

Draft Policy Response to Procedural Questions Raised by CMER Regarding the Mass Wasting Effectiveness Monitoring Report (Study) and Associated Dispute Resolution

Policy Findings:

- Policy recognizes that issues were raised throughout the Study design and implementation process.
- CMER members voted to move the study through CMER's process while trying to address these issues at different stages.
- Some of these issues were not addressed to all CMER members' satisfaction at the final stage, the Independent Scientific Peer Review (ISPR). However, within the context of CMER' Protocol and Standards Manual, there is little option beyond CMER trying to continue to work out the scientific differences on these issues between themselves.
- Formal Dispute Resolution within CMER should have been allowed to occur before the procedural and technical issues were brought to Policy.
- Questions regarding the satisfactory response by the authors to the ISPR are procedurally appropriate at this stage of the study review.
- After consultations with the authors and CMER members expressing concerns about the Study, Policy recognizes that there is a fundamental difference of opinion on how to characterize the results of this Study and that further attempts to reconcile those differences have a low probability of success.

Policy Direction:

- Policy appreciates and encourages CMER's ongoing efforts to revise the Protocol and Standards Manual to attempt to clarify CMER's procedures regarding process steps and to encourage significant concerns to be raised early as possible in the process.
- Policy requests that CMER complete the Six Questions based on the Version 8a of the Study including consideration of relevant literature. If the Six Questions cannot be completed with consensus, CMER shall include the range of perspectives in answering the Six Questions.
- Policy directs the Adaptive Management Administrator to review Version 8a of the Study, the response matrix, the minority reports and the response to the minority reports, and further CMER member interviews to develop a memo that includes the following:
 - Identification of the suite of issues that have not been satisfactorily resolved through the CMER process and categorize those issues as issues that were passed over through the CMER process or issues relating to how the authors chose to respond or not respond to the ISPR.
 - A summary explanation of these issues aggregated by logical topic areas.
- Policy directs the Adaptive Management Administrator to assemble the following materials for distribution to Policy for consideration of action and for any other public distribution:
 - Response to Six Questions
 - An integrated package that contains the following:

- Adaptive Management Administrator's Summary Memo of the issues in dispute that also provides context for the suite of documents that make up the integrated package.
 - Version 8a of the post mortem report.
 - Synthesis Product
 - Response Matrix
 - Minority Reports
 - Authors' response to Minority Reports
- Upon receipt of this package of work, Policy will begin its process to determine whether or not to take action.