

**Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee
(CMER)
December 18, 2012
DNR/DOC Compound**

Attendees	Representing
Acker, Marty (ph)	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
*Baldwin, Todd (ph)	Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Bernath, Stephen	Dept. of Ecology
chesney, charles (ph)	Dept. of Natural Resources, SAGE Co-chair
Cramer, Darin	Dept. of Natural Resources
Cupp, Eddie	Terrapin Environmental Inc.
Hayes, Marc	Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
*Hicks, Mark	Department of Ecology, CMER Co-chair
Hitchens, Dawn	Dept. of Natural Resources, CMER Coordinator
Hooks, Doug (ph)	Washington Forestry Protection Association
Hotvedt, Jim	Dept. of Natural Resources, AMPA
Jackson, Terry	Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
*Kay, Debbie	Suquamish Tribe
*Kroll, AJ	Weyerhaeuser
Kurtenbach, Amy	Dept. of Natural Resources
*Lingley, Leslie	Dept. of Natural Resources
*Martin, Doug	Washington Forestry Protection Association
McCrea, Chad (ph)	Spokane Tribe of Indians
*Miller, Dick	Washington Family Forestry Association
Mobbs, Mark	Quinault Nation
Picinni, Rose (ph)	Colville Nation
Roorbach, Ash	CMER Staff, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Stewart, Greg	CMER Staff, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Sturhan, Nancy	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

* Indicates official CMER members and alternates; ph indicates attended via phone.

Agenda –No changes were made to the agenda.

CMER –

♦ Information Management System – *CMER Approved the 2013 Contract Proposal*
Nancy Sturhan requested CMER authorization for the NWIFC to develop the contract for this year’s work on the Information Management System (IMS). The focus for this year’s work will be to complete adding all the FFR projects that are completed and ongoing and set up placeholders for projects that continue out to 2017.

Mark Hicks moved to approve the IMS request as amended.
CMER members approved the 2013 contract proposal for the CMER IMS.

CMER Monthly Science Session –

Eddie Cupp from Terrapin Environmental presented on the Eastside Riparian Shade/Temperature project. This is a 12 year CMER project. The study is designed to evaluate the effectiveness of both the all available shade rule and the standard eastside riparian prescriptions in meeting FP HCP resource objectives; and to determine if a difference exists between shade and stream temperature provided by the Bull Trout Overlay all available shade prescriptions and the standard shade requirements. The study design specified a two-year pre-harvest data-collection period, a year for harvesting, and a two-year post-harvest data-collection period. However, due to delays in landowner harvest schedules, post-harvest data collection has also been delayed for many sites, extending the project time line for several years. This study is combined with the Solar Radiation/Effective Shade Project.

Technical Writing and Implementation Group (TWIG) - Revised Decision Process – *CMER Approved the Revisions*

Mark Hicks reported the TAG met and developed a flow chart to illustrate the decision processes; the existing pilot TWIG, the proposed Initial Writing Team (IWT) Phase, and the Technical Writing and Implementation Group (TWIG) phase. The flow chart takes the original TWIG process and shows where the CMER and Policy reviews fit. This is an adaptive process as this can be revised further as CMER uses this approach. CMER members had two months to review this; the chart hits the main steps in the decision making processes of the TWIG.

Discussion Points:

The time frame for the ISPR was brought up as an area for improvement; discussion centered on cutting the time down to 60 days review instead of 120 days, the contractual costs associated with this service, and the potential for an interactive review. This was tabled as a parking lot issue.

The 30 days allotted for the development of a draft study design was identified as unrealistic especially if a contractor is hired for this task. Mark Hicks noted these were rough estimates of days of work rather than maximum calendar periods, and that this can be revised; it was a placeholder for clarifying the general level of effort expected - and intertwining contractor and non-contractor processes together was too complicated.

The concern was raised about the TWIG selected and developed testable problem statement and critical questions to guide the study design work; often it is Policy that directs the study and often Policy needs to be given a series of options. CMER reviews the document that goes to Policy and section 3.4 answered this concern: Policy approves study objectives, problem statement, and critical research questions - to clarify/ prioritize policy questions/needs.

Mark Hicks requested CMER approval of the proposed revised TWIG process with the understanding this is an adaptive process.

CMER members approved the revised TWIG decision process.

Report from Policy – December 6th Meeting – Mark Hicks reported on the following:

- ♦ The CMER co-chairs formally submitted the CMER review of the Settlement Agreement Master Schedule to Policy.
- ♦ The contracted facilitator for Policy shared their interview summary and recommendations at this meeting.

LWAG –

- ♦ Stream-Associated Amphibian Response to Manipulation of Forest Canopy Shading Draft Report - *CMER Approved the Draft Report for ISPR*

Marc Hayes reported this is the final draft and it has been agreed to by Chris Mendoza. LWAG requests that CMER approve the draft report, dated 11/29/12, for ISPR.

Dick Miller motioned to approve the draft report for ISPR.

Mark Hicks seconded the motion.

CMER members approved to send the draft report to ISPR.

CMER – Jim Hotvedt reported on the following:

- ♦ Teresa Miskovic is working part time for specific CMER projects; she is now working on the CMER IMS.
- ♦ The 2012 CMER accomplishments document is dynamic until January 2013. CMER members have the opportunity to provide additions until January. He will share this with Policy at their February meeting. Some highlights from the accomplishments: CMER is undertaking two LEAN events and implementing a pilot for study designs; two presentations have been given to Policy on CMER research; the science conference was well coordinated and well attended; and the Forest Hydro project hired a contractor, who completed the field work and conducted data analysis in one season.

CMER FY14 Work Plan –

- ♦ LWAG: Follow-up (page 28) – *CMER Approved the modification*
- ♦ UCUT: Review changes – *CMER Approved the updates*
- ♦ Hardwood Conversion Project - *CMER Approved the updates*

Jim Hotvedt motioned for CMER to approve the submitted modification and changes by LWAG & SAGE.

Mark Mobbs seconded the motion.

CMER members reached consensus with these changes to the CMER FY14 work plan.

Ash Roorbach requested CMER approval on the work plan edits for the Hardwood Conversion project.

Mark Hicks motioned to accept the work plan updates.

Debbie Kay seconded the motion.

CMER members approved the updates to the Hardwood Conversion section in the work plan.

Jim Hotvedt reminded SAGs to get their budget numbers in for the January meeting as the work plan and budget need to be approved by CMER at the February meeting.

The CMER co-chair (Mark Hicks) agreed to remind CMER members to send in their comments or edits to the appropriate SAG for that SAG to respond and update their respective sections in the CMER work plan. The SAGs are responsible for informing the rest of CMER of when they will update their sections in the work plan for comments or edits to be folded in.

RSAG -

- ♦ Eastside Type F Extensive Riparian Status and Trends Monitoring Report

Amy Kurtenbach reported the CMER reviewers are looking it over; the SAG members have copies for a joint review until January 4th or 9th; and RSAG will review the concurrent review at their meeting in January. After that, CMER will receive the report with notations of the concurrent review and the comment matrix.

SAGE -

- ♦ Eastern Washington Riparian Assessment Project

Ash Roobach continues to work on this project.

- ♦ Eastside Type N Forest Hydrology Project

Amy Kurtenbach reported this project is on schedule. The consultants presented at SAGE this month; they shared the GIS data, which is interactive data and SAGE was able to look at the sites. The consultants talked about next steps; they will have the data analysis done by the February SAGE meeting and the consultants will share this with SAGE. The first draft report is due to SAGE in March. SAGE will need to look at the critical questions.

Discussion points:

Charles Chesney asked for the data at the SAGE meeting and Jim Hotvedt recommended having this discussion at CMER. Charles encouraged CMER to review this as he is interested in the field data sets; static dataset collected during the 2012 field season. He is not interested in the derivative data sets; he is asking for the bedrock channels for further investigations; he is looking for hydrographs using bedrock channels. He would like to have field data from contractor for use in 2013 field season.

Jim Hotvedt suggested CMER develop a TAG to look at the issue of CMER/SAG participants requesting data prior to a study being completed. This TAG needs to review all realms of data requests, as next year CMER will have several studies with results, and CMER needs to be proactive in this issue. The outcomes from this TAG would need to be folded into the CMER Protocols & Standards Manual (PSM).

Amy Kurtenbach reported the contractor is expected to deliver the first draft report in March 2013; and SAGE wanted to clarify this is a Charles Chesney request not a SAGE request. She added CMER cannot give out data until it is QA/QC and the formal pathway for this type of request is the public disclosure request.

Jim Hotvedt added CMER will not release information before it is QA/QC; CMER will not give out landowner information; and CMER will not create additional costs to the contract.

TWIG

- ♦ Eastside Type N Riparian Effectiveness Project - Mark Hicks reported this project is on hold due the need to clarify the TWIG decision process further – completed today - and the fact of workload issues.

WETSAG – Debbi Kay gave the following update:

- ♦ Wetlands Systematic Literature Review – this is in the QA/QC stage right now.
- ♦ Forested Wetlands Effectiveness Study – this will not be ready until the literature review is completed. WETSAG will use the literature review and hypotheses suggested by the contractor for this step. WETSAG still has limited staff and have reached critical mass.

CMER – Items to take to January 3, 2013 Policy Meeting – Mark Hicks will report on the following:

- ♦ Stream-Associated Amphibian Response to Manipulation of Forest Canopy Shading Draft Report approved to go to ISPR
- ♦ CMER – Information Management System – 2013 Contract Proposal approved

CMER/SAG Recap of Assignments:

- ♦ Parking Lot Issue: CMER discussion on ISPR timeframe, interactive reviews and costs.
- ♦ Organize a TAG regarding data requests before a research study is completed.

Meeting Adjourned.