FOREST PRACTICES BOARD
Regular Board Meeting
August 12, 2014
Natural Resources Building, Room 172
Olympia, Washington

Members Present
Aaron Everett, Chair, Department of Natural Resources
Bill Little, Timber Products Union Representative
Bob Guenther, General Public Member/Small Forest Landowner
Brent Davies, General Public Member (participated via telephone)
Carmen Smith, General Public Member/Independent Logging Contractor
Court Stanley, General Public Member
David Herrera, General Public Member
Joe Stohr, Designee for Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Heather Ballash, Designee for Director, Department of Commerce
Kirk Cook, Designee for Director, Department of Agriculture
Paula Swedeen, General Public Member
Tom Laurie, Designee for Director, Department of Ecology

Members Absent
Dave Somers, Snohomish County Commissioner

Staff
Chris Hanlon-Meyer, Forest Practices Division Manager
Marc Engel, Forest Practices Assistant Division Manager
Patricia Anderson, Rules Coordinator
Phil Ferester, Senior Counsel

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS/CALL TO ORDER
Aaron Everett called the Forest Practices Board (FPB or Board) meeting to order at 9 a.m.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT
Peter Goldman, Conservation Caucus, highlighted their memo dated August 7, 2014, summarizing the Geotechnical Extreme Events Reconnaissance (GEER) Report which they believe has implications to the Forest Practices Rules. He also reiterated their recommendation to enact a moratorium on forest practices conducted on or near glacial deep-seated landslides. He said that Timber, Fish and Wildlife (TFW) Policy (Policy) is not equipped to deal with the broader public safety issues as opposed to the aquatic issues in the Habitat Conservation Plan and that public safety should be secured by agencies rather than by a consensus stakeholder process. He also said he submitted a copy of a forest practices application that was withdrawn after comments were received that identified a deep-seated landslide. He indicated that this application potentially could have been approved if not for their comment.

Kara Whitaker, Washington Forest Law Center, said that the GEER Report supports the Conservation Caucus’ argument that regulatory, policy and enforcement changes are imperative for forest practices conducted on or near glacial deep seated landslides. She said that the Board’s May motions are a good initial step for addressing inadequacies, but the new work groups created must use a rigorous
science-based approach for making substantial improvements to the rules and the enforcement of the rules.

Elaine O’Neill, Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA), said that WFFA is developing two low impact harvest prescription templates, one for the Eastside and one for the Westside. She said that they will be reaching out to other stakeholders and then petition the Board to include in the Adaptive Management process.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CMER MEMBERSHIP

Elaine O’Neill, WFFA, said she is here on behalf of Harry Bell and that he is well qualified to be a member of the Cooperative Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Committee (CMER).

CMER MEMBERSHIP

Chris Hanlon-Meier, DNR, recommended that the Board approve Harry Bell as a CMER member.

MOTION: Bill Little moved the Forest Practices Board approve Table 2 dated May 2014 as the current CMER roster that reflects Harry Bell as a member of CMER.

SECONDED: Court Stanley

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE REVISED CMER MASTER PROJECT SCHEDULE

Mark Hick, Department of Ecology (DOE), shared the nexus between the Clean Water Act Assurances and the CMER Master Project Schedule. He also stated that DOE supports the changes to the CMER Master Project Schedule as they support the water quality standards.

Karen Terwilleger, Washington Forest Protection Association, said she commends CMER and Policy for the development of a consensus Master Project Schedule.

REVISED CMER MASTER PROJECT SCHEDULE

Marc Engel, DNR, provided a brief background on how the Master Project Schedule came to be and reviewed the Board’s responsibility outlined in WAC 222-12-045.

Stephen Bernath and Adrian Miller, Policy co-chairs, provided an overview of the Master Project Schedule and reviewed Policy’s process, assumptions, results and budget needs of the Adaptive Management Program. Bernath said all but one project came to consensus and that compromises were made. He also indicated that the Master Project Schedule can be used for: prioritizing biennially projects, a long-term planning document, or a legislative tool to assist in funding requests.

Joe Stohr asked what the resource protection objectives are as he believes this is a fundamental piece that is missing in the prioritization process. Miller responded that Stohr’s question is referred to as a “critical question” and is a result from the Forests and Fish negotiations. These “critical questions” are addressed in the CMER work plan.

Paula Swedeen questioned how long the research projects would take related to glacial deep-seated landslides and what to do in the interim. Miller responded that Policy will provide a comprehensive
review of where the research is at as well as the proposed studies and recommendations for the Board
to consider at their September meeting.

MOTION: Tom Laurie moved the Forest Practices Board approve the 2015 CMER Master
Project Schedule dated August 7, 2014 along with Appendix 1. The Forest Practices
Board also finds that the program is in substantial compliance with the CMER master
project schedule.

SECONDED: Bill Little

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.