



DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF
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MEMORANDUM

May 4, 2023

TO: Forest Practices Board (Board)

FROM: Lori Clark, Adaptive Management Program Administrator (AMPA)

lori.clark@dnr.wa.gov | 360-819-3712

SUBJECT: Request to approve Welles Bretherton as Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER) voting member

The Department of Ecology has nominated Welles Bretherton to serve as their voting member on the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER). Vincent McGowan, Department of Ecology Water Quality Program Manager, has addressed the Board in the attached letter requesting your approval. CMER voting members are approved by the Forest Practices Board as required by WAC 222-12-045. This rule also requires CMER members to have expertise in a scientific discipline and to participate in the committee from a scientific standpoint only. With your approval, Welles Bretherton will attend CMER meetings as a voting member starting with CMER's May 2023 regular meeting.

Attachments:

- Department of Ecology Letter to the Forest Practices Board



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000

May 2, 2022

Forest Practices Board c/o Alex Smith
1111 Washington St SE
PO Box 47012
Olympia, WA 98504
Sent via email: forest.practicesboard@dnr.wa.gov

Re: CMER Voting Member

Dear Members of the Forest Practices Board:

This is a letter of support for Welles Bretherton to take on the responsibilities associated with being a board approved, voting member of the cooperative monitoring evaluation and research committee (CMER). We recognize the substantial commitment of time and effort that is necessary to serve on CMER and advance the science needed to support adaptive management.

Welles has a Master of Science in Land Resources and Environmental Science from Montana State University. His graduate research project was on the wetted extent of headwater streams in Western Washington. He has a B.S. with a focus on Aquatic Ecology from the Evergreen State College.

Welles has been with the Department of Ecology since 2011. The majority of his time working for Ecology was dedicated to forest practices effectiveness monitoring. He worked as our natural resource scientist assigned to the Effectiveness of Forest Practices Buffer Prescriptions on Perennial Non-fish-bearing Streams on Marine Sedimentary Lithologies in Western Washington study (Soft Rock Study). In this capacity he secured locations for the Type N Soft Rock study, led field crews for the Type N Soft Rock and Hard Rock studies, maintained continuous Hydrologic stations, performed continuous and discrete data QA and analysis, and helped design and write the Standard Operating Procedures for the Type N Soft Rock study. Welles was also an author on the Type N Soft Rock report.

After the completion of the Type N Soft Rock study, Welles transitioned to Ecology's freshwater monitoring unit. In this position he worked as a hydrogeologist in support of the Puget Sound Freshwater Nutrient Monitoring project. This project is deploying eight continuous water quality monitoring stations in the major watersheds of the Puget Sound Basin. Welles wrote the

Forest Practices Board

May 2, 2022

Page 2

Quality Assurance Monitoring Plan for the study. He also worked to secure locations for the monitoring stations and helped design and build a new method of deploying water quality sensors in large rivers to address high flows in those rivers.

Prior to coming to Ecology, Welles worked as a scientific technician for the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Lastly, he brings extensive knowledge of Pacific Northwest flora and fauna, designing and conducting studies in rivers and riparian areas, performing statistical analyses, and collaborating with other agencies and private forest landowners. He is familiar with the research CMER is engaged in and brings practical on the ground experience carrying out CMER studies.

Welles will bring his dedication, strong scientific research skills, diverse knowledge base, and a collaborative spirit to this process.

Sincerely,



Vincent McGowan, P.E.
Water Quality Program Manager

cc: Lori Clark, Adaptive Management Program Administrator, DNR