Hernandez by August 13, 2019.

- **Prioritization on Hard Rock and Soft Rock Reports (past & current data collection)**
  Gibbs reported that Bill Ehinger will not have time to finish both reports to meet their existing timelines and asked which is the priority. Mendoza remarked that both have been prioritized by the Board. However, given that CMER has just talked about Hard Rock Phase II and the Stable Isotopes chapter, that this one should be prioritized. Bell

remarked he came to a verbal agreement with Ehinger that he is firm that he needs to see the edits in the document before he would approve it. Schuett-Hames remarked that Ehinger is trying to work on the Hard Rock and finish that up, and then would move to Soft Rock. He is concerned that if the sequence is switched then both reports might move closer to each other and end up at ISPR together which might not be good.

Mendoza moved that CMER direct Ehinger to prioritize Hard Rock over Soft Rock and work with Bell to address his comments, and then come back to CMER for approval at the August 27, 2019 meeting. Hayes seconded, Hicks sideways - **Approve**

- **Continued Work on Water Typing (Forest Practices Board sub-committee)**
  Haemmerle reported that the Forest Practices Board (Board) identified a Board sub-committee to work with stakeholders and come back to the full Board in November with a strategy on how to move forward. ISAG has provided the following (general) suggestions:
  1. Redirect water typing rule making process back into the process Adaptive Management process.
  2. Have CMER identify the projects and their sequence necessary in this process

  There was discussion on CMER's future involvement in the water typing efforts and a need for specific guidance/direction from the Board if projects were to be redirected into the AMP

Updates:

- **Report from Policy** – *July 11, 2019 meeting*
  Howard Haemmerle gave a report on the July 11, 2019 Policy meeting.

  Timber Fish & Wildlife Policy meeting minutes are located on the Department of Natural Resources web page at http://www.dnr.wa.gov/about/boards-and-councils/forest-practices-board/tfw-policy-committee.

- **AMP Positions** – *update on AMPA, EP5, and CMER Scientists recruitments*
  Haemmerle reported that Mark Hicks has been selected as the new AMPA and his start date is August 1, 2019. Emily Hernandez has been selected as the Environmental Planner 5 and will start on August 1, 2019. The Eastside Scientist position will be housed at Ecology in Spokane and the recruitment will go out after Mark Hicks has started. The Administrative Assistant position will be posted after Marks Hicks has started and a position description has been developed.

Schuett-Hames reported that the recruitment for his position closed on July 15, 2019. They are moving forward with reviewing the candidates.

- **CMER and SAG updates**
  Updates were reviewed and questions answered.

  Bell asked about the past and current data collection with the Hard Rock & Soft Rock studies and if there is a timeline for analysis of this data. Is CMER doing the best job they can and providing Policy with data they can use? He requested that this a topic for the August CMER meeting agenda.

Public Comment
charles chesney provided comments regarding the Protocols and Standards Manual regarding omissions related to the standards and duty of care related to roles/competencies.

Recap of Assignments/Decisions

- Send Science Session ideas for CMER Meetings to Chris Mendoza and Doug Hooks.
- Mendoza and Hooks will clean-up the CMER Assignment table.
- Extend Monitoring Workgroup document review extended for 30 days. Comments due to Mendoza/Hooks/Patti Shramek by August 13, 2019 and the updated document will be sent out on August 20, 2019.
- Comments on CMER Ground Rules due to Emily by August 13, 2019.
- CMER voted for Bill Ehinger to prioritize Hard Rock- Phase II over the Soft Rock report.
- Additional funding requests for WIP and RCS were approved
- The Template 6 Question document with guidance from 2012 was approved by CMER as the official template to use and to be added to Ch. 8 of the PSM.
- Stable Isotopes was approved to be included in the Hard Rock- Phase II Extended as its own section and not an appendices.
- Genetics final ISPR approved report approved.
- Final ISPR reviewed Hardwood Conversion Summary report approved.

Adjourned @ 3:56