

DRAFT MINUTES

Friday, June 5, 2020: 9:30 – 11:30 am
Zoom Virtual Meeting

ATTENDANCE

- Members Present: Phil Fernandez, Jim Coon, Rich Brunner, Kimbal Thompson, Steve Mechler, Robert Nishimoto, Sue Sakai, Donna Brown, Nick Palumbo
- Members Absent: None
- 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), Kristine Sellona (OP/CZM Intern)
- Others Present: Nancy McPherson (DHHL), Zoe Sims (Legislative Aide for Representative Tarnas), Dawn Hegger Nordblom (member of the public)

DISTRIBUTED MATERIAL

- MACZAC Meeting Agenda for June 5, 2020
- Minutes from March 6, 2020 MACZAC Meeting [Draft]
- CZM Report to MACZAC (June 5, 2020)

I. Call to Order

MACZAC Chair, Phil Fernandez, called the meeting to order at 9:34 am and welcomed everyone. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

II. Approval of March 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Jim Coon, MACZAC member, moved to approve the March 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes, and Sue Sakai, MACZAC member, seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved by all members present.

III. Remarks

Mary Alice Evans, Office of Planning Director, asked MACZAC members to share what their experiences within their industries have been with COVID-19. Chair Fernandez shared that the charter boat industry reopened June 4, but there are no customers since there are no tourists. People are fishing for subsistence purposes only at this point. Mr. Coon shared that he is the president of the Ocean Tourism Coalition, which is the association for charter boats statewide. They petitioned the Governor to open their industry, but the imposed limit of 10 people per boat makes it impossible to take out the bigger boats without losing money. There are also rules about serving food on boats, with only pre-packaged food allowed, which does not fit well with the existing excursion or dinner-cruise market business models. Mr. Coon noted that it would be helpful to know when tourism will open again, for planning purposes. Donna Brown, MACZAC member, shared that her marine biology and oceanography classes were moved online, and she was only able to demonstrate experiments from home, rather than having the students in the lab. Ms. Brown added that she is really enjoying being able to get around without the usual heavy traffic, and that she believes that the State should limit tourist activity as we open back up, and keep tourists in hotels rather than allowing them to stay in vacation rentals in residential neighborhoods. Nick Palumbo, MACZAC member, noted that poachers have been coming over to Lāna'i for fish, lobsters and other natural resources, and boats have also been coming in the middle of the night, possibly to deliver illegal substances. Ms. Brown added that there have also been reports of poaching in Honolulu Bay, and there is a DOCARE smart phone app that can be

used to report this type of activity. Chair Fernandez added that the app is called DLNRTip and that it is easy to use.

Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program Manager's 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. The State will receive \$2,516,000 this upcoming fiscal year in 306/309 funds.

Hawaii CZM Program

- 9 of 11 (2 are 0.5 FTE) positions staffed (1/2-time Project Analyst)
 - CZM currently has two Project Analyst vacancies 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

- No new activity
- CZM Staff contact is Debra Mendes

Section 309 Assessment and Strategy

- Concurrent public comment period and NOAA OCM Review: No public comment and no significant comments received from NOAA OCM reviewers. Minor editorial amendments incorporated.
- CZM submitted its final 5-year Section 309 Assessment and Strategy (2021-2025) on May 8, 2020. Pending NOAA review and final approval
- CZM Staff contact is John Nakagawa

Routine Program Changes

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

Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP)

- Incorporated partner agency comments and should be complete by the 2nd week of June.
- Will work on printing, and hard copy and digital distribution
- Current ORMP available online 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)

- Five remaining Management Measures (MMs) and one Administrative Element (AE)¹ 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 online 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 last meeting was held on 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 executed on 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 Hawai'i 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.
- DPP was provided resources to update its aerial seawall imagery database. To be completed June 30, 2020.
- Executed contract with County of Hawai'i 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.

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

- Hawai'i Congress of Planning Officials (HCPO). Office of Planning is hosting HCPO in the fall of 2020 in partnership with the American Planning Association (APA), Hawai'i Chapter. Program planning will look different this year and we are investigating different virtual options for September/October 2020.
- 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
 - Hawai'i 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

IV. Managed Retreat PIG – Action Item: Vote to Approve and Establish Scope of Work and Timeframe

Chair Fernandez proposed the following as the PIG's scope of work: to develop a position paper on behalf of MACZAC's position related to managed retreat and other strategies for coastal hazards in Hawai'i. The focus will be on critical infrastructure and a recommendation that public agencies (both State and county) develop lists of critical infrastructure and then rank infrastructure to determine which is most at risk. Chair Fernandez proposed that the completed position paper be presented to MACZAC at the winter 2020 MACZAC meeting. Kimbal Thompson, MACZAC member, made a motion to approve the PIG's scope of work and timeframe, and Ms. Brown seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved by all members present.

V. Discussion Highlighting Critical Marine and Coastal Hotspot Issues and Next Steps

Maui – Ms. Brown and Mr. Coon shared the following Maui hotspots:

- Ms. Brown noted that the fish have really come back to Honolua Bay and many other places in Maui in the absence of tourism.
- Ms. Brown also noted that Honoapi'ilani Highway continues to be a hotspot with water washing up onto the road regularly.
- Mr. Coon reported that his company, Trilogy Excursions, inspected and worked on 65 day-use moorings in the past few months and reported their efforts to the Malama Kai Foundation.

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

- Dr. Nishimoto shared that the Hāmākua Action Committee for the Hāmākua Community Development Plan is on hold because of COVID-19, but the swearing-in process is scheduled to take place on Zoom in a few weeks.
- Dr. Nishimoto also shared that Hāmākua is an isolated area, and has a community emergency response team, where community members act as on-site observers and communicators, in the event that civil defense systems go down. This has led to members of the community developing a strong amateur radio network along the coast. Dr. Nishimoto is now a HAM radio operator.

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

- Chair Fernandez noted that the fish have also come back in the Kona area with the absence of tourism.

O'ahu – Mr. Thompson, Ms. Sakai, and Mr. Steve Mechler, MACZAC member, discussed the following O'ahu hotspots:

- Mr. Thompson noted that there is a mayoral election coming up, and that some candidates want to return to how things were before the pandemic, while others may see this as an opportunity to create a new, more sustainable 'normal'.
- Ms. Sakai noted that Hanauma Bay is also showing signs of recovery with the break from tourism. Ms. Sakai stated that she does not think we should go back to the way it was before, and that we need balance.
- Mr. Mechler shared that city officials removed trees from Ala Moana Beach Park over Memorial Day Weekend, without adequate notice, when everyone was on lockdown at home.

Chair Fernandez noted that MACZAC can create another PIG that focuses on sustainable tourism and can add non-MACZAC members who are subject-area experts as PIG members.

VI. Public Input

Ms. Dawn Hegger Nordblom, a former MACZAC member, shared that West Maui natural resources are responding well to the current break in tourist activity. Ms. Hegger Nordblom also shared that the We are West Maui Draft Community Plan has been completed.

Ms. Melanie Lander noted that she has seen bigger schools of fish and saw a shark for the first time in Waikiki in the last few months.

Ms. Nancy McPherson noted that HTA is reevaluating how tourism will be marketed for Hawai'i, after seeing the positive effects on resources of having an absence of tourists. Learning and service may be incorporated into future marketing efforts. Mr. Palumbo noted that he really liked this idea of service tourism, and that it would be great if we could get tourists to plant a tree, take a tour and clean up rubbish, or go spear fishing and spear an invasive fish. Ms. McPherson added that MACZAC members might want to talk to the Native Hawaiian Hospitality Association.

Chair Fernandez shared that he had considered the possibility of shutting down tourism each year in May and September, months with typically lower numbers of tourists, to give resources a chance to recover.

VII. New Business

The next MACZAC Quarterly Meeting will be held on Friday, September 18th, at 9:30 am. The meeting may be virtual, or may be in-person, depending on the situation with COVID-19. MACZAC members would like to establish a PIG with a focus on sustainable tourism, and this will be added to the next meeting agenda. Chair Fernandez suggested we might want to invite someone from HTA to come and share their plans for tourism in Hawai'i post-COVID-19. MACZAC members would also like to add a presentation of the ORMP update as an agenda item, as well as a report back from the Managed Retreat PIG. Ms. Sakai also suggested inviting Paul Brewbaker, an economist, to see what ideas he might have for recovery. Ms. Nihipali asked if MACZAC would consider forming a PIG to help CZM decide how best to support Focus Area 3 – Marine Ecosystems, of the newly updated ORMP. Focus Area 3 will be led by DAR's 30x30 Initiative. Chair Fernandez confirmed that MACZAC would be interested in forming a PIG to advise CZM in this capacity. Chair Fernandez suggested that Dr. Nishimoto, Mr. Palumbo, Ms. Brown, and himself would be good possible PIG members, as they all have strong ties to the ocean, and Dr. Nishimoto worked at DAR and is familiar with the organization. Dr. Nishimoto confirmed that he would be interested in joining the PIG, as did Mr. Palumbo and Ms. Brown.

Chair Fernandez suggested that a presentation from Ms. Carrie Littlejohn, DAR's 30x30 coordinator, to the PIG would be helpful. Chair noted that Ms. Hegger Norblom might also be a good addition to the PIG, as well as Mr. Alton Miyasaka, former Acting Director of DAR. Ms. Hegger Nordblom said she would be interested in participating. Mr. Coon stated that he would like to participate as well. Formation of this new PIG will be also be added to the next agenda.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Fernandez adjourned the meeting at 11:24 am.

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