

Timber, Fish, & Wildlife Policy Committee  
June 7, 2018 **FINAL** Meeting Summary

Action	Responsibility
<b>Meet before July meeting</b>	Budget subgroup

Decision	Notes
<b>Approve the May meeting summary without edits.</b>	The federal caucus was absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.

Welcome, Introductions, & Old Business- Policy Co-Chair Scott Swanson opened the meeting, joined by temporary Co-Chair Karen Terwilleger. Curt will step in as Co-Chair in July, and Scott expressed appreciation for Karen stepping in. Curt will not be a voting member. Terra Rentz will replace Scott as Co-Chair in August.

Ray Entz proposed adding the Hard Rock Study to the agenda and the Co-Chairs approved.

Policy reviewed the May draft meeting summary.

**Decision:**

The May meeting summary was approved. The federal caucus was absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.

Update from CMER Co-Chairs on May CMER Meeting- Abstracts from the CMER science conference are on the CMER webpage.

Update on May Board Meeting- Marc Engel reviewed the May Board meeting.

- The Board accepted the FY19 budget.
- The Board is expecting a biennial recommended budget from Policy at their August meeting. DNR must deliver that balanced budget to OFM in September in order to be included in the Governor's budget for the next biennium.
- The Board also heard an update from the AMP efficiency subcommittee. They have been challenged by scheduling.
  - One caucus noted that they believed that Connie Lewis had not contacted all the members of the Federal caucus and strongly recommended that step be taken.

Update on Water Typing Rule Progress-

- The Board approved a new timeline for the development of the rulemaking packet, with delivery to board in May 2019. The timeline is on the DNR website.

- DNR will continue the Board Manual stakeholder group.
- The Board discussed the PHB validation study. They will get an update from DNR on this study at the August Board Meeting. The PHB pilot, beginning July 1, has been funded. In May, Marc Ratcliff convened technical experts in the field to test drive the three sets of PHB guidance. There will be a status update of field testing at the August Board meeting.
- DNR has convened an economist working group. DNR will contract out the economic analysis, with assistance from DNR, Industry, Conservation, Ecology and Tribal economists and expects a preliminary analysis by the end of October. The economic analysis is not funded by the AMP budget.
- Several caucuses noted that they thought DNR might be using multiple mailing lists due to some communications inconsistency.

Budget: Fund Balance- Hans reviewed the fund balance. AMP funding comes from the Forests and Fish (F&F) Support Account (or FFSA) (funded by the B&O tax on wood products industry), and from the State General Fund. In FY 13-15, the legislature learned that there was a need for \$5.9 million to fund AMP research, \$2.95 million per fiscal year. In FY 13-15, OFM observed that the AMP spending was not as rapid as expected. There was a need to fund the McCleary decision and it was noted that F&F support account had a positive balance. Unspent funds in F&F support account do not vanish at end of biennium like the State General Fund. The AMP had spent general fund monies first, and then the F&F money. The fund shift entailed \$1.1 million spent from F&F and \$4.8 million from the General Fund. The net program did not change, only the funding source. That fund shift was biennialized by OFM and the legislature, meaning that it continues without an end date. In current biennium, there was \$4.3 mil in fund balance. A total of 2.6 million for FY 17-19 came out of the FFSA, leaving \$1.7 million.

The \$1.7 million needs to be available to cover the \$1.1 million fund shift. At the conclusion of the biennium, FFSA will have \$606,000 left. There will be a bill for \$1.1 million in the next biennium, so the AMP will have -\$508,000, unless something changes in biennialized fund shift, or less money is spent, assuming that state general funds do not change.

Concern was expressed that participation funds will be cut to permit this biennialized fund shift to continue. Hans recommended that Policy should demonstrate the funding need, and advocate using more General Fund funding rather than FFSA. Policy discussed the possibility of a legislative issue subgroup.

Master Project Schedule and Budget- Budget subcommittee members brought forward a recommendation for a starting place. Mark Hicks noted that the subcommittee approached the effort by assuming they would not change any decisions for FY 17-19, and would focus on putting Policy within striking distance of a consensus budget for FY 19-21. Scott kept the subgroup on track with Policy's "additional language" goals from the April 2018 meeting. The subcommittee would like Policy to consider placing projects without consensus below the line.

These projects would not leave the spreadsheet, but they would open room for projects with higher priority and full consensus. This would support the ongoing conversation with the Board on the implications of additional projects. Policy would have to have a consensus discussion to agree to spend extra money on these projects; the Board may have a role depending on the amount of money being spent. Hans suggested breaking below the line projects into discrete one year chunks for maximum budget flexibility. Caucuses noted that some of the projects moved below the line were a high priority for some caucuses. Keeping them on, but below the line, is more of a compromise than taking them off the list. Policy discussed CMER’s role in bringing both new and old projects to Policy for inclusion in the budget. Policy will check on FY 18 spending at the September meeting and could discuss use of unspent funds at that time.

Notes on the budget spreadsheet (project specific notes below):

- Some project costs were spread between years.
- A zero in the budget line means the project is happening, but has no associated budget (e.g., it is being done by CMER staff or through partnership agreements).
- Yellow cells represent where Hans and PIs cut budgets.
- Sandy colored cells in out years represent tweaks.

AMP Budget Line Item Notes:

Line Number	Project Name	Notes on budget
Administration and Program Staff: a cost of living increase for staff was added.		
7	Program Administration (AMPA and Contract Specialist)	AMPA has tightened the budget on tasks such as ISPR management.
9	CMER Scientists	This number includes three FTEs at NWIFC, benefits and overhead. Two unfilled vacancies for a geologist and wetlands biologist are not captured. Project needs are presently met by contractors, but AMP could let the contractors go and hire CMER scientists. AMP benefits from the continuity provided by a staff scientist. Policy highlighted the importance of revisiting this hiring decision periodically.
10	CMER Science Staff located Eastside (starting date of December 2018)	This number includes one FTE, benefits and overhead.
11	Independent Scientific Peer-Review	This number is updated based on contracts.
12	TFW Policy Committee facilitation	The budget subcommittee felt continued notetaking/facilitation is necessary.
14	CMER Conference	Cost reduced for FY2020-21 based on assumption that it will not be filmed. This maintains a biannual schedule. Part of the

		\$5,000 amount is to cover speaker travel costs.
15	Contingency Fund for Active Projects	The contingency fund is zeroed out in this version of the budget. Historically, very little of the fund was used for CMER contingency. This is important to highlight for the Board because they have used the fund for studies, such as LiDAR. Funding has supported travel and participation costs. For future biennia, the new proposal is to put 100k in the first FY of each biennium.
Board Directed Projects		
19	LiDAR Based Water Typing Model/Physicals Study Design (combined)	This project will be completed in this biennium. If a follow-up project comes out of this, Policy does not have a budget space saved for that. A LiDAR-based follow-up project would be more important than a physicals-based project. Policy discussed how postprocessing is the most expensive component of LiDAR work and how some regions have LiDAR data already. Policy agreed to make a below the line notation for follow-up work on this topic (see Line 104).
20	Potential Habitat Break Validation/Evaluation Study (Pilot and 1st Year of Sampling)	Hans talked to project team and looked at places to make some cuts. FY20-21 cover field collection. The AMP cut \$35,000 in FY20 and \$25,000 in FY21. FY22 costs may grow based on the potential inclusion of eDNA. FY23 is reporting.
21	WFFA Template PI Technical Assessment	The project will end in FY19 with a draft report on findings of technical assessment for the technical PI subcommittee.
Active Research Projects		
24	Riparian Literature Synthesis Project	This project is done and all the contractor's materials have been sent to the line 21 contractor.
26	RSAG_Extensive Riparian Status and Trends Monitoring- Vegetation, Type F/N- Westside (Remote Sensing)	CMER is working on a scoping document with recommended next steps to operationalize the remote sensing. Checking different approaches related to extensive monitoring could lead to better results. \$50,000 is placeholder to continue to work with UW and outside experts to come up with strategy and produce a report with recommendations for moving forward. Out-year follow-up would be below the line (see line 99 as a placeholder). Hans described

		this line as \$50,000 to get \$500,000 of work ready to implement.
Projects in Study Design and Moving to Implementation:		
34	CWA_TWIG_Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness (ENREP)	Some cost savings were found through using existing equipment and reducing overhead rates through contracting. There is a possibility of additional reductions in out years based on contracts.
35	TWIG_Westside Type F Riparian Prescription Monitoring	The RFP for this work has been put out. No changes in budget are anticipated in the next biennium. The zero line Column E assumes that CMER staff would do the work in FY 2021.
36	CWA_TWIG_Road Prescription-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring	Per Hans, this number represents a tight budget and cannot be adjusted without compromising the study.
37	CWA_TWIG_Unstable Slopes Criteria Evaluation and Development	AMP staff is reconvening the group conducting this work to see if they can find efficiencies that do not sacrifice study. They will meet in June, possibly bringing updated numbers in July.
38	CWA_TWIG_Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Study	Estimates for the project, the timeline and budgets could change in ISPR.
39	UPSAG_Deep Seated Research Strategy	This line could be reduced by \$125,000 in the biennium if CMER staff did the work rather than contractor. \$200,000 was deferred to the second year of the project.
Projects Starting Study Design or Scoping		
42	ISAG_Literature Synthesis: Default Physical Criteria Assessment Project	ISAG is still working on this project, relying on line 19 study design.
Projects scoped through CMER and/or ISPR and ready for implementation		
45	CWA_UPSAG_Road Sub-Basin-Scale Effectiveness Monitoring - Resample	Moved below the line.
46	CWA_LWAG_Amphibians in Intermittent Streams	Moved below the line.
Projects needing study design and/or scoping		
48	RSAG_Riparian Characteristics and Shade Study	This seems to be missing the funding study design in FY 20-21. The project is open for a timing change. The cost could be \$3,000 each year.

49	CWA_WetSAG_Wetlands Management Zone Effectiveness Monitoring	The budget group restructured the funds into \$25,000 per year. The project could start earlier with unspent funds in FY19 if Policy would like.
50	LWAG_Van Dykes Salamander	Moved below the line to line 99. Policy discussed the inclusion of this project below the line. The Co-Chairs suggested that Policy reach a balanced budget, than address below the line projects in July. Policy agreed to continue the conversation.
52	SAGE_Eastside Timber Habitat Types Evaluation Project (ETHEP)	The work is being done by Eastside scientist position. See footnote.
53	RSAG_Extensive Riparian Status and Trends Monitoring--PHASE 3	Moved below the line .
Projects to be reevaluated for inclusion		
56	Windthrow Data Synthesis	Struck from MPS; still in CMER workplan.
57	ISAG_Literature Synthesis: Recoverable/Restorable Fish Habitat Project	Struck from MPS; still in CMER workplan.
58	LWAG_Eastside Amphibian Evaluation	Moved below the line.
Extended Monitoring for Projects		
60	Add On_LWAG_Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Project in Hard Rock Lithologies--Extended Monitoring: AMPHIBIANS - 2 years	Out years moved below the line.
61, 62		Removed.
63	Add on_Type N Experimental Buffer Treatment Project - Soft Rock Lithologies--Extended monitoring through 2020, FY2021	Follow up to line 27 and 28. Line 102 is below the line and related follow-up.

The Co-Chairs and Policy asked the budget subgroup to meet again before the July meeting to continue to balance the budget.

Hard Rock Study- Ray Entz noted that all chapters of the Hard Rock Study were given to Policy in October, and caucuses discussed the delay in starting the clock. Hans noted that the precedent is that Policy can ask for findings reports for individual chapters. The additional findings reports will be approved by CMER in June and come to Policy in July.

Attachment 1 – Participants by Caucus at 6/7 Meeting\*

**Conservation Caucus**

\*Alec Brown  
Mary Scurlock

**County Caucus**

Kendra Smith, Skagit County  
\*Scott Swanson, WSAC, Chair

**Industrial Timber Landowner Caucus**

\*Karen Terwilleger, WFPA, Chair

**Small Forest Landowner Caucus**

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

**State Caucus – DNR**

\*Marc Engel, DNR

**State Caucus – Ecology & WDFW**

\*Rich Doenges, Ecology  
Mark Hicks, Ecology  
\*Don Nauer, WDFW

**Tribal Caucus – Westside**

\*Jim Peters, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission  
Ash Roorbach, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission  
Curt Veldhuisen, Skagit River System Cooperative

**Tribal Caucus – Eastside**

\*Ray Entz, Kalispel/UCUT  
Marc Gautier, UCUT  
Todd Baldwin, Kalispel

\*caucus representative

**Others**

Hans Berge, Adaptive Management Program Administrator  
Howard Haemmerle, Adaptive Management Program  
Rachel Aronson, Triangle Associates

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Doug Hooks, WFPA and CMER Co-Chair

Jenny Knoth, Green Crow and CMER Co-Chair