

WATERSHED SUMMIT 2009

Summary Report

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for the
Hawaii Office of Planning
Coastal Zone Management Program

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Summary Report

1. Introductions and Overview

Abbey Seth Mayer, Director of the Office of Planning, and Larry Lau, Deputy Director of Department of Health (DOH) welcomed Watershed Summit participants. Mr. Mayer briefly described the coastal nonpoint pollution control program (CNPCP), the purpose of the Watershed Summit, and the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program. Mr. Lau provided an overview of the meeting agenda and described the roles of DOH in polluted runoff control and the CNPCP.

Meeting participants introduced themselves (the list of participants is attached).

Prior to the Summit, informational packets were mailed to all participants with information about each participating agency's programs and projects related to watershed planning and management.

2. Background information on the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program

Carolyn Stewart, project consultant, used a PowerPoint presentation to provide background information on the CNPCP, including: general program description and requirements, program status, role of State and county agencies in program implementation, and funding issues.

3. Watershed Planning and Management in the Context of the CNPCP: Watershed Planning Guidance Process

Hudson Slay, DOH, talked about implementing the CNPCP through watershed planning and management efforts. He described DOH's Polluted Runoff Control program, watershed efforts funded under Section 319 grants, and DOH's role in the CNPCP. He explained the State's shift in focus from trying to gain approval of CNPCP management measures on an individual basis to a strategy to address multiple management measures using a watershed approach. The strategy is based on three elements: an update of the management measures; development of a watershed prioritization process, and a watershed planning guidance package. Mr. Slay also put watershed planning and management in the context of the Hawaii Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP).

Next, Mr. Slay described the project to update CNPCP management measures. Hawaii's management measures were originally developed in 1996 as part of the State's CNPCP management plan. Since then, there have been many new and revised statutes, rules, and regulations, and a new focus on watershed management that was not reflected in the original management plan. The updated management measures document, currently in draft form, will provide detailed information about the regulatory and non-regulatory mechanisms that address each of the management measures and will describe needed actions to gain approval of those measures not currently approved.

Carolyn Stewart described the process to prioritize watersheds for future management plan development. The GIS-based process is currently under development by MCS International for the CZM Program. The process involves compiling and weighting GIS data for four broad classes of criteria – stressors, sensitive areas, assets, and indicators – to derive a list of priority watersheds for restoration and protection. The focus of this prioritization process is on surface water quality. It was

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recognized that other agencies are interested in watershed prioritization but with different, though related, focuses (coral reefs, forestry, source water protection, etc.).

Mary Lou Kobayashi, Office of Planning, provided an overview of the watershed planning guidance package that will be developed over the next year. TetraTech has been contracted to develop a watershed planning guidance handbook and outreach implementation strategy to help guide the preparation and implementation of watershed plans in Hawaii. The guidance will incorporate the CNPCP management measures as part of an implementation menu. The CZM Program wants to ensure that this document is useful to both watershed groups and agencies engaged in watershed planning efforts. It will be requesting input from agencies on a “pre-test” of the materials.

4. Facilitated Discussion

Following a short break, in which participants were encouraged to review the materials distributed prior to the Summit, Carolyn Stewart facilitated a group discussion. A summary of items discussed, issues raised and comments made follows:

I. Watershed Planning Guidance

1. Need community input/participation and collaboration
2. Need to address through planning process:
 - i. Who is the audience? Is it agencies or communities?
 - ii. What is the focus – is it ahupua’a? If so, need definition
 - iii. Inclusion of EPA 9 elements
 - iv. Inclusion of CNPCP management measures
3. Need outline of agencies/responsibilities/goals
4. Describe opportunities for collaboration
 - i. Funding
 - ii. Projects
5. Need to explain how to measure effectiveness of watershed plans/implementation measures
6. Provide information on models for estimating pollutant loads
7. Help users understand and be able to use document
8. Laws/policies
 - i. Enforcement?
 - ii. Consequences of not using?
9. What will the benefits be if used?
 - i. Funding
 - ii. Assistance

II. Areas of common or overlapping interest and needs with regard to watershed planning

While each agency has different goals with respect to watershed planning, there are areas of common interest:

1. WATER
2. Collaborative implementation efforts (State, county, landowners, communities, Federal, etc.)

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3. Mauka watershed management
4. Watershed protection
5. Project implementation
6. Cost share
7. Communities need to take responsibility

III. *How can agencies better coordinate efforts?*

1. need systems for sharing information among agencies – central clearinghouse
2. need regular meetings among agency representatives
3. identify watershed in which multiple agencies are currently working and focus collective attention on how to make this a demonstration of collaboration on comprehensive watershed management

IV. *How can CNPCP complement and benefit existing watershed efforts?*

1. Broaden focus of watershed efforts to get community buy in
2. Help bring relevant players and resources to the table
3. Assist with technical expertise to local groups
4. Assist with monitoring

V. *Incentives for Collaboration*

1. Management plans for priority areas should get priority funding (Section 319) for implementation
2. Information sharing, cost-share opportunities, and partnerships (*e.g.*, Army Corps can help with watershed data and plans on a cost-share basis, if communities/partners ask for help)

VI. *Next steps/items for follow-up*

1. Need to get counties involved because they are responsible for implementing many polluted runoff control measures (perhaps through ORMP or regular meetings between counties and Office of Planning)
2. Invite agencies to participate in ORMP Watershed Caucus – have quarterly meetings with all relevant watershed agencies/groups to sustain the momentum
3. Ask agencies to pre-test the watershed planning guidance and outreach implementation strategy
4. Organize a one-day meeting in which agencies share specific information about their watershed programs and projects in order to facilitate future collaboration