

Forest Practices Board
Water Typing System Rule Committee Meeting
November 17, 2021, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Meeting conducted via Zoom

Committee Members Present:

Bob Guenther, Committee Chair and General Public Member
Cody Desautel, General Public Member (10:40 a.m. – 11 a.m.)
David Herrera, General Public Member
Jeff Davis, Director's designee, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Tom Nelson, General Public Member

Staff

Marc Engel and Marc Ratcliff, DNR
Phil Ferester, ATG

Welcome and Introductions

Dave Herrera, Acting Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Anadromous Fish Floor (AFF) Workgroup Updates

Marc Engel, DNR, provided a status of the anadromous fish floor (AFF) Workgroup progress. The workgroup is the policy group for developing AFF recommendations based on the AFF final report and AFF project team's recommendations. He said the AFF charter holds that participation for the workgroup role was open to all caucuses – five caucuses decided to engage in the process. The workgroup's first meeting was November 12.

Engel said the workgroup's direction is taken from the AFF charter, requests from the Committee, and the results of the final AFF report. He said the goal is to have a policy recommendation to the Committee by December 3.

Steve Barnowe-Meyer, AFF Workgroup member, said the primary focus of the workgroup is to determine the AFF alternative. He reminded folks that the AFF is to establish the point where a protocol electrofishing survey may begin and at the same time minimize the need for electrofishing. He said the AFF is a floor concept. He said the workgroup discussed the need for Committee clarification – is the Committee asking the workgroup to recommend possible AFF criteria or determine whether an AFF is needed for the permanent water typing rule?

Committee members agreed that the Committee is seeking a recommendation for an AFF for the rule, that the Committee will accept either a consensus recommendation or a majority/minority result, and that the recommendation is needed for the Committee to share with the full Board.

Barnowe-Meyer said the AFF workgroup will strive to produce a product within the timeline they have been given by the Committee.

Engel said the next workgroup meeting is on November 19 with two more meetings scheduled throughout November. He said they are attending AFF Project Team meetings to keep up to date and gain further understanding.

Committee Nelson asked if the project team considered having the final AFF report sent out for a peer reviewed similar to how CMER products are handled.

Ash Roorbach, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, they have not discussed that option. The project team agreed that it would be good to have the findings submitted for periodical papers, but if that were to occur, the final report would look a lot different than the current draft.

Engel acknowledged that if the Committee requested additional work or if they needed additional updates, the Committee could schedule additional Committee meetings.

Next Steps

Acting Committee Chair Herrera acknowledged that the next steps for developing AFF recommendations are already laid out in the existing timeline that the Committee agreed to in October. This includes the anticipated Committee meetings and due dates for AFF products. Final report to be delivered to Committee is December 3.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.