

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

## MINUTES

Friday, March 6, 2020: 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, Steve Mechler, Robert Nishimoto, Sue Sakai
- Members Absent: Donna Brown, Nick Palumbo
- Office of Planning/Coastal Zone Management (OP/CZM) Staff Present: Mary Alice Evans (OP), Justine Nihipali (OP/CZM), Melanie Lander (OP/CZM), Lisa Webster (OP/CZM)
- Others Present: Kristine Sellona (OP/CZM Intern), Amanda Leung (Legislative Aide for Representative Tarnas)

### DISTRIBUTED MATERIAL

- MACZAC Meeting Agenda for March 6, 2020
- Minutes from January 15, 2020 MACZAC Meeting [Draft]
- CZM Report to MACZAC (March 6, 2020)
- MACZAC Hotspots 03/06/2020
- Articles/News Stories/Reports:
  - “Half of the world's beaches could disappear by the end of the century, study finds” – [<https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/02/world/beaches-disappearing-climate-change-sea-level-rise/index.html>]
  - “Innovative infrastructure in face of sea-level rise” – [<http://www.islandinstitute.org/working-waterfront/innovative-infrastructure-face-sea-level-rise>]
  - “Officials, lawmakers grapple with eroding Kamehameha Highway in Windward Oahu” – [<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/01/hawaii-news/officials-lawmakers-grapple-with-eroding-oahu-coastal-highway/>]
  - “Six Feet Above: Where To Draw The Line On Sea Level Rise” – [<https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/02/six-feet-above-where-to-draw-the-line-on-sea-level-rise/>]

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

MACZAC Chair, Phil Fernandez, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and welcomed everyone. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

### **II. Approval of January 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

The January 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved by all members present.

### **III. Remarks**

Mary Alice Evans, Office of Planning Director, explained that her position is filled by a nomination of the current governor, subject to Hawaii State Senate approval, and ends at the end

of a governor's term. In contrast, the CZM Program is permanent, as long as Congress continues to reauthorize it, and its employees are, for the most part, in civil service positions which are also permanent. This provides continuity that will keep the purpose of MACZAC and the CZM Program persisting from administration to administration.

#### **IV. 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 2020 (July 2020 – December 2021), the CZM line item increased by \$1,500,000 nationally for a total of \$77,000,000. CSO and state and territorial programs are requesting an increase of funding to \$87,000,000 for FY 2021.

###### **Hawaii CZM Program**

- 9 of 11 (2 are 0.5 FTE) positions staffed (1/2-time Project Analyst)
  - CZM currently has one Project Analyst vacancy and will start recruiting.
- 1 intern position
  - The graduate intern position has been filled.
- 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**

- Received draft findings from NOAA's Office for Coastal Management (NOAA-OCM) on May 10, 2019. Responded to NOAA for clarifications on June 6, 2019 and received final findings on August 1, 2019. Received amended final findings December 3, 2019.
- Received five notes of accomplishments for recommendations and one necessary action.
- The December 2019 amendment clarified the due date for the necessary action.
- CZM Staff contact is Debra Mendes

###### **Section 309 Assessment and Strategy**

- CZM is drafting a new 5-year Section 309 Assessment and Strategy (2021-2025) and has conducted stakeholder and public input via the ORMP update process.
- Draft strategy was submitted on February 3, 2020 for public comment. Comments are due by March 4, 2020.
- MACZAC member, Sue Sakai, will be requested to review updated strategy, and Phil Fernandez has offered to assist as backup.
- CZM Staff contact is John Nakagawa

###### **Routine Program Changes**

- No activity presently.
- CZM Staff contact is Shichao Li

###### **Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP)**

- Conducted Working Group Meeting on February 6, 2020.
- Contractor, PBR Hawaii, conducted stakeholder interviews September, October, November.
- Draft was circulated to partner agencies on February 24, 2020.
- 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))
- CZM Staff contact is Melanie Lander

#### Coastal Non-Point Pollution Control Program (CNPCP)

- Five remaining Management Measures (MMs) and one Administrative Element (AE)<sup>1</sup> require approval by NOAA/EPA: (1) Roads/Bridges/Highways (3 MMs remaining); (2) On-Site Disposal Systems (OSDS) (1 MM remaining); and (3) BMP Monitoring (1 AE remaining)
- Working with DOT, DOH, Counties (planning departments, public works departments) on completing the above Management Measures. Procured services starting February 24, 2020.
- Information on the CNPCP can be found on-line at (<http://planning.hawaii.gov/czm/initiatives/coastal-nonpoint-pollution-control-program/>)
- CZM Staff contact is Debra Mendes

#### Climate Change Adaptation

- Office of Planning Director and CZM Program Manager serve as Commissioners on the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission
- The **next meeting** to be held April 15, 2020.
- CZM Staff contact is Justine Nihipali

#### Coastal Hazards

- Section 309 Coastal Hazards Strategy for the *Probabilistic Tsunami Design Zone Mapping - Maui Island (Phase I)* contract was completed February 26, 2020. This is for the high-resolution mapping for the island of Maui. Submitted proposal in response to the project of special merit funding cycle due January 15, 2020 for Maui (Phase II) and Kauai Island (\$250,000). We expect to hear in late summer with anticipated funding of October 2020, if awarded.
- *Updating the Hawaii Historical Shoreline Database*: Historical and future shoreline change rate GIS layers for Oahu are available online, and two web maps have been created for City and County of Honolulu planners. Consultant requested a no-cost extension to September 30, 2020. CZM Staff contact is Shichao Li

#### 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.
- Kauai County was provided resources to update its Public Access database as well. To be completed June 30, 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> The CZM Report to MACZAC dated 05/10/2019 erroneously reported three remaining Management Measures.

- DPP was provided resources to update its aerial seawall imagery database. To be completed June 30, 2020.
- Executed contract 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. Two projects have been completed and CZM staff continues to support one project to meet objectives of Act 15, SLH 2018. The most recent meeting was held November 14, 2019. CZM Staff contact is Justine Nihipali.
- South Shore Promenade – Proof of Concept Study. CZM received a preliminary report from the contractor in March 2019. A final report is expected in April 2020. The 3 catalytic sites are: (1) Ala Wai area, (2) Keehi Lagoon area, and (3) Richardson Field/Pearl Harbor Regional Park. CZM Staff contact is Josh Hekeka.
- Hawaii Congress of Planning Officials (HCPO). Office of Planning is hosting HCPO in the fall of 2020 in partnership with the American Planning Association (APA), Hawaii Chapter, and will be seeking support from planners in other state agencies. Save the Date! September 9-11, 2020 at the Hawaii Convention Center. Room block at Ala Moana Hotel. Information forthcoming.
- 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
  - Coastal States Organization
- Continue to review environmental assessments/environmental impact statements to ensure CZM objectives, policies, and initiatives are considered

#### **V. Managed Retreat PIG – Proposed Scope of Work and Timeframe**

Chair Fernandez shared with the group that the Managed Retreat PIG (PIG members include Phil Fernandez, Kimbal Thompson, Sue Sakai, and Donna Brown) reviewed CZM's *Assessing the Feasibility and Implications of Managed Retreat Strategies for Vulnerable Coastal Areas in Hawai'i Final Report* [the Managed Retreat Report] and then held a teleconference to discuss what they thought would be important next steps and priorities for MACZAC. The PIG's recommendations include focusing managed retreat efforts on infrastructure that, if lost, would impact large numbers of people and have high economic impact – to include roads, airports, harbors, and other public infrastructure. The group noted that the ongoing erosion and repair of Honoapi'ilani Highway on Maui, which is a MACZAC hotspot, is a great example of what's going on throughout the state. It might be a good project to start the managed retreat process with since it is one of DOT's top priorities and there is space to realign the road mauka. If DOT is already moving forward on this, the PIG recommends that MACZAC support their efforts. Another PIG recommendation is that public outreach about sea level rise and managed retreat be a big component of any managed retreat efforts, because without public support, projects are less likely to go forward. Chair Fernandez noted that the Managed Retreat Report highlighted a bike path that took 20 years to move back, and that we don't have that much time, so we may want to find a way to expedite the process. Therefore, the PIG also recommends considering the creation of a separate planning process for managed retreat projects, one that is less cumbersome than the current process, but more environmentally friendly than the emergency proclamation process

often used to repair failing roads. Recommendations will be written up and provided to OP Director to forward as appropriate. Chair Fernandez proposed the following as the PIG's purpose: to develop a position paper on behalf of MACZAC's position related to managed retreat from coastal hazards in Hawai'i and to develop a timeline in order to accomplish that and present it to MACZAC. Chair Fernandez made a motion to agendaize the PIG's purpose at the next meeting, and Sue Sakai, MACZAC member, seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by all members present.

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

- Executive Working Group  
No Report.
- Legislative Working Group  
Chair Fernandez noted that he's made several trips to the Legislature this session. Jim Coon, MACZAC member, shared that he's also been visiting the Legislature and added that Representative Tarnas has been deeply involved in coastal zone issues for the last 30 years, and that it's nice to have someone there who really understands the issues.

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

Maui – Rich Brunner, MACZAC member, discussed the following Maui hotspot:

- Mr. Brunner went out with the Coast Guard at the Kihei boat ramp on February 3, 2020, and the boat coxswain noted that he already touches bottom, although the channel was dredged just 6 months ago. Mr. Brunner suggested that DOBOR might want to schedule regular dredging of the channel because the site is closest to Molokini and is used to connect with EMS in emergencies.

East Hawai'i – Bob Nishimoto, MACZAC member, discussed the following East Hawai'i hotspot:

- Dr. Nishimoto shared that he is happy to see that there is an ongoing collaboration between a UH Hilo graduate student and the Hawaii County Planning Department to study coastal erosion in three areas of Hawai'i Island – Kapoho, Honoli'i, and Hapuna Beach.

West Hawai'i – Chair Fernandez discussed the following West Hawai'i hotspot:

- Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park, which has just been added to the MACZAC Hotspot Map, includes several types of fishponds, all of which are groundwater-dependent ecosystems. Fresh groundwater comes into these fishponds, mixes with salt water, and creates brackish water and an estuarine ecosystem. Decreased groundwater and/or increased sea levels lead to increased salination of the fishpond water, threatening these ecosystems.

Chair Fernandez reminded the group to try to connect any future hotspots with one of the three priority areas that will be the focus of the updated ORMP.

#### **VIII. Public Input**

No public input was given.

#### **IX. New Business**

The next MACZAC Quarterly Meeting will be held June 5, 2020, on Kauai. MACZAC Staff will reach out to Kauai County Planning Department to see if they are available to attend the meeting and possibly lead a site visit.

**X. Adjournment**

Chair Fernandez adjourned the meeting at 12:03 pm.