

Timber, Fish, & Wildlife Policy Committee
Regular Meeting
MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 2, 2020 // 9:00AM – 3:00PM
 Remotely held using GoToMeeting

Prepared for TFW Policy by Jacob Hibbeln, AMP Senior Secretary

Motions April 2, 2020	
Motion	Move/Second (Vote)
Motion to accept the March 5 th meeting minutes as modified.	Moved by Barnowe-Meyer, Seconded by Swanson (All caucuses up, Eastside Tribes abstained, Federal Caucus absent)

Action Items April 2, 2020	
Action	Responsibility
Chris Mendoza, CMER Co-chair, will send a final edited version of the CMER SAG Updates to Jacob Hibbeln. Hibbeln will forward these to Policy.	Mendoza, Hibbeln
Alec Brown, Conservation caucus, will send the 25’, 50’, 75’ Prescriptions workgroup conference lines and schedule to Mark Hicks, AMPA, and Hibbeln. Hicks will check with DNR’s attorney to verify that this is necessary to comply with the OPMA.	Brown, Hibbeln
Jim Peters, Westside Tribes, requested that Brown send updates about the Prescriptions Workgroup to Ash Roorbach, NWIFC.	Brown
The Extensive Monitoring Workshop discussion will be delayed until the June Policy meeting.	Co-chairs, Hibbeln
Peters suggested that a task force be formed in order to inform legislators and staff about the significance of the Adaptive Management Program’s and DNR’s budgets in preparation for the 2021 session. At the June or July Policy meetings, there should be a discussion about this which specifically addresses what the strategy and coalition will look like.	Co-chairs
Regarding the BTO Add-on findings, Hicks will send out the relevant documents regarding the past studies (BTO shade and solar studies) to	Hicks, Hibbeln

Policy. Once Policy has had the chance to review these documents, the potential of an ad-hoc work group to create recommendations will be discussed. This should be delayed until the June Policy Meeting. These documents should go out in the May mailing so that everyone has a month to review the documents.	
Hibbeln will develop a Doodle poll to schedule two half day meetings to discuss the budget situation which was a result of the recent legislative session. One of them can be canceled if need be.	Hibbeln
Hibbeln will send out copies of the Monitoring Design Team (MDT) and Stillwater Reports to Policy	Hibbeln

Minutes

Introductions

Veldhuisen & Rentz

Terra Rentz, co-chair, began by reviewing guidance for remote participation (all attendance was remote) and gave a COVID-19 update. She announced that Governor Inslee temporarily suspended the Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA) due to the pandemic. Policy expects to continue meeting and provide public access via web and phone access. During the meeting, Veldhuisen and Rentz reminded all attendees to introduce themselves to provide transparency.

Rentz also explained that the Extensive Riparian Monitoring agenda item was removed from today's discussion because it was seen as premature.

Caucus Updates

Round Table Caucus

Jim Peters, Westside Tribal Caucus, announced that NWIFC is hosting the Anadromous Fish Floor Workshop and it is to be held remotely sometime in April.

Darin Cramer, Industrial Timber Caucus, suggested that Policy prepare for the Extensive Riparian Monitoring Workshop by reviewing the MDT and Stillwater Reports.

March 5th Minutes

Co-chairs & Hibbeln

After one edit was made, Motion #1 to accept the March minutes as modified was made and passed with all caucus' thumbs up.

CMER SAG Updates

Mendoza

Chris Mendoza, CMER co-chair, reviewed the edits that were made to the CMER Update after it was distributed to Policy. He also announced that the March CMER meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19. Curt Veldhuisen, co-chair, asked if CMER would happen remotely next month and Mark Hicks, AMPA, confirmed this.

Type Np Workgroup Updates

Cramer

Darin Cramer, Industrial Timber Caucus, stated that the Type Np work group met in March and spent most of the time working through sections of a report they started on a couple months ago. They have a list of to do items which includes narrowing the list of relevant outside scientific publications. The April meeting will be held remotely and the status of the June and July meetings is to be determined.

Technical Small Forest Landowner Prescription Workgroup

Brown

Alec Brown, Conservation Caucus, reported that the Technical SFL Prescriptions workgroup has met 3 times and members have reviewed nine alternate plans thus far. Approximately 4 more meetings are needed to recommend alternative prescriptions to Policy.

Legislative Session Update

Round Table Caucus

Jason Callahan, WFLPA Legislative Coordinator, provided details on bills related to the FREP (Forested Riparian Easement Program) and SFLO programs as well as the Aerial Herbicide Application bill.

Rentz spoke for WDFW, stating that they received the majority of their supplemental budget requested this session. However, nothing has been officially signed and COVID-19 might affect this.

Peters gave an update on money that was authorized last legislative session in which will now be given to Westside tribes this year as a result of fixing some proviso language.

Co-chair nominations

Veldhuisen & Rentz

Veldhuisen began by stating the need for new co-chair nominations as both his and Rentz's terms expire soon and asked if any caucus members had any names or comments. After nobody stepped forward, Rentz stated that she is willing to extend her term if she needs to but someone needs to replace her by the end of the year at the latest.

She requested that all caucus representatives speak to their caucuses about co-chair duties. There is no pressure on the Counties caucus because Scott Swanson, County Caucus, was the previous co-chair. SFLO, Ecology, and WFPA agreed to ask around in an attempt to find someone willing to serve as co-chair.

WFFA is not able to provide a co-chair for Policy but is working on a new co-chair for CMER.

Bull Trout Overlay (BTO) Discussion

Hicks

Rentz reviewed the original motion language which was decided on at the February 2019 Policy meeting. Despite the fact that Policy agreed to take no action, it committed to wrapping up process steps for the original studies (BTO Shade and Solar). The goal should be to identify a pathway moving forward or a timeline for completion.

Hicks and Teresa Miskovic, Adaptive Management Program, have been searching through past records and can help orchestrate the conversation moving forward. The hope is that people will consider past records and observe through a refreshed lens.

Steve Barnowe-Meyer, Small Forest Landowner Caucus, suggested the possibility of forming an ad-hoc workgroup once Policy has had the chance to review pertinent documents. This idea will be further discussed at the June meeting. Hicks will have the appropriate documents gathered in time for the May mailing so that Policy has a month to review.

Budget Precursor Discussion

Hicks

Rentz first stated that the budget discussion will be centered on reviewing the changes in the DNR budget which happened as a result of the past legislative session. Because of this change, there is no longer a decision to be made on the Master Project Schedule (MPS) for use of unspent funds. This will now likely be a Forest Practices Board decision.

Hicks gave an overview of the implications of the budget shortfall and what that might mean for the Adaptive Management Program. He emphasized this is viewed as a one-time spending cut and he is not planning yet for a long-term budget shortfall. More details can be found on the overview document which was circulated to Policy during lunch.

It was agreed the Adaptive Management Program is not just solely DNR's program and that all cuts to the program should be shared with Policy before an official decision is made. It is essential that Policy stay informed on this issue. Hicks explained that the MPS he is presenting is not a final decision but a high level overview of what reductions in spending *could* look like.

Master Project Schedule (MPS) Review

Hicks

Elaine O'Neil, SFL Caucus, requested that the conversation begin with preserving non-tribal participation grants. She feels these are essential and stated her confusion about how cuts were distributed. She thinks that partners such as WFFA do not have equal participation and that this is more of a principle conversation that reaches beyond the budget challenges being discussed today.

Hicks reviewed the section of the MPS overview which covers what his proposed cuts would be to meet the DNR target for AMP reductions, and explained the changes requested by DNR to non-tribal participation grants. Hicks reminded everyone he is presenting recommended solutions and that no formal decisions have been made.

Hicks then continued to review the MPS line by line and gave clarifications as needed. Key goals were to keep active projects moving and delay refilling staff positions and projects that have not started. Several caucus members had clarifying questions regarding specific line items such as water typing and the unstable slopes criteria project.

Cramer gave a high-level review, from WFFA's perspective, of where he thinks cuts should come from, emphasizing the importance of maintaining the operational capacity of DNR as much as possible without losing any long-term investments made in the AMP.

Rentz stated the need for a clear explanation of what role Policy has to play in this.

Hicks commented on the strange nature of the situation that the AMP and Policy is currently in. Policy will try to generate any consensus recommendations to DNR that can be provided on a short timeline. If consensus is not reached, there is the possibility of the FPB taking a majority vote because there is not enough time to go through a dispute resolution process.

Cramer stated that he does not want to halt any projects but that there might be less money in the future due to COVID-19. He wondered if Policy could create some broad recommendations.

After several ideas were expressed for how to distribute budget cuts, the idea of having one or two emergency Policy meetings soon to discuss this budget situation in the hope of developing some kind of recommendation for the FPB was discussed. Hibbeln will schedule 2 meetings for the following week based on people's schedules and one can be cancelled if need be. These will be half day (3 hour) meetings.

Conclusions

Veldhuisen & Hibbeln

Veldhuisen and Hibbeln reviewed the Action Items, after which meeting was adjourned.

Participants by Caucus

All attendees by video conference and/or phone participation.

Conservation Caucus

**Alec Brown (WEC)
Chris Mendoza (CMER Co-chair)

County Caucus

**Scott Swanson (Counties)
Kendra Smith (Skagit County)

Eastside Tribal Caucus

John Sirois (Upper Columbia United Tribes)
Laura Robinson (UCUT)
Todd Baldwin (Kalispell)
Note: No caucus lead present, above were observers

Large Industrial Landowner Caucus

**Darin Cramer (WFPA)
Doug Hooks (WFPA)
Jason Callahan (WFPA)
Joe Murray (WFPA)

Small Forest Landowner Caucus

**Steve Barnowe-Meyer (WFFA)
Elaine O'Neil (WFFA)
Ken Miller (WFFA)
Harry Bell (WFFA)

State Caucus

**Brandon Austin (ECY)
**Don Nauer (WDFW)
**Marc Engel (DNR)
Terra Rentz (WDFW / Co-Chair)
John Heimburg (WDFW)
Aimee McIntyre (WDFW)
Marc Ratcliff (DNR)
Patricia Anderson (DNR)

Westside Tribal Caucus

**Jim Peters (NWIFC)
Ash Roorbach (NWIFC)
Curt Veldhuisen (SRSC / Co-Chair)
Debbie Kay (Suquamish)
Joseph Pavel (Skokomish)

Adaptive Management Program/CMER Staff

Mark Hicks (AMPA)
Ben Flint (AMP)
Eszter Munes (AMP)
Heather Gibbs (AMP)
Jacob Hibbeln (TFW/CMER Senior Secretary)
Jenelle Black (CMER)
Teresa Miskovic (AMP)

**Caucus Lead