

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

### MINUTES

Monday, March 4, 2019: 9:30 am – 12:30 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, Robert Nishimoto, Sue Sakai
- Members Absent: Nick Palumbo
- Office of Planning/Coastal Zone Management (OP/CZM) Staff Present: Leo Asuncion (OP), 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), Ron Strickland (member of the public)

#### DISTRIBUTED MATERIAL

- MACZAC Meeting Agenda for March 4, 2019
- Minutes from February 1, 2019 MACZAC Meeting [Draft]
- CZM Report to MACZAC (March 4, 2019)
- 2019 Legislative Bills of Interest
- Articles:
  - “Losing a Beachfront Home Isn’t Just a Rich Person’s Problem”  
[<https://www.civilbeat.org/2019/03/losing-a-beachfront-home-isnt-just-a-rich-persons-problem/>]
  - “Managed Retreat, Other Strategies Weighed to Address Sea-Level Rise”  
[<http://www.mauinews.com/news/local-news/2018/12/managed-retreat-other-strategies-weighed-to-address-sea-level-rise/>]
  - “Study: Moving Ourselves Away from the Shoreline Is Hard but Doable”  
[<https://www.civilbeat.org/2019/02/study-moving-ourselves-away-from-the-shoreline-is-hard-but-doable/>]

#### **I. Call to Order**

MACZAC Chair, Kimbal Thompson, called the meeting to order at 9:38 am and welcomed everyone. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

#### **II. Approval of February 1, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

The February 1, 2019 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:

#### **National Initiatives**

##### National CZM Program Funding

For FY 2019 (July 2019 – June 2020), the CZM line item has increased \$500,000 from FY 2018.

Ms. Nihipali shared that she will be attending the Coastal States Organization (CSO) Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C. March 11-13, 2019. CSO is a nonprofit coastal states advocacy group that represents

the 34 states, territories, and commonwealths. Ms. Nihipali will also meet with our congressional delegate offices in Washington, D.C. to discuss Hawai'i CZM's accomplishments, needs, and emerging issues, and will attend program managers meetings with NOAA to discuss strategic planning and how state CZM programs can assist in moving forward NOAA's national initiatives. Ms. Nihipali requested that MACZAC provide letters of support for CZM to our congressional delegates, in support of the request for an additional \$5,000,000 in appropriations for CZM programs nationwide for FY 2020.

In the upcoming grant year CZM will be tasked with developing a new 5-year Section 309 Assessment and Strategy, and Ms. Nihipali will be reaching out to MACZAC members to assist with this task. Section 309 is program enhancement funding that generally does not require match and allows CZM to work on projects such as *Probabilistic Tsunami Design Zone Mapping* and the ORMP Update.

### **Hawai'i CZM Program**

The following is a status summary of the Hawai'i 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. CZM issued a press release and published the final report on February 19, 2019. Available on-line at ([http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/ormp/assessing\\_the\\_feasibility\\_and\\_implications\\_of\\_managed\\_retreat\\_strategies\\_for\\_vulnerable\\_coastal\\_areas\\_in\\_hawaii.pdf](http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/ormp/assessing_the_feasibility_and_implications_of_managed_retreat_strategies_for_vulnerable_coastal_areas_in_hawaii.pdf))
- Current ORMP available on-line at ([http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/ormp/ormp\\_update\\_reports/final\\_ormp\\_2013.pdf](http://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/ormp/ormp_update_reports/final_ormp_2013.pdf))
- ORMP update is under way. CZM issued a request for proposals in December, and PBR Hawaii was recently selected as the contractor.
- 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. The first technical meeting was conducted on February 15, 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](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. The most recent meeting was held February 28, 2019.
- South Shore Promenade – Proof of Concept Study. CZM received a preliminary report last month from the contractor (University of Hawaii Community Design Center, led by Judith Stilgenbauer, with Hayley Diamond as the project manager). The 3 catalytic sites have been identified as: (1) Ala Wai area, (2) Ke‘ehi Lagoon area, and (3) Richardson Field/Pearl Harbor Regional Park. The contractor will design near-term, mid-term, and long-term proof of concept designs.
- 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 Managed Retreat Report**

Sandy Ma, OP/CZM Policy Analyst, provided a facilitated discussion of managed retreat, and the group noted the following points:

- Each community is unique, may want to look for commonalities and differences.
- Managed retreat is very difficult to do pre-disaster.
- Houses are worthless without roads, sewers, water, electricity.
- Due to limited funds, there is a need to prioritize – may want to start with public infrastructure, the loss of which affects more people.
- There is a need to identify criteria, and to identify and prioritize projects.
- We need to plan ahead so we’re ready when disaster occurs.
- Information is power – more information for the public is better.

Ms. Ma stated that CZM is planning to create a managed retreat flyer for public outreach and education. Ms. Nihipali added that managed retreat will likely be prioritized in the ORMP update and may be raised to the ORMP Council for consideration as a priority issue.

Phil Fernandez, MACZAC Vice-Chair, stated that managed retreat needs an owner, and MACZAC should advocate for finding an owner. The group noted that the most effective owner would be the Governor’s cabinet. Ms. Nihipali noted that the ORMP Council has a similar make-up, and the group agreed that adoption by the ORMP Council would constitute appropriate ownership.

The group agreed that MACZAC’s role is to be a pragmatic advocate for CZM by advocating for critical infrastructure retreat wherever this seems feasible –to Governor, to Legislature, to other State and county agencies – through letter writing, or direct face-to-face advocacy.

The Executive Working Group (Chair Thompson and Vice-Chair Fernandez) agreed to create draft language about the goals/tasks/time frame of the proposed Managed Retreat Working Group, and to develop an agenda item with talking points for the next MACZAC meeting (example: “we will establish this working group and this group will do 1, 2, 3”). MACZAC members can review and react to the draft language at the next meeting.

The group agreed that the Managed Retreat Working Group will be helpful in advising the ORMP process on how to move forward, and that through the Managed Retreat Working Group, MACZAC can advocate that managed retreat be folded in as recommendation to the ORMP Council for ownership.

## **V. Reports from MACZAC Working Groups**

- Executive Working Group  
No Report.
- Legislative Working Group  
The group went over the Legislative Bills of Interest handout, updated since the last MACZAC meeting. Ms. Nihipali noted that many bills have changed drastically over the course of the legislative session. Because of this, CZM has changed position on a number of bills.

Ms. Nihipali also discussed in detail 6 bills that CZM supports:

- HB1483 HD1 - amends the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force nomination process, CZM has asked for appropriations to be added to support the Task Force, which will have no operating budget after June 30, 2019
- HB449 HD1 / SB908 SD1 – establishes a statewide sustainability division within OP, establishes an operation budget and 5 staff
- HB1404 HD2 – a budget bill that provides funding for the 5 new positions in the proposed sustainability division
- HB1558 HD1 / SB1380 – codifies the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan within the Hawaii State Planning Act and requires OP to update the Hawaii 2050 Sustainability Plan and submit before the 2021 Legislative Session and every tenth session thereafter

CZM continues to support the administrative request for a federal ceiling increase (to allow CZM to accept more federal funding), the request for an Accountant IV position, and bills HB1895 and SB989 (subject matter budget bills).

Ms. Nihipali added that MACZAC’s advocacy efforts are currently needed most in the federal appropriations process, as well as in helping CZM identify issues of public concern that can be addressed through the ORMP process to provide recommended policy changes.

- Retreat Working Group  
No Report.

## **VI. Discussion Highlighting Critical Marine and Coastal Hotspot Issues, By Island**

- Maui –Mr. Rich Brunner, MACZAC member, discussed the following Maui hotspot:  
There are numerous abandoned cars along the road between the Pali and Lahaina. Mr. Brunner is wondering what can be done to help the counties deal with this problem. Mr. Fernandez noted that there is a similar problem on the Big Island and that Hawaii County cleaned up the cars after they received multiple complaints. Ms. Nihipali suggested reaching out to County Council. Chair Thompson suggested sending the photos of abandoned cars to the County Council.

## **VII. Public Input**

No public input was given.

## **VIII. New Business**

The next MACZAC Quarterly Meeting will be held May 10, 2019 at 9:30 am, will be held at NELHA in Kona, Hawaii. The group agreed that they would like to hear from speakers focused on water issues, such

as a representative from the National Parks Service and/or a native Hawaiian group working on fishponds. The group also expressed interest in a tour of NELHA facilities.

**IX. Adjournment**

Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 12:20 pm.