

Timber, Fish & Wildlife Policy Committee  
2019 Action Items & Decisions

v.2.10.20

January 6, 2020	
Action	Responsibility
CMER Updates	CMER Co-chairs
Resolution on Riparian Shade Characterization	Policy
Budget Meetings will occur to develop a Master Project Schedule and figure out what to do with unspent funds.	Policy
Develop draft charter for one of the two workgroups resulting from the SFL AP template proposal.	Co-chairs and AMPA
Request for members of workgroups resulting from the SFL AP template proposal will be sent out by different members.	Policy
Review critical questions regarding the Amphibians in Intermittent Streams Project.	Policy
Type Np Workgroup Update.	Jacob Hibbeln
Policy help to find a replacement of Doug Hooks as the co-chair of CMER.	Policy
Consider replacement of Curt Veldhuisen and Terra Rentz as co-chairs in mid 2020.	Policy
Draft memo regarding unspent CMER funds.	Co-chairs and AMPA
Report on Type Np Workgroup progress.	Workgroup Co-chairs and Heather Gibbs

Decision	Notes
Approve the December (12-5) meeting summaries as amended.	The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.
Have CMER send Policy Alternate RCS Study Designs prior to it being sent to ISPR	The Eastside Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.
Have a Type Np Workgroup Update on the agenda every other month or as needed.	Jacob Hibbeln
Put Type N Meeting notes on Website.	Heather Gibbs

## **Welcome, Introductions, and Old Business**

### Introductions

- Terra out sick. She might join via the phone; Mark Hicks and Curt Veldhuisen are co-chairing today.
- Chris Conklin has been promoted to Habitat Program Deputy Director and attended to say goodbyes. Don Nauer taking his place temporarily. DFW is currently looking for someone to replace Conklin

### Meeting Notes and Co-chairs' updates

- Small Forest Landowners Caucus motioned to accept December meeting minutes after going through on-screen edits; seconded by Westside Tribes. **Motion passed.**
- February is a double meeting (2/6/ is a budget workshop; 2/7 is regular business)

### Caucus Updates

- Darin Cramer, Industrial Timber Landowner Caucus, mentioned upper-level personnel changes with DNR and Ecology. As follows:
  - o Melissa Gildersleeve, Ecology, has an announcement for who will replace her at Policy but cannot say anything yet because due process is needed for full announcement.
  - o Marc Engel, DNR announced that his workload has been split up and that Mary McDonald started in December as ADM of Policy and Services; Engel is now focused entirely on policy
  - o DNR Executive Management: Josh Wilund, Amalia Walton both left DNR. Vacant department supervisor. Two temporary deputies have been appointed. Dave Norman (Division Manager of Washington Geological Survey) retired; Casey Hanell filled that role.
- Mark Hicks, AMPA went over personnel updates in the AMP. He introduced Ben Flint (Supervisory Project Manager) and Eszter Munes (Project manager); more time is needed to check references on Eastside CMER Scientist position due to the Holidays.

### Type NP Workgroup Reporting

- Darin Cramer stated that an update is on the work plan as a monthly item but is sometimes unnecessary. This month's meeting is on Thursday after Policy. More of an update will happen in February. An update every other month is more appropriate than every month.

## **CMER Update**

### Update on last CMER meeting from Co-chairs (Doug Hooks)

- A presentation was given on the Forest Wetlands Effectiveness Project (FWEP). Final study design (approved by ISPR) has been approved by CMER. The study will transition towards an implementation phase.
- WetSAG updates: Literature review needs to be consolidated and brought back to CMER. WetSAG will be coming back to CMER for approval when they know how much it will cost to complete.

- Patti Shramek is no longer with CMER now that Jacob has been hired as AMP Administrative Assistant.
- CMER Annual Accomplishments list was approved and is to be posted on the DNR website
- Discussions on Amphibians in Intermittent Streams Project Charter:
  - o Not approved, sent back to LWAG so they can incorporate comments. Hopefully approved by January if not February.
  - o Chris Mendoza reminded Policy that Project Charters are 'living documents' and subject to change during project scoping, study design and implementation.
  - o Curt Veldhuisen: Policy will review critical questions
- Regarding the Riparian Characteristics and Shade Study design: comments have been made on the draft study design. Final approval not made due to questions about the study design not following the initial scoping document approved by CMER and Policy. Study needs to go back to RSAG to clarify the scope of work needed to complete the study design before going to ISPR.
- Extensive Riparian Vegetation Monitoring and Model (ERVM) Transferability Testing- small amount of money is still needed for this project.
- SAG's discussing rescheduling their meetings to better coincide with CMER during holidays.
- Regarding the replacement of Hooks as CMER co-chair: someone needs to step up.

### **CMER Update**

- There are unspent funds in first year of biennium
- CMER instructed SAG's to keep project budgets in mind in preparation for January CMER meeting. Any updates should be a one pager; project rankings by CMER as part of plans for unspent funds are necessary.
- Regarding the Roads Project managed by CMER: the project is operational and collecting data.
- Information management system is in the budget so there will be money to maintain this at the NWIFC.
- Chris Mendoza: The FP Board's Water Typing committee made recommendations to the board; 4 of those motions passed. The Board referred 3 of those recommendations to CMER. CMER motioned for ISAG to take the lead in addressing the FP Board request.

### **Discussion on Policy and co-chair update**

- Terra Rentz and Curt Veldhuisen are leaving posts as co-chairs in mid-2020 and need to be replaced.
- Mark Hicks, AMPA, is still hoping people that will step forward. It ideally will not be a mandate. A system for choosing co-chairs would be beneficial.
- Melissa Gildersleeve, Ecology, asked how co-chairs are selected and the mechanics of how co-chairs work. She asked if co-chairs are people from the table.
- Jim Peters, NWIFC, said that typically co-chairs are people on the committee. They switch roles when speaking for their caucus.
- Chris Mendoza, Conservation: Co-chairs for CMER have rotated so as to create sense of ownership and also makes people more empathetic toward other caucuses. Co-chairs role can

- vary; people can make it whatever they want; workload sharing is an option and it does not have to take a large amount of time. The chair is one piece of a larger team and there is a shared workload. It's not always a huge responsibility because there is support from project managers, staff, etc.
- Mark Hicks, AMPA: CMER has a formal process for selecting co-chairs but written in a way that assumes people want to volunteer. The way it's been going, conversely, is that people are stepping back more. Although it's not policy's job to select CMER co-chairs, it affects their business- The committee has chosen to stick to a voluntary system instead of contracting out co-chair functions.

### **New SFL Template Workgroups: Charters and Memberships**

- The FP Board has given focused work orders to deal with specific issues. The purpose of the first workgroup is to identify what "site-specific conditions a 75 and 50 foot buffer would be acceptable as a prescription for Type F streams and under what, if any, site-specific conditions a 25 foot buffer would be acceptable as a prescription for Type Np streams."
- Charter draft prepared for this task by Steve Barnowe-Meyer, SFL Caucus.
  - o So far, Policy has not drafted a charter for the second workgroup dealing with experimental prescriptions.
  - o Time of completion for both is May 2020. This is meant to be technical workgroups in which policy level people aren't involved. This workgroup should be composed of people that have an extensive understanding of current FP regulations, alternative plan proposals, and field experience.
- Don Nauer, WDFW, noted that experimental prescriptions are also important.
- Marc Engel, DNR, added that clarifications need to be made regarding timing, and decide who actually has the pen/ Should it be Co-Chairs and AMPA or someone from policy? DNR is not yet prepared to identify people for both committees and so there needs to be clarifications on who will occupy seats. More clarity with deliverables and materials needs to be given.
- Steve Barnowe-Meyer, SFL Caucus, reminded Policy that the charter is not a complete product. The template review study is a resource, not the overriding document and should not be the final state of the document. No intention of keeping Policy out of process. It was only sent to co-chairs for the moment. He is more than willing to let other Policy members take a look at this Need to identify people who will work on this charter. Workgroups needs to be formed. He asked if workgroups can that be formed today or if that would have to wait until next meeting. Need clear commitment on timing for charter so work can begin after February meeting.
- Curt Veldhuisen asked if Policy should clarify criteria for people on committee: Should it be people with an understanding of physical and biological stream processes. Does the criteria for members of work groups needs to be more specific. He asked if Policy could settle on criteria for members today.
  - o Barnowe-Meyer pointed out that draft criteria include: Experience with ID teams, regulatory experience
  - o Ken Miller stated needs to be a SFLO perspective in this workgroup.
- Mark Hicks thinks that there needs to be more time specifying task. Another step is necessary that's not in the charter.

- Curt Veldhuisen commented that this is not a short term thing and that timeline should be flexible to account for achieving goals
- Don Nauer asked if this a potential new rule or is it another alternate plan template. There needs to be realistic expectations on timeline. Engel concurred and noted that the timeline seems ambitious.
- Steve Barnowe-Meyer stated that 2 workgroups would be working in tandem and that timeline was suggested by Policy.
- Skillsets for members of workgroup:
  - o Steve Barnowe-Meyer: So far, there hasn't been a discussion of who the chair will be
  - o Expertise in biological and physical stream processes and silviculture/forest engineering
  - o Mark Hicks still thinks there is going to be a challenge to get people on workgroups.
  - o Barnowe-Meyer responded by help to AMPA in order to achieve goals.
  - o Don Nauer added that there needs to be a process for determining workgroup members:
- **Action Item: Request for members of workgroups will be sent out by different members**
- Curt Veldhuisen brought up the need to move toward getting personnel involved and clarifying timeline.
- Scott Swanson, Counties caucus, wants workgroups to report to Policy in May so that it can be discussed at the June Policy meeting.

#### **Bull Trout Overlay (BTO) Add-on Presentation- Dave-Schuett-Hames**

- Presentation on Findings report followed by Q&A by Policy.

#### **Riparian Characteristics and Shade Study Designs**

- Policy previously asked CMER to scope two variations of the study design
- Mark Hicks asked if it was necessary to have independent study designs that have gone all the way through ISPR. CMER is now at odds with themselves and with contractor.
- The general conclusion is that one study should be sent to ISPR and that sending two would be a poor use of funds.
- Curt Veldhuisen commented that having CMER vet study designs would provide an opportunity to solve some of the design and implementation problems without them going through ISPR. He asked what does Policy needs to do to help CMER with this.
  - o Mark Hicks said that nothing else needs to be done at this point. Right now the study is in process with CMER.
- **Motion:** Have CMER send Policy alternate study designs prior to it being sent to ISPR; motion made by Westside Tribes Caucus; seconded by Small Forest Landowners Caucus
  - o All thumbs are up- Feds and Eastside Tribes are absent

#### **Buffer Characteristics, Integrity and Function Study- Findings Delivered**

- Presentation and Finding Report have been delivered and so findings are now accepted by Policy
- Next meeting will have to decide whether or not action should be made.

- BCIF one main study for the scope of work for the Type F workgroup??
  - o Type Np Prescriptions workgroup has received results

### **Legislative Update (Swanson, Jason Callahan WFPA)**

- Since it's a short session it's not a great time to do big things.
- Limited budget
- Aerial Herbicide Group discussion
  - o Process initiated by 2019 Legislature and Chaired by DNR and Dept. of Agriculture
  - o Focused on aerial herbicide application
  - o Ended up with an 11 page report of recommendations- mostly around information gaps regarding the Forest Practices 100 foot rule. There is a need to clarify this.
  - o Board Manual Update- bring up to speed with rules.
  - o Funding for FPARS, making the link easier to find on DNR website. FP Online funding recommendation
    - A better process for submitting complaints and concerns and improving how those are directed. Relook at how investigations actually occur.
- Bill 2166; creates special Forest and Fish license plate for which money would go to tree farm system- non-profit or state agency would receive

Potential Forestry carbon bill; any carbon initiative is hard to pass; sets out idea that landowners are one part of forestry product

- o Growing more trees and having more land in forestry
  - Funding more reforestation after forest fire
  - Aforestation
  - Planting trees in unforested buffers
- Big push for WDFW is budget
  - o There is a deficit of \$26 million that is partially connected to restoration work after forest fires. This splits state wildlife from general fund-state

### **Next Steps**

- Extensive budget conversation on first day of next meeting
- Need budget group to meet before then
- What will happen at Budget Meeting and what will the expectations be?
  - o MPS (Master Project Schedule)
  - o Briefing from CMER members and project managers reviewing status and budget details
  - o Chance to review and rehash budget.
  - o Mark Hicks: one page summaries of active projects to remind folks of what objectives, critical questions. Updated budgets will be completed by AMP. They will cover the following topics:
    - Excess funds
    - Active projects, potential new projects and funding status
- Nauer: based on last year, first task was to prioritize, after which the "below the line" projects would be reevaluated.
  - o Mark Hicks: active projects are priority and new ones are also presented. There will be an opportunity to figure out what to do with excess money.

- Steve Barnowe-Meyer noted that last time there was a motion regarding riparian literature synthesis
- Mark Hicks is a month behind on the CMER work plan for unspent funds, but an uncompleted draft will be delivered.
- Policy co-chairs will work with Hicks to draft memo about CMER unspent funds. May be some incomplete info. He's not asking folks to make up their minds on this next meeting since they are not receiving full information.
- Darin Cramer, Industrial Private Timber Caucus stated that the WFPA is proposing new Type N buffer study and he is preparing a Proposal Initiation to the FP Board. This should be ready around next month
- Time frame: is it anticipated that would fall into the queue:
  - o Introduced by Feb, completed by May in order to get approval for experimental harvest
  - o Curt Veldhuisen- would be useful to have a presentation to CMER and Policy
  - o Cramer says this will be ready between February and May.

### **Final conversations**

- Scott Swanson, Counties caucus, mentioned monthly workload document.
  - o Mark Hicks needs a word version
- Steve Barnowe-Meyer, SFL Caucus, asked if there was anticipated time for acquiring ENREP sites. Hicks said that sites haven't been looked at yet because it's not a good time of year to look at sites. University professors are involved and sites will be inspected.

Participants by Caucus at 1/6 Meeting

**Adaptive Management Program**

Mark Hicks, Adaptive Management Program Administrator  
Jacob Hibbeln, AMP Staff  
Ben Flint, AMP Staff  
Teresa Miskovic, AMP Staff

**Conservation Caucus**

\*Alec Brown, Washington Environmental Coalition  
Chris Mendoza, Conservation Caucus, CMER Co-chair

**County Caucus**

\*Scott Swanson, WSAC

**Industrial Timber Landowner Caucus**

\*Darin Cramer, WFPA  
Doug Hooks, WFPA, CMER Co-chair

**Small Forest Landowner Caucus**

\*Steve Barnowe-Meyer, WFFA  
\*Ken Miller, WFFA

**State Caucus, DNR**

Marc Engel, WADNR

**State Caucus, Ecology and WDFW**

\*Don Nauer, WDFW  
\*Melissa Gildersleeve, WECY  
Terra Rentz, WDFW/ Policy Co-chair

**Tribal Caucus – Westside**

Ash Roorbach, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission  
\*Jim Peters, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission  
Curt Veldhuisen, Skagit River System Cooperative/ Policy Co-chair

\*caucus representative