

Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC) / Ke Kahu O Na Kumu Wai

MINUTES

Friday, February 1, 2019: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm
Office of Planning Conference Room
235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

ATTENDANCE

- Members Present: Phil Fernandez, Jim Coon, Rich Brunner, Kimbal Thompson, Donna Brown, Steve Mechler
- Members Absent: Nick Palumbo, Robert Nishimoto, Sue Sakai
- Office of Planning/Coastal Zone Management (OP/CZM) Staff Present: Justine Nihipali (OP/CZM), Sandy Ma (OP/CZM), Lisa Webster (OP/CZM)
- Others Present: Zachary Yamada (Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council), Thomas Remington (Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council)

DISTRIBUTED MATERIAL

- MACZAC Meeting Agenda for February 1, 2019
- Minutes from October 1, 2018 MACZAC Meeting [Draft]
- CZM Report to MACZAC (February 1, 2019)
- 2019 Legislative Bills of Interest
- High Priority Retreat Goals
- Articles:
 - “Backdunes Provide a Layer of Protection”
[<http://www.mauinews.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/2019/01/backdunes-provide-a-layer-of-protection/>]
 - “Drawing the Line on Sea Level Rise”
[<https://themolokaidispatch.com/drawing-the-line-on-sea-level-rise/>]
 - “Fighting Climate Change Will Cost the State Millions”
[<https://www.civilbeat.org/2019/01/fighting-climate-change-will-cost-the-state-millions/>]
“Massive Flood Risks Don't Deter Kauai Homeowners from Rebuilding”
[<https://www.civilbeat.org/2019/01/massive-flood-risks-dont-deter-kauai-homeowners-from-rebuilding/>]
 - “We Have to Move Our Homes and Businesses Away From The Shoreline. But How?”
[<https://www.civilbeat.org/2019/01/we-have-to-move-our-homes-and-businesses-away-from-the-shoreline-but-how/>]

I. Call to Order

MACZAC Chair, Kimbal Thompson, called the meeting to order at 9:10 am and welcomed everyone. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

II. Approval of October 1, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The October 1, 2018 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved by all members present.

III. Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program Report

Justine Nihipali, CZM Manager, provided a CZM Program Report highlighting the following:

Hawai'i CZM Program

The following is a status summary of the Hawaii CZM Program and its initiatives as of date:

- 9 of 11 (2 are 0.5 FTE) positions staffed (1/2-time Project Analyst)
- CZM currently has one Project Analyst vacancy and is actively recruiting, advertisement is posted on the non-civil service website.
- The graduate intern position has been filled. Primary responsibilities are to support the ORMP Update.
- CZM Website updated periodically (<http://planning.hawaii.gov/czm/>). Working on improving communications for consistency and currency. Analyzing existing website to make it more efficient and streamlined.

Section 312 Evaluation

- Currently waiting on draft findings from NOAA's Office for Coastal Management (NOAA-OCM).
- CZM Staff Contact is Debra Mendes

Routine Program Changes

- CZM submitted an informal review to NOAA-OCM in November 2018.
- CZM Staff Contact is Shichao Li

Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP)

- Implementation underway with 2 Action Teams established (Appropriate Coastal Development/Coastal Hazards, and Coral Reef)
- Appropriate Coastal Development/Coastal Hazards ACT led by OP is exploring the implications and feasibility of managed retreat. Final report hoping to release in early February 2019. Ms. Nihipali asked Sandy Ma, CZM Policy Analyst, to provide a brief summary of the Managed Retreat report, and Ms. Ma shared the following:
 - Managed retreat is the planned moving away from the shoreline from either chronic coastal erosion as from sea level rise or from a catastrophic event such as a hurricane or tsunami.
 - The report showed for chronic coastal erosion planned retreat is very time consuming, funding will be an issue and political and societal will may also be a challenge.
 - The report showed that after a disaster, people, to retreat, want to be bought out at pre-disaster values, and there is often FEMA and HUD money available to assist.
 - For the project, four different scenario profiles were considered – single-family homes, condominiums, urban areas, and critical infrastructure.
 - The consultant, SSFM, did background research and applied the information to the four scenario profiles.
 - A one-day symposium was held to further explore the feasibility and implications of managed retreat.
 - The findings from the background report, scenario profiles and the symposium led to the analyses in the final report, which concluded, among other matters, that retreat is too complex of a matter to be solved with a check-list at this present time and initial juncture. Retreat issues cross several disciplines – legal, land-use, science, social justice, economics, etc.
 - Managed retreat is extremely costly and likely cannot be done all at once.
 - Next steps are to be determined. CZM is committed to facilitating the managed retreat discussion.
- ORMP update is under way. CZM issued a request for proposals in December and proposals are currently being reviewed. Ms. Nihipali noted that the update will likely focus on prioritizing a few key areas of the plan.
 - Phil Fernandez, MACZAC Vice-Chair, suggested choosing projects for each priority area to use as examples.
- Current ORMP available on-line at (http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/ormp/ormp_update_reports/final_ormp_2013.pdf)
- CZM Staff contact is Melanie Lander

Coastal Non-Point Pollution Control Program (CNPCP)

- Three remaining Management Measures require approval by NOAA/EPA: (1) Roads/Bridges/Highways; (2) On-Site Disposal Systems (OSDS); and (3) BMP Monitoring
- Working with DOT, DOH, Counties (planning departments, public works departments) on completing the above Management Measures
- Information on the CNPCP can be found on-line at (<http://planning.hawaii.gov/czm/initiatives/coastal-nonpoint-pollution-control-program/>)
- Position supporting CNPCP is currently vacant and in active recruitment
- CZM Staff contact is Justine Nihipali

Climate Change Adaptation

- Office of Planning Director and CZM Program Manager serve as Commissioners on the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission
- The climate Commission held a conference on January 14, 2019 at East West Center. The keynote speaker focused on climate change and equity. Panel discussions focused on emissions reductions for ground transportation, adaptation to sea level rise, and carbon pricing to fund and implement adaptation.
- The next meeting is TBD.
- CZM Staff contact is Sandy Ma

Coastal Hazards

- Section 309 Coastal Hazards Strategy for the *Probabilistic Tsunami Design Zone Mapping* contract has been executed and project is underway. CZM issued a press release on January 28, 2019.
- *Updating the Hawaii Historical Shoreline Database*: Coastal erosion mapping for Kauai has been completed and presented to Kauai County Planning Department; and mapping for Oahu is underway. The Oahu mapping was presented to the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) on January 16, 2019. CZM Staff contact is Shichao Li
- The HI-EMA Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update has been completed. CZM has explored use of FEMA pre-disaster mitigation funds to support the *Coastal Hazards Strategy for the Probabilistic Tsunami Design Zone Mapping* project. The CZM pre-proposal ranked highly, but due to the inability to meet the match requirement, CZM withdrew its application.
- Continue with training of architects/engineers/planners on code requirements for specific coastal hazards by request from Partners. N/A for this period. 2019 Hawaii Association of County Building Officials (HACBO) conference is upcoming, and CZM has been contacted for potential support
- CZM Staff contact is Sandy Ma

CRest Project

- OP-CZM Program received funding from the Coastal Resilience Networks Grant Program to examine existing county building codes and how such codes may incorporate climate change adaptation measures
- Project has been completed, and final report is posted (http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/resource/building_code_amendments_for_coastal_hazards_and_climate_change_report_final_2018.pdf).
- CZM Staff contact is Sandy Ma

County CZM Projects

- Maui County was provided resources to update its Public Access database. Work has been completed and final editorial steps are expected prior to public launch.
- DPP was provided resources to update its aerial seawall imagery database

- Working with County of Hawaii to support Phase I of the project; *Analysis to Establish Research-Based Shoreline and Riparian Setbacks*

Other Initiatives

- Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force. The inaugural meeting was held on November 29, 2018. CZM staff is working to move forward 2 projects to meet objectives of Act 15, SLH 2018. Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 27, 2019.
- South Shore Promenade – Proof of Concept Study. CZM is expecting a preliminary report from the contractor February 15, 2019. The 3 catalytic sites are: (1) Ala Wai area, (2) Ke‘ehi Lagoon area, and (3) Richardson Field/Pearl Harbor Regional Park.
- CZM Program is involved with a number of external groups and activities:
 - Coral Reef Initiative Working Group (DLNR-DAR)
 - Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
 - Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) and HISC Resource Committee
 - State Natural Area Reserve System (NARS)
 - Aloha+ Challenge
 - Coastal States Organization
- Continue to review environmental assessments/environmental impact statements to ensure CZM objectives, policies, and initiatives are considered

IV. Discussion of MACZAC Retreat Outcomes and Next Steps

Chair Thompson went over the High Priority Retreat Goals handout, and the group agreed to work on increasing communication within MACZAC working groups between meetings. Ms. Lisa Webster, MACZAC Administrative Assistant, stated that she would send out a link to the Sunshine Law website for anyone who needs a refresher.

V. Election of MACZAC Officers

Rich Brunner, MACZAC member, moved to nominate Mr. Thompson and Mr. Fernandez to continue on as Chair and Vice-Chair, and Donna Brown, MACZAC member, seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by all members present.

VI. Reports from MACZAC Working Groups

- Executive Working Group
No Report.
- Legislative Working Group
The group went over the Legislative Bills of Interest handout, and Ms. Nihipali noted that there are a number of bills that propose amendments to Chapter 205A. One bill, HB1564, addresses no longer allowing repair and replacement of existing shoreline hardening structures, in order to protect beaches. This bill does not take into consideration areas like Kaka‘ako, Black Point, Lanikai, Kahului Wastewater Treatment Plant, where both private property and public infrastructure would be affected.

Ms. Nihipali mentioned that CZM supports the general concept of HB461, relating to Sea Level Rise, which establishes a coordinator in the Office of Planning to mitigate measures, relocation, and site planning for public infrastructure affected by sea level rise.

Jim Coon, MACZAC member, asked about SB263, which puts a climate change coordinator in DLNR. MACZAC members suggested that it might be better to have a single agency responsible for climate change, to avoid multiple silos doing similar work, with few actions being taken.

Ms. Nihipali added that Representative Lee introduced a bill, HB1483, to establish the Green Urban Core Pilot Project to develop a plan to increase the number of trees and vegetation in urban areas. The Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force and DOT would work together on this project.

Ms. Nihipali stated that it would be very helpful if MACZAC could advocate for an accountant for the Office of Planning, which is work currently being done by a CZM Planner, Susan Feeney.

- **Retreat Working Group**
Chair Thompson and Vice-Chair Fernandez discussed focusing on strengthening internal communication to ensure that MACZAC continues to become more effective. Retreat Working Group members include Kimbal Thompson, Phil Fernandez, and Sue Sakai.

VII. Discussion Highlighting Critical Marine and Coastal Hotspot Issues, By Island

Maui –Mr. Jim Coon, MACZAC member, discussed the following Maui hotspot:

- There are only 24 day-use moorings at Molokini Crater, but there are 41 permits for commercial activity in the area. The companies within the industry have worked it out by taking turns using the moorings. There is a bill being heard at the Legislature to decrease the number of day-use moorings to 12, which would make it very difficult for the permitted companies to continue offering existing tours, which will impact a number of businesses.

Statewide – Mr. Fernandez discussed the following statewide hotspot:

- DLNR-DAR has decided not to pursue development of a recreational fishing license program this year due to lack of public support. Some of the issues brought forward by the public include questions about enforcement and lack of trust in the government to use generated funds appropriately. DLNR-DAR will instead focus on education and outreach about the benefits of such a program. Mr. Fernandez noted that the biggest benefit of a recreational fishing license program would be the data collected, which could be used to effectively manage the State's fisheries.

VIII. Public Input

No public input was given.

IX. New Business

- The next MACZAC Quarterly Meeting will be held March 4, 2019 at 9:30 am and will include a discussion of managed retreat and a possible visit to the Legislature.

X. Adjournment

Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 12:39 pm.