

Timber, Fish, & Wildlife Policy Committee
 October 4, 2018 Approved Meeting Summary
 v. 11.5.18

| Action | Responsibility |
|---|--|
| Send info about economics contractor, web link for rulemaking to Triangle for distribution to Policy | Marc Engel |
| Develop draft addition to Policy handbook describing workgroup guidelines | Terra Rentz |
| Review Master Project Schedule and Riparian Characteristics and Shade Study in preparation for decision at November Policy meeting | Caucus Representatives |
| Convene Budget Workgroup | Terra Rentz |
| Send contact information for legislative liaisons to Triangle | Caucus Representatives |
| Formally invite legislative liaisons to the November Policy meeting | Caucus Representatives |
| Hold both November 1 and 5 as the most likely dates for the Policy meeting | Caucus Representatives |
| Develop draft 2019 meeting schedule proposal | Co-Chairs, Hans Berge, Rachel Aronson |
| Bring an idea for a field trip that your caucus could organize to the November Policy meeting | Caucus Representatives |
| Check for meeting space availability for December 5 and 6 at respective offices | Jim Peters and Ash Roorbach, Terra Rentz, Marc Engel |

| Decision | Notes |
|---|---|
| Approve the September meeting summary | The East Side Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up. |
| Approve the Type N Alternatives Workgroup charter | The East Side Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up. |
| Approve the Small Forest Landowner Alternate Plan Template Workgroup charter | The East Side Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up. |

Welcome, Introductions, & Old Business – Policy Co-Chairs Terra Rentz and Curt Veldhuisen opened the meeting.

- The topic of climate change will be continued at a later meeting to discuss Policy’s next actions. Caucus members requested further information on the topic, if available, to facilitate a productive discussion.
- The Upland Wildlife Working Group was reconvened due to a change in the state listing of the marbled murrelet. The Workgroup is tasked with reviewing the current forest practices rules

regarding critical habitat designations. Policy Co-Chairs will discuss with the workgroup chairs a potential update from the workgroup towards the end of the year.

- Policy reviewed the September meeting summary. No edits were submitted or suggested.

Decision: Approve the September meeting summary as is. The east side tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.

- Terra Rentz noted that due to a conflicting meeting of the Cultural Resources Committee, the November 1 TFW Policy meeting may be rescheduled according to the best possible date for Committee members.
- Karen announced that the 110th Annual WFPA Meeting will be held on November 8, from 9:30 a.m. –3:45 p.m. in Olympia. See the distributed meeting flyer for details.

CMER update – The group discussed a written report provided by the CMER Co-Chairs. The West Side Tribal caucus requested to be engaged in a conversation around best practices following fires in riparian habitat management. Curt Veldhuisen noted that the topic of forest health and fire is a topic of high interest among several caucuses.

Policy will receive updated cost estimates for the Riparian Characteristics and Shade study from CMER. The Budget Workgroup will incorporate these cost estimates into their proposed spending plan, which Policy will review in November. Terra asked that caucus members review the Master Project Schedule and the Riparian Science Advisory Group’s (RSAG) response to the Riparian Characteristics and Shade Study request.

Type F Rulemaking Update – Marc Engel, DNR, reported out that the staff to the Board met with the three caucuses who brought forward potential habitat break (PHB) options. The Board will send a draft summary of the options back to the caucuses for review. The Board staff aims to reconvene the rulemaking stakeholder groups to finalize the draft rule by the November Board meeting. Once the draft rule is finalized, the Board Manual Workgroup will also reconvene.

DNR has finalized its contract with Industrial Economics, a firm based out of Boston with a large Washington presence. The first kickoff meeting will occur on October 5. The Economist Workgroup will meet next week to discuss the elements to be evaluated in a cost-benefit analysis.

The GIS data analysis is undergoing final review on October 4. All of the data and assumptions will be made available to the public. Two-meter Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data was used to create digital elevation models (DEMs). These were then synced with Water Type Modifications by ecoregion. The rulemaking group is waiting for the final studies and report from the expert panel. The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) rulemaking process has been held until all literature and science to support the PHBs is gathered; however, it is still on track per the planned timeline. There will be stakeholder engagement in the SEPA preparation process.

Questions:

- Will both the GIS data and map files be available? When will the information be publicly available?
 - The data should be publicly available by the end of next week. No public request process is necessary. All TFW Policy Workgroup materials will be made available online in a

specific space on the Policy webpage, which is currently under development. DNR is working on getting more personnel authorized to update the website in order to facilitate more efficient posting of materials.

Workgroup Roles and Responsibilities – Terra Rentz, WDFW and Co-Chair, reviewed the purposes of Policy Workgroups. She made the following points:

- Workgroups are created when Policy determines a topic is of value and has associated tasks that cannot be accomplished by the Committee. Workgroups are the appropriate forum to focus deeply on important topics; however, no workgroup has decision making power. The results of the workgroups' discussion must be brought back to Policy to be decided upon.
- The Co-Chairs are also conscious of varying workloads among Policy members. Non-Policy representatives may serve on workgroups as caucus members if Policy representatives do not have capacity to do so.
- Terra also noted that Policy does not have a definition of quorum, per se. Rather, it operates on a majority basis. If there are five or more caucuses represented by voting members, the meeting must follow Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) rules. Attendance notwithstanding, however, all Workgroup agendas and materials will be posted on DNR's website and labeled as drafts, unless Policy determines otherwise in the future.

Questions and Comments:

- Workgroup members expressed that the process of writing the charter was very useful to the group's process.
- It was suggested that a document be added to the TFW Policy manual to describe workgroup roles and responsibilities.
- Caucuses expressed interest in bringing scientists into workgroup meetings more often in order to build relationships and resolve issues before they come to Policy. Additionally, caucuses expressed interest in sitting in on scientists' meetings. The group discussed the need for clear understanding of appropriate roles in each situation, so as not to mix science and policy roles.
- Action: Terra will create a draft update for the handbook addressing the topics discussed, including the roles of science and policy, caucus representation, and proxies. The Co-Chairs will send this document to Policy for review, and hold a discussion on the topic in a future Policy meeting.

Updates from Workgroups

Budget Workgroup – Terra Rentz announced that the Budget Workgroup member list has been clarified. Terra is working on the draft charter and will distribute for review before the next Policy meeting. A major topic that the Workgroup will address is the unspent money in the budget. Due to changes in project schedules, Policy has about \$600,000 to be allocated elsewhere by June of 2019. Because these funds do not roll over to the next biennium, the Budget Workgroup will need to determine how to balance funds to accommodate a larger anticipated need in future years. This may mean accelerating other projects in the short term.

Action: Terra will schedule and facilitate a meeting of the Budget Workgroup before the November Policy meeting.

Type N Alternatives Workgroup – Curt Veldhuisen reported out from the Type N Alternatives Workgroup, which met on October 2. The Workgroup finalized its charter for approval at the October 4 Policy meeting. The group also generated some goals and initial ideas for alternatives from each caucus represented. For the next meeting, each caucus will prepare a one-page explanation of their needs and recommendations.

Rich Doenges and Mark Hicks will present at the next Workgroup meeting about the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its effect on buffer management. This presentation will explain the pieces of the CWA and how they work together, as well as tools for managing compliance.

The Workgroup is scheduled to convene on October 18, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on October 25, likely for a full day meeting. It is expected to generate alternatives by October 25.

Policy reviewed the Type N Alternatives Workgroup charter document with edits that were made at the October 2 Workgroup meeting. No further edits were suggested.

Decision: Approve the Type N Alternatives Workgroup charter. The east side tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.

Small Forest Landowner Template Workgroup – Ken Miller, Washington Farm Forest Association (WFFA), and Marc Engel, DNR, reported on a productive Workgroup meeting. The group finalized its charter draft and had time to begin collaboration efforts on all the proposed prescriptions with an encouraging discussion about the proposed “Variable Width” option.

- The Cramer fish report, which evaluates the science in the Small Forest Landowner Template, was released. The Workgroup will approve questions at its next meeting, after which the report and questions will go to ISPR.
- Workgroup members clarified to Policy that the ultimate deliverable is a template that will be brought to Policy. However, the prescriptions are not a template in and of themselves. The Workgroup could work from a previous template document to pull the prescriptions together into a complete document.

The Policy Committee reviewed the Workgroup’s charter over lunch before reconvening to make revisions. Several edits were suggested and agreed to by caucus members.

Decision: Approve the Small Forest Landowner Alternate Plan Template Workgroup charter. The East Side Tribal caucus and Federal caucus were absent; all other caucuses voted thumbs up.

Legislative Preview – Curt Veldhuisen and Terra Rentz led a discussion on preparation for legislative liaison participation. Caucus members expressed interest in inviting legislative liaisons to the November meeting.

- Jim Peters, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (NWIFC) and West Side Tribal caucus, stated that the tribes need to know well in advance about legislation in order to get consensus among their caucus in time to support it. Not all tribes have lobbyists to track legislation.
- Action: TFW Policy members will send Triangle the name and contact info for caucus legislative liaisons by the end of the day on Friday, October 5.

Policy representatives gave updates on their caucuses' budgeting priorities.

- DNR will submit decision package bundles this year. They include the following:
 - Wildfire and forest health: This will ask for \$2.3 million per year to fund small landowner assistance, outreach to communities at risk of fire, and wildfire staffing.
 - Environmental resilience: This bundle includes funding for field-based small forest landowner technical assistance employees, for two geologists to fully map and better understand the geology of the 530 corridor, and for two road engineers to study forest practice applications across unstable slopes.
 - All state agency budget proposals are available online. If there is additional decision package language or text, the Co-Chairs may be able to share this with Policy caucus members.
- Karen Terwilleger, WFPA, noted that WFPA is interested in working with partners on salmon recovery issues. They do not have any specific bill language at this time. They are reviewing WDFW, DNR and Ecology's budgets.
 - There was discussion of whether Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) money is allocated in DNR's budget.
- WDFW is not working on particular legislation related to forest practices at this time. WDFW completed a zero-base budgeting exercise and cut \$30 million from its operating budget. WDFW then submitted several buyback packages to retrieve some of these funds.
 - The WDFW budget request includes \$14 million for a Conservation Enhancement package. This would move forward much of WDFW's on-the-ground conservation work. This is a comprehensive package to fund a broad range of programs in the agency. It would enhance forest health work in wet and dry forest systems and urban forests and support orca recovery initiatives.
 - There was discussion of the Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) process and whether there will be expansion of HPA authority in order to improve stream management. At the moment, there is no HPA fee proposed.
 - The Orca Task Force recommendations were put out for public comment. They focus on habitat recovery for orca and chinook, toxics, and vessels. There is not much
- The Washington Environmental Council (WEC)'s Puget Sound team has a representative on the Orca Task Force, so WEC will be involved in the legislative process. The WEC climate team is focusing on Initiative 1631. WEC's Environmental Priorities Coalition will be announcing their priorities next week.

Van Dyke's Salamander Literature Review and Findings Report – Marc Hayes, WDFW, presented on the results of the WDFW Science Division's Van Dykes salamander literature review. Please see slides for details. Highlights of the presentation include the following points:

- The Van Dykes salamander species has several unique characteristics that render it particularly vulnerable to the impacts of forest practices. These characteristics include:
 - Highest moisture requirement of lungless salamanders, due to their low temperature requirement.
 - Highest C-value (amount of DNA in its cells) among salamanders, which corresponds to a lower metabolic rate.
 - Direct development (no aquatic larvae) and long developmental period of 150 days. They lay one clutch of eggs per year.
- The geographic distribution of the Van Dyke's salamander is concentrated in the Olympic peninsula, Willapa Hills, and the South Cascades. This may have been influenced by the last glacial retreat.
- Several area studies show that Van Dyke's salamanders differentially use moist to saturated areas. They rarely move beyond a few meters from water. Thus, they spend most of their lives within the Forest and Fish buffer zone. Additionally, Van Dyke's salamanders may benefit from the low fluctuation inside large logs more than 80cm in diameter.
- Conclusions of the literature review include:
 - Moisture or temperature-modified conditions resulting from forestry should be examined for their potential effect on Van Dyke's salamander.
 - Further evaluation of the actual importance of wood in coastal regions seems justified.
 - If wood is associated with Van Dyke's salamander, manipulating treatments where the amount of wood is altered may be needed to evaluate its response to the variation in wood.
 - Proximity to aquatic habitat patterns implies that most buffers on Type N streams and all buffers on Type F streams may adequately protect Van Dyke's salamander. This hypothesis may need verification.
 - As a consequence, a Riparian Management Zone (RMZ) effect on Van Dyke's salamander would most likely occur on the clear-cut portion of Type N headwater streams, so a potential harvest effect study would best be focused on those habitats.

Questions and Comments:

- To what extent are isolated wetlands and seeps associated with prime habitat?
 - Based on limited studies, seeps are, but isolated wetlands are not associated with prime habitat. Talus slopes that are moist appear to be good habitat for Van Dyke's salamanders.
- How does the literature review connect to the master project schedule?
 - This literature review is Phase 1. Phase 2 would begin answering basic questions for forestry. It is possible to take a high-level approach with presence-only modeling. For example, a study could compare rotation age across managed and unmanaged landscapes. This would be a relatively short-term analysis that would likely cost \$40,000-50,000.
- Are Van Dyke's salamanders affected by predation?
 - The data on predation on any lungless salamander is limited to predation of eggs and juveniles by molluscivorous beetles. Most predation probably takes place out of view of surface activity.

Next Steps – Policy discussed the scheduling of the November meeting. Due to a contemporaneous meeting of the Cultural Resources Committee on November 1, the Policy Committee meeting may be rescheduled to November 5.

The group then discussed the timing and locations for 2019 Policy meetings. Committee members made the following suggestions:

- Meeting in additional locations outside of Olympia would more evenly distribute the cost of travel for participants, as well as support opportunities for field trips.
- Consider scheduling fewer meetings while increasing the number of two-day meetings. Two-day meetings could include one decision-making day and one informational and field trip day. This would facilitate clearer advertising.
- Video conferencing could be an efficient use of time and funds.
- Policy may need to schedule ‘emergency’ meetings in response to Board decisions. Considering the Board schedule and CMER schedule, certain months are essential meeting months.
 - Critical Board meetings: May, August, November
 - Critical Policy meeting months: February OR March, April, July, October
- Rachel Aronson noted that any changes that would require budget adjustments to Triangle Associates’ contract need to be approved by the AMPA.

- Action: Each Policy member will bring an idea for a field trip that their caucus could organize to the next meeting.
- Action: Triangle Associates will work with the Co-Chairs to draft a 2019 meeting calendar to bring to the next Policy meeting for discussion.

Ken Miller, WFFA, offered to host a field trip on his land. He will host the Board at his land on November 13. The meeting will start and end at the Natural Resources Building (NRB). Policy members are invited to attend. There was a suggestion that interested attendees meet at the NRB and coordinate travel to the site.

Caucus members expressed desire for the Board to understand how their prioritization decisions affect the workload of Policy members. Curt and Terra offered to relay this feedback to the Board. Marc Engel, DNR, noted that Policy representatives present at Board meetings can provide input on their capacity for taking on new tasks.

Next Meeting Date: Policy members agreed to extend the December monthly meeting to December 5 and 6.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Attachment 1 – Participants by Caucus at 10/4 Meeting*

Conservation Caucus

*Alec Brown, WEC

County Caucus

*Scott Swanson, WSAC

Kendra Smith, Skagit County

Industrial Timber Landowner Caucus

*Karen Terwilleger, WFPA

Joe Monks, Northwest Hardwoods & Washington Hardwoods Commission

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

Terra Rentz, WDFW and Co-Chair

Don Nauer, WDFW

Marc Hayes, WDFW

Tribal Caucus – Westside

*Jim Peters, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Ash Roorbach, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

Curt Veldhuisen, Skagit River System Cooperative and Co-Chair

Mark Mobbs, Quinault Indian Nation

*caucus representative

Others

Rachel Aronson, Triangle Associates

Annalise Ritter, Triangle Associates