

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee
 May 22, 2007
 9am – 4pm
 NWIFC Conference Center
 Minutes**

Attendees:

Baldwin, Todd	Kalispel Tribe, SAGE co-chair
Black, Jenelle	NWIFC, CMER Staff
Butts, Sally	USFWS, BTSAG co-chair
Cramer, Darin	DNR, AMPA
Davis, Chase	Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT)
Ehinger, Bill	Ecology, RSAG Tri-Chair
Heide, Pete	WFPA
Hayes, Mark	WDFW
Hicks, Mark	Ecology
Hunter, Mark	WDFW, RSAG
Jackson, Terry	WDFW, BTSAG Co-chair
Jacobsen, Deanna	Suquamish Tribe
MacCracken, Jim	Longview Fiber, LWAG co-chair
Martin, Doug	WFPA contractor; CMER co-chair
McConnell, Steve	UCUT
Mendoza, Chris	Conservation Caucus contractor, RSAG Tri-Chair
Miller, Adrian	WFPA
Miller, Dick	WA Farm Forestry Association
Mobbs, Mark	Quinault Indian Nation
Moon, Teresa	DNR Project Manager
Robinson, Tom	Washington State Association of Counties
Schuett-Hames, Dave	NWIFC, CMER Staff
Sturhan, Nancy	DNR Forest Practices, CMER Co-chair

Minutes from previous meetings: Sturhan

Minutes from the February, March and April meetings were approved as revised.

Assignments:

DOE Temp Modeling - CMER requested that RSAG carry on with review of the 6 questions and bring them to CMER for approval with the document next month	RSAG
Type N Exp Buffer Project - CMER leadership team to meet with project management team to manage risk of losing sites	Cramer, Martin, Sturhan, Marc Hayes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Darin will pull description and objectives from Gtrotfendt contract to use as abstract. 	Cramer

Policy Meeting Report: Cramer

The Policy Committee provided guidance to the Wetland SAG to proceed with scoping on the wetland mitigation project. UPSAGs proposed changes to the sampling plan for the road sub-basin monitoring plan were approved. Policy approved having the LHZ project carrying over remaining unused funds from FY07 into FY08, and will consider the FY08 request at the June budget meeting. Policy approved the contract with Steve Toth for coordination of the Eastside Temperature Effectiveness (BTO) Projects for FY 08. They will look into the availability of staff for a half time CMER coordinator. Policy approved Sally Butts (USFWS) as CMER co-chair to replace Doug Martin at the end of his term. Sally starts July 1, 2007.

Assignments from last meeting: Cramer and Sturhan

- All assignments were completed.

ISPR Update: Cramer

UW is in the process of assembling reviewers for the UPSAG mass wasting prescription effectiveness project.

SAG Requests

RSAG – WDOE Hardwood Conversion Temperature Model Report (Ehinger)

- *Six-questions have not been approved by RSAG yet. CMER requested that RSAG carry on with review of the 6 questions and bring them to CMER for approval with the document next month.
- Discussed how far CMER should expect conclusions to go. Objectives of the study were met, but conclusions did not talk about tools that could be developed from the information. The small forest landowners group can review the information in the report and consider proposing to Policy tools that could be developed.

RSAG – Extensive Riparian Monitoring – Stream Temperature Component study design for CMER approval (Ehinger/Black)

RSAG is decoupling the extensive temperature component from the riparian component. The temperature study design has addressed SRC comments and is being submitted for CMER approval. RSAG intends to implement temperature monitoring at 50 sites on eastside Type F streams this summer. Further work is needed to develop/test sampling methods for the riparian component.

- ***CMER APPROVED the changes to the study design for the extensive temperature component and moving ahead with temperature monitoring of eastside streams this summer.**

LWAG/RSAG – Type N Experimental (Basalt) study design changes (Ehinger)

- Changes were explained (see SAG request document);
- Discussed difference between statistical significance versus biological significance and importance of considering those when considering study design and modifications. Be sure to be very precise and clear about meaning and context of “significant effect” when reporting.

- Concerns expressed about what happens to long-term study if more sites fall out. We need to take care when establishing sites to stay in communication with landowners. CMER can help by paying careful attention to progress of projects, and communicate with Policy and landowners about need for staying with research plan. Hayes noted that study could still be conducted if we were reduced to three blocks; suggested that internal project management can pay special attention to minimizing site loss by communicating with PM early when issues arise. Can more sites be added? Efforts unsuccessful at this time (300 alternative sites have been investigated, but not able to add any). Also, temporal discontinuity becomes a problem in analysis.
- ***Request for changes to study design and 6-questions APPROVED; take to Policy**
- *CMER leadership team to meet with project management team to manage risk of losing sites
- *Noted that quarterly reports important, but that Project Manager also needs to bring up any significant issues between quarterly reports (include in PSM mods)

RSAG - Grotefendt final exploratory report for CMER approval

- No CMER review necessary (exploratory report). Contract has ended. Lack of abstract and objectives criticized; propose that these be added before approval. Lack of recommendations for use and limitations on each method criticized; conclusions supplied were not caveated enough; better summary would be useful. Report met objectives of contract and will be useful CMER tool as it stands.
- ***Report accepted;** Darin will pull description and objectives out of contract Statement of Work to use as abstract.

RSAG – McConnell report and 6 questions for CMER approval (Mendoza)

- *Report revisions have been approved by reviewers. Author feels content is complete, but some formatting/figure clarification still needs to be done. No contract time left to revise formatting. Title issues discussed; author and Darin will resolve before sending to Policy. Author will revise formatting in time to provide prior to Policy meeting. **CMER APPROVED the report with minor changes.**
- Author has table that lists short titles for all documents along with their content for reference.
- Three versions of 6-questions extant; request CMER decide which to use. These “6-questions” are reduction from overall DFC study “6-questions” specific to this portion (“Desktop Analysis”) of the study; differences of opinion among RSAG members are general, rather than specific. This document is long. Current RSAG version does include earlier comments from Murray. Options:
 - Return to RSAG (rejected)
 - *Have Darin distill short version from lengthy 6-questions documents; if RSAG/CMER don’t agree with revision, then members must go to their Policy person to address at Policy (**APPROVED**)
 - Send both to Policy (rejected)

- Should it be AMPA's job as CMER's Policy liaison is to do 6-questions? Could start with draft from PI, SAG, and CMER, but AMPA could better address Policy's needs. Others argued that it was more appropriate for SAGs to do this because they know technical aspects of report. Discussion on this topic moved to next month's CMER meeting (June).

LWAG - RMZ resample study and 6 questions – assign reviewers

- Looking for reviewers; NWIFC is looking for one; Sally Butts will review; Terry Jackson looking, Mark Hayes will review amphibian portion. Comment period 30 days (July 1). Two entities reviewing deemed adequate.
- Hunter requests that reviewers be well-briefed on CMER objectives. Cover sheet goes to reviewers that clarifies.
- ISPR review will occur this summer

***LWAG – RMZ contract time extension and budget increase (Moon)**

- Time & Materials not to exceed \$20,000 (FY08 budget item)
- To cover additional work requested that went beyond original contract (response to review processes not originally contracted for)
- **APPROVED**

***BTSAG – budget amendment for MB&G**

- Eastern WA bull trout overlay project, solar portion
- Contract was due to expire in 2007 (began in 2003). Issues with locating study sites and implementation of treatments caused delay. Last site expected to be treated in 2008, meaning last data collection in 2010 and reporting in 2011. Currently have just time extension to end of September 2007, allowing time for FPB approval of budget & time revision.
- Proposal here is to amend budget (\$348,499) and time amendment through 2011, contingent each year on continued funding approval. FY2008 budget addition is \$58,000. Additions cover:
 - Change of contract period from 2003-2007 to 2003-2011
 - Increase of contractor rates
 - Added interim report due to long extension of project
 - Three rounds of report reviews
 - Addition of 3 replacement sites due to site attrition
 - Project management field trips with contractors
 - CMER Science Conference presentations (final year only)
- Large budget increase. How does this affect funding for other projects? Must discuss in context of afternoon session.
- **APPROVED**

***SAGE – Type N Characterization budget modification request**

- Move \$30k for study design from FY07 Tier1 to FY08 Tier1, subject to study prioritization and Policy retreat approval
- **APPROVED**

SAG Issues:

- None

June agenda items:

- other McConnell DFC reports
- DOE temperature modeling report and 6Q
- resolution for how to handle 6-questions for studies

June Afternoon Science Session: Intensive Monitoring Project/Type N soft lithology

Afternoon session: CMER WORK PLAN for FY 08:

New Projects for Policy to consider for approval at June 2007 budget retreat. Score of 1 indicates high CMER priority, 2 indicates second tier. Projects in *italics* are part of same project and already have PM. “PM req” indicates level of PM effort expected to be needed for the project.

Project	Status	PM reqs	Notes	Score
Type N Windthrow Assessment	pre-scope		Policy?	2
Eastside Type N Char	design	low	Policy?	1
Amphibian use in Intermittent Streams	design	high	Policy?	1
BCIF Westside Type F	site selection	high		1
<i>Extensive Rip.-Temperature</i>	<i>implement</i>	<i>high</i>		<i>1</i>
<i>Extensive Rip.-Veg</i>	<i>design</i>	<i>high</i>		<i>1</i>
DFC Site Class Validation	design		Policy?	
DFC Plot Width	design		Policy?	
Eastside Type F – Instream	scoping		no cost	----
Mass Wasting Rx-scale Effect.	design	low		1
Unstable Landform ID	design		no cost	----
Effectiveness of Stream Sim Clvrt	design		Policy?	2
Fish movement culvrt flume	design		Policy?	2
Wetland Mitigation effectiveness	scoping			2
WMZ Effectiveness	scoping			2
Intensive/N-soft	scoping	high		1