

FOREST PRACTICES BOARD, SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 2017

Natural Resources Building, Room 175
Olympia, Washington

This meeting was a subcommittee of the Forest Practices Board to address possible improvements to the Adaptive Management Program.

Board Participants: Lisa Janicki (sub-committee chair), Paula Swedeen, Brent Davies, Dave Herrera, and Stephen Bernath (Board Chair)

Staff to Subcommittee: Hans Berge, Adaptive Management Program Administrator and Jeff Davis, WDFW

REVIEW BOARD'S DIRECTION OF MAY 10, 2017

Stephen and Lisa introduced the Board motion and discussed the charge of the subcommittee. Lisa thanked members for participating and introduced the agenda topics.

IDENTIFY ROAD MAP FORWARD FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

Hans walked the group through the recommendations shared at the May Board meeting as outlined in his May 8 memo plus additional perspectives shared at the Board meeting by the Conservation Caucus and Eastside Tribes. Major categories of improvement include:

- Meeting of Principals from each participating caucus
- Following ground rules at all levels of adaptive management program (AMP) participation
- Setting clear priorities
- Provide clear guidance to the TFW Policy Committee (Policy) and Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Committee (CMER)
- Discussion of how to incorporate climate change in the program---research at CMER and interpretation by Policy
- Ensure firewall between Policy and CMER is maintained
- Trust building across all caucuses at Policy
- Prioritizing research projects to meet the goals of the AMP

Subcommittee members agreed that there is a need to identify “low hanging fruit” that can be incorporated into the AMP in a way that will improve efficiency and make it more effective.

Discussion of returning back to how TFW has worked in the past and focusing on making changes to help reaffirm commitments. Discussion of going through an exercise of root cause analysis may be beneficial in addition to some of these recommendations. There was discussion about some of the ideas presented in the report from pros and cons of consensus to potential term limits of SAG co-chairs.

There was an agreement that it would be helpful to prioritize recommendations and structure them in a way that can be communicated throughout the AMP and with principals.

IDENTIFY ROAD MAP FORWARD FOR PRINCIPALS MEETING

The subcommittee discussed options for a neutral facilitator in order to reach out to caucus principles for building trust and renewed commitment. Discussions included possible objectives/strategies a facilitator might employ for reaching out to principles, the effectiveness of past principle meetings for resolving issues and the process for contacting individuals from the representing caucuses.

Agreements/tasks from today's discussion:

- The subcommittee agreed to utilize a facilitator for reaching bringing caucuses together. Hans will take the initial steps at scoping the work for a facilitator. This includes an evaluation of potential costs and contractual processes (if subcommittee members know of qualified facilitator, provide those names)
- Develop list of potential contacts for the facilitator (i.e. caucus principles or designee)
- Draft communications for distributing to caucus principles
- The subcommittee member will begin to develop a set of questions to provide the facilitator

Next subcommittee meeting will occur on July 12, from 9:00 to 11:00.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Swanson, Washington State Associate of Counties/Policy co-chair, expressed enthusiasm about the seriousness to revisit ground rules. He felt that the scientific process is still moving forward and resources are being protected despite the various issues and concerns.

Jim Peters, Northwest Indian Fish Commission (NWIFC), listed those involved in the original TFW Agreement. He said the original group ensured their caucuses stayed true to the mission of TFW and he felt getting the principles back together is a good start for building trust. He concluded by adding that if consensus was removed, the name 'TFW' would no longer apply because consensus was how that foundation was built.

Karen Terwilliger, WFPA, felt that getting the principles together is essential for building trust, and will help improve understanding for how the process is intended. Leadership from the top is critical.

Marty Acker acknowledge the opportunity for this subcommittee to result in improvements to resource management. While some disputes are technical in nature, some disputes are not. He felt not all caucuses share the same biological goals.

Ash Roorbach, Forest Practices Coordinator for NWIFC, stated that if the committee is looking for low hanging fruit then #11 under CMER's potential improvements (PSM review) is already happening in CMER. He mentioned that the PSM has been inclusive and consensus based. He also mentioned that #7 is also low hanging fruit. He added, per Jim Peter's request, that in Jim's opinion, DNR and Federal Caucuses should remain within the nine caucuses.

Doug Hooks, WFPA, stated that he was encouraged by today's discussion and suggested that the audit get started. He mentioned that if budget priorities are changed, those changes might affect the master project schedule and CWAs. He mentioned that options are missing for enforcing ground rules.