

**Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council
Ke Kahu O Na Kumu Wai**

Wednesday October 30, 2002
9:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
King Kamehameha Kona Beach Hotel – Marina Room
75-5660 Palani Road, Kailua-Kona 96740

MINUTES

Members Present: Donna Brown, Mary Cabuslay, James E. Coon, Arnold Lum, John Ray, Susan Sakai, Donald Thornburg, Kevin Seiter, Scott Sullivan

Members Absent: Ron Terry, Lawrence Aki, Roland Sagum III

CZM Staff: Christina Meller, Susan Miller, Debra Tom

Others Present: Phyllis Fujimoto and Norman Hayashi, County of Hawaii Planning Department; Paul M. Scott, U.H. Hilo Student; Mike Varney, PASH; Roger Dilts, Kona Soil Water Conservation District; Dave Raney, Reef Check; John Chang, Deputy Attorney General; Curtis Tyler, County Council; Duane Erway, Plan to Protect; Karen Eoff, Kohaniki Ohana; Jerry Rothstein, Pash; Nancy Sweatt; Sara Peck, Sea Grant

DISTRIBUTED MATERIALS

Meeting Agenda

September 11, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Kaloko-Honokohau brochure

Slide show hand-out, Alien Marine Algae in the Hawaiian Islands brochure and The Global Coral Reef Crisis Trends and Solutions booklet from the Coral Reef Initiative Reports – Sea Grant & Oceanwide Science Institute Presentation

Field trip to National Park Kaloko Honokohau – Visitor Center

National Parks Officials Sally Beavers and Stan Bond discussed sewage waste disposal, proposed shoreline development projects and park issues. No decisions were made by MACZAC.

Call to Order

Chair Sakai called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. Council members and the general public introduced themselves. There were no public announcements.

Approval of September 11, 2002 Minutes

Board member Coon requested two revisions on the minutes. Page 7 second to the last bulleted item replace “makai” with “mauka” and “snorkeling” with “surf”. Chair Sakai moved that with the exception of those revisions, that the minutes of the September 11, 2002 meeting be approved as written. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Participation

Councilman Curtis Tyler brought up several issues.

- TSA rezoning is resolving itself with the conclusions of law. The Hawaii County Council is very concerned with the issue of nonpoint source pollution and working with the County Public Works to address the high cost to comply. The council would like assistance in addressing cost especially when they begin certain phases of the roadway construction. The pilot project roadways will be built in conjunction with TSA and that way the coast will be conserved.
- He is looking forward to hearing MACZAC’s solution for cesspools, an item listed for discussion later in the meeting. He has no opposition under rule of law (CZM). However, he brought up a question regarding the sewage issues and resident acceptance to sewer hook up. He stated that the cost residential hook up maybe should be partnered with the Hawaii State Revolving Fund program or explored with the County Council as loans since the cost of hook up is five figure.
- He also mentioned protection of the coastal waters. The executive branch of government issued a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Hawaii Cruise Ships. He hasn’t seen the MOA and would like more information on the impact to Kailua Bay. He indicated that he doesn’t swim there as much as he used to because of the water quality. He understands that the State of Alaska has stringent regulation and wonders if the MOA is effective. How effective are our statutes in regards to cruise ship enforcement and accountability? Water quality is important for our State economy

Dave Raney brought up the issue of illegal grading citing examples as the Pflueger development on Kauai, Kealakekua Bay on Hawaii, and the Ma’alaea Harbor on Maui indicating that Best Management Practices (BMP) is not working. The water quality or coastal erosion committees should be looking at this. The Kauai folks are hesitant to speak up about the issue and feel that the County is not going to resolve the issue and maybe someone from the outside should handle it. The illegal grading threatens coral reefs and requires BMP during the construction periods.

A member of the audience inquired as to why there are not more outer-island meetings. Sakai stated that the board has alternated meeting by having one on Oahu then a neighbor island then back on Oahu because most of the experts are on Oahu. The next neighbor island meeting is scheduled for Kauai. John Ray stated that flights are being reduced which makes it very difficult to get all the members on the other islands and meeting on Oahu makes it easier for neighbor islanders to travel. Sakai suggested that video conferencing may be something worth looking into. This issue will be brought up again at the December 2002 meeting on Oahu.

Presentations

Coral Reef Initiative reports Sea Grant and Oceanwide Science Institute presentations. The two presentations covered activities both organizations conducted over the last year to preserve and restore coral reefs using a community base management approach.

Sara Peck from Sea Grant had a triple focus effort to (1) Reef Teach, (2) Reef Watch, and work with (3) Western Fisheries Council. Reef Teach trained 35 teenagers, 29 high school students and 6 girl scouts to discuss with members of the public about coral resources. The teenagers reached over 550 members of the public who were on the beach. The teenagers then monitored the 550 public members to see if the teaching affected public behavior in the water. Reef Watch was a monitoring program where a total of 132 volunteers counted a list of aquatic species in designated areas. The list of aquatic species was developed in partnership with the Department of Land and Natural Resources Aquatic Division. The volunteers used GPS (global positioning) to capture the information and in partnership with NOAA, habitat maps were developed. The interaction with the Western Fisheries Council members was an attempt to enlist resource managers and commercial users in the protection of coral reefs. One of the biggest drawbacks was the short time period of one year. The project should have been multiple years with checks and balances placed on the results.

Dave Raney – Oceanwide Science Institute discussed the reef check project that he worked on Oahu and Kauai. The goals of reef check are two fold (1) provide early warning by coral reef monitoring and (2) promote restoration by building an active constituency. The project set up sites to monitor reefs on both islands. The volunteers did a restoration component to remove an alien species of “algae” that was destroying the coral reef in Waikiki and Kaneohe Bay hundreds of pounds were removed but only a small area was cleared. Dave echoed the same sentiments as Sara that the project should be funded for more than one year to develop a viable program. A second observation was the lack of enforcement of fisherman fishing in prohibited areas.

Karen Eoff a member of the public indicated that maybe there should be a 180 foot setback to protect coral reef areas. She would support a setback change as a county general plan

amendment for the Kohanaiki area of Hawaii because it is a wetland. She also indicated that the coastal erosion committee felt that the 40 foot setback was arbitrary.

Duane Erway suggested that the general plan should include goals to address coral reefs.

Old Business

Sewage discussion tabled to next meeting so that Ron Terry could report on the current situation in Hilo.

Public access to ocean resources was identified as a problem during the MACZAC September 11, 2002 meeting. The general public uses coastal roads and pullouts to access various beaches on the island. Arnold Lum enlisted volunteers on Oahu to identify surfing sites that are difficult to access because there is a lack of parking spaces or coastal barriers that create a safety problem for beach goers on resource maps. The maps would be given to the County Public Works Department, the State Department of Transportation, and the County Department of Design and Construction on Oahu so that the agencies can better protect access. This is a pilot project just for Oahu and may be expanded later after MACZAC reviews the results of this initial effort. Arnold Lum will try to gather most of the information by December.

New Business

Marine Patrol Program – Don Thornburg posted this agenda item because enforcement seemed lacking. Why can't Hawaii's DLNR – DOCARE program be similar to the programs in California or Florida? Scott commented that enforcement officers lack educational resource training to make for an effective program. The Oahu enforcement program was just officers in boston whalers carrying guns. Enforcement seemed lacking or spotty in areas Statewide. A member in the audience echoed similar sentiments based on her experience with coast guard representatives that boarded her tour boat and scared the passengers with their guns. A motion was made that once the new DLNR director was in place, a written request will be drafted and sent to him/her. Donald Thornburg volunteered to draft the letter. This motion was seconded and granted unanimously.

Kevin Seiter mentioned his concerns about Waiaha Bay and acknowledged Mike Varney and Duane Erway members in the audience that were concerned over a proposed five story development that would be built within 20 feet of the shoreline. He pointed out that the system needs repairing when the State Surveyor approved a shoreline setback of 20 feet. It was mentioned that depending on the tide this wall is sometimes under the water. Kevin Seiter is very familiar with this situation. Chip Fletcher, a geographer at the University of Hawaii, is also familiar with this situation. Chip did a site inspection and agrees that this condominium is too close to the shoreline. This matter is currently in litigation. The developer did not own the land and nobody from the State surveyed the area. Mr. Seiter also states that the State never said if

Mr. Fletcher was correct. Kevin requests MACZAC to make a recommendation to the Office of Planning or to DLNR to reconsider the condition and to consult with Mr. Fletcher on the matter. This clearly shows abandonment of the public trust and something needs to be done. The white sand beaches on the Kona coast are limited and this needs to be saved! Donna Brown agreed to develop an issue statement on shoreline certification for next meeting and she would get together with members of public on Maui and Kona who have expressed similar concerns regarding shoreline setback.

Working Group Reports

Coastal Erosion

- Speaker/seminar series on shoreline topics but no budget to bring in speakers from other places. Sakai offered the American Planning Association as a partner since they have a monthly speaker program.
- Beach nourishment project, can't seem to get it going at Ma'alaea Harbor there is the private one at Sugar Cove by Barbara Guild.
- Water Quality Certification struggling with the permit process.
- Federal money \$400,000 and \$250,000 proposed economic studies at Waikiki and Kihei need to justify a valid federal economic benefit for funding.
- Land Use Planning looking at Coastal Issues is a good report done by Dennis Hwang and Chip Fletcher.
- Lastly an educational program on coastal erosion.

Ocean Resource Management Plan

There is a shift in the thinking that it isn't just to produce a document but also develop a buy in by the public and have community involvement. The conference date was moved from May to an unspecified time in the fall.

Water Quality

The group had two working group meetings via videoconference in June and October. The group attempted to prioritize water quality topics. The group came up with 60 topics that was narrowed to a top ten. The top ten topics would be turned into action items. For example, (1) Managing water quality by managing watersheds, (2) Stress communication and joint efforts within the water agencies, and (3) Stream management other than channelization.

Susan Miller commented that the working groups need direction.

Sue Sakai asked if CZM had any legislation. ORMP resolution and special fund were mentioned.

December Meeting Agenda

The next meeting will be on Oahu. Members are to email agenda items to Christina Meller by next Wednesday. The Marine Patrol Program issue will remain on the agenda under “Old Business”. Shoreline certification will be put on December’s agenda. Donna Brown will work with community member to develop an issue statement and try to involve Sam Lemmo and the State Survey Office. John Ray wanted a topic on the Role of MACZAC.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.