

Hawai'i Ocean Resources Management Plan Working Group

Meeting Summary

State Office Tower 4th Floor Conference Room

January 7, 2010; 9 a.m. – 12 noon

Members Present:

Grant Arnold (OHA)
Cindy Barger (USACE)
Jim Buika via telephone (Planning, Maui)
Chris Conger for Sam Lemmo (DLNR OCCL)
Jim Coon (MACZAC)
Steve Frano (NOAA OCRM)
Todd Low (DOA Aquaculture Program)
Marnie Meyer (OP/CZM)
Dana Okano via telephone (Planning, Hawaii)
Chris Ostrander (UH SOEST)
Peter Rappa (UH Sea Grant)
Lisa Ellen Smith via telephone (Planning, Kauai)
Barry Usagawa (BWS)
Dean Watase (DOT Harbors)

Others Present:

Ron Cannarella (DOFAW)
Linda Colburn (Facilitator)
Melissa Iwamoto (OP/CZM)
Shichao Li (OP/CZM)
Lorene Maki (OP/CZM)
Deb Mendes (OP/CZM)
Kenny Roberts (OP/CZM)

Interim Developments

- Maui County: Maui County has hired a new CZM grant manager, Kara Miller, who will be starting in February. Kara comes from the South Carolina CZM Program.
- Kauai County: Working with the National Tropical Botanical Gardens as a co-applicant with DLNR on a proposal for a 20-year plan to co-manage the Lāwa'i Kai ahupua'a and konohiki, a prime example of the ORMP.
- MACZAC: MACZAC held its last meeting on December 3-4, 2009, on the island of Lanai. Mr. Murdock has proposed a 200-tower wind farm on Lanai, with a sister farm on Molokai, which would transfer electricity to Oahu. Wind towers would be about 430 feet tall. The proposed project has created a big use conflict on Lanai, and will be discussed further at the next MACZAC meeting in February.

Another issue on Lanai involves issues near Kaunolu. The best -preserved heiau are there. There is a land-use conflict of concern to Lanai residents. This is the one protected bay that the community uses. It's owned by Castle & Cooke and was given to Maui County in perpetuity. Commercial operators pay ¼ million a year to access this facility. These funds are used for staffing and maintenance of the park. There are some operators on Maui who have found ways to circumvent applicable rules. Commercial operators on Maui are claiming that their customers are the general public. Permitted companies don't use the park on weekends and holidays. There are lots of non-permitted commercial users. Some tour operators are dropping people off and advising them to pretend that they are not part of a group. There is no effective way to stop them. There are as many as 4 to 5 groups per day. Tourists are unaware of the problem until they get there. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) views this as similar to operating a ferry. The community approached the PUC. The PUC

determined that clearly commercial tours from start to finish are exempt from oversight. No one wants to confront the tourists. They want to get the companies to comply.

The harbor has a rule that says if you are in violation of state or federal or local ordinances you can be denied a license. The unilateral agreement that Lanai made with the Maui Parks Department is such that if the County finds operators in violation of rules, they can go after the companies. Castle & Cooke, however, owns the land and still considers this private land ownership. As such, Castle and Coke has to initiate the solution to this problem.

- CZM: Doug Tom, CZM Program Manager, retired at the end of the year. OP has requested approval to fill the position. New CZM staff includes Debra Mendez and Lorene Maki, both of which have previously worked in CZM. CZM handed out copies of NOAA's new Smart Growth for Coastal and Waterfront Communities publication.
- NOAA: OCRM approved supporting the Hawaii CZM Manager position with federal CZM grant funds, for fear of the State losing the position in the current reduction in force. PSC provided information on coastal hazard planning and resiliency to West Hawaii County.
- DLNR: DLNR is producing a Kailua Beach Management Plan, which will include an implementation strategy. They are working with multiple entities, including the community members through public meetings.
- OHA: OHA has met with a group noting the decrease in monk seals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. In the Main Hawaiian Islands, monk seals are increasing in population, despite the recent shootings on Kauai and on Molokai.
- USACE: Athline Clark is now working for the USACE Civil Works Branch as an environmental coordinator, and will fill in if needed as Cindy's alternate on the ORMP Working Group. The Army Corps is continuing its work on an East Maui restoration plan. This involves a cost-sharing agreement, which is expected to be done this February or March. This is not an Army Corps plan as much as it is a collaborative effort with multiple stakeholders.
- DOT: Work continues on the Hawaii Island Master Plan. One recommendations raised by the community is to put in a channel through the coral flats area to improve circulation at Pelekane Bay. The DOT sponsored a study with the US Army Corps of Engineers to look into this. Results from the numerical model show that there is not enough circulation to flush the sediments out from the bay. More information about this study can be found on the DOT's project website at www.hawaiiharborsplan.com.
- DOA: Randy Cates from Hukilau Foods is operating a moi project off Ewa Beach. Randy did a good job working with the public and is contemplating seaward expansion. He supplies product to the local market in contrast to the Kampachi operation in Kona, which is primarily export oriented. That operation may move to Mexico to get closer to their market. Little opposition was noted for the untethered fish project. This is a good example of how doing your homework with the community before proceeding can lead to better outcomes.
- UH SOEST: Planning a large stakeholder meeting regarding new tools for data aggregation. Invitations will be going out soon. There will be a formal governance proposal for the State. This 5-year project runs through 2015.

Follow up from November Meeting

Working Group Questions to OP Director:

Q1. What will happen to Doug Tom's position and is there a succession plan for the CZM Program given his retirement? How will the Working Group be supported going forward?

A1. A request to fill Doug's position has already been sent to DBEDT. OP hopes to fill the position by the end of the first quarter. Qualifications for the position are held at DHRD.

Q2. What is the Policy Group's response to the Working Group's climate change framework?

A2. The framework will be presented to the Policy Group at the February 3rd meeting, and Abbey will ask them to officially endorse it and direct the Working Group to move forward with implementation and seeking out funding opportunities.

Q3. Given that the Climate Change Task Force has yet to meet, what are OP's intentions moving forward re: convening this group and setting its agenda? What are your thoughts about the roles, relationships, and expectations among the Task Force and the ORMP Working and Policy Groups?

A3. The CCTF has not been able to convene a meeting due to financial and political reasons. Therefore, the ORMP groups can/should continue to work on climate change adaptation planning for Hawaii.

ORMP Annual Report

The 2009 ORMP Annual Report is being drafted and will be shared with the Legislature and the ORMP Policy Group upon completion. The report contains information on the implementation efforts in the year 2009, examples of collaborative projects among Working Group members, results from a survey of the Working Group on the effectiveness of the group, work products, the challenges of implementation, and next steps for the year 2010.

Upcoming Policy Group meeting: February 3, 2010

OP has scheduled the next ORMP Policy Group meeting for February 3rd, 2010, from 9am-11am in the Pacific Services Center conference room. Agenda items may include a quick update on collaborative efforts of the Working Group, a presentation on the ORMP implementation project between HCDA and the Kakoo Oiwai and Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Clubs, *Mahuahua Ai o Hoi*, and the *Framework for Climate Change Adaptation in Hawaii* document that the ORMP Working Group developed with the help of the U.H. Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy.

The Working Group made suggestions to present not only what we have been working on, but what our next steps are and what we need back from the Policy Group. Needs identified included commitment to support the Working Group staff time to work on ORMP issues such as climate change, authority to seek funding for a climate change risk assessment (and other next steps moving forward with adaptation), and a recommitment to work with their Working Group member on ORMP issues as needed. There was also a suggestion to make another effort to get the City and County of Honolulu to the table as they are a critical but missing partner.

Presentation: Preliminary draft of the State-wide Assessment of Forest Conditions and Resource Strategy

Ron Cannarella from DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) presented the preliminary draft of the 2010 State-wide Assessment of Forest Conditions and Resource Strategy (SWARS). Ron requests input and partner reviews by February 28th, 2010. The document must be submitted to the USDA Forest Service by June 18, 2010. Federal review will focus on the requirements as outlined in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill). For more information, please see <http://www.hawaiistateassessment.info/>.

Updates from Caucus Groups

Watersheds:

1) Summary of focus last calendar year:

* Held the Watershed Summit with State and Federal Agencies to introduce the concept of the State's watershed planning guidance, get a better understanding of who is working on watershed planning and implementation and how these agencies might better collaborate. A summary report of the Watershed Summit can be found at:

http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/czm/initiative/nonpoint/Watershed_Summit_2009.pdf

* Key caucus discussions after the Summit

--- Need to engage Counties in future collaborative meetings

--- Counties could use support in the watershed plans to help justify needed changes in regulatory authorities (either as implementation policies or new/revised regulations)

--- The topic is broad and it would help to have some sort of pilot/model to visualize collaboration. This led to discussions to utilize West Maui as a potential collaboration. West Maui now includes sponsorship by DAR, DOFAW, CWRM, and hopefully DOH and Maui County.

(2) Direction forward for this calendar year

* CZM awarded the watershed guidance for non-point source pollution to Tetra Tech and recently received an outline. Tetra Tech would like to have watershed caucus and working group provide feedback on the table of contents and development of product to make it as useful as possible across of broader spectrum of watershed planning. Goal is that if an organization follows the outline, it better situates them for potential funding sources.

* Continue working on promoting collaboration through pilot/model activities like West Maui and/or Waianae Mountains Watershed Partnership

* Waianae Mountains Watershed Partnership is in the process of finalizing its MOU. Anticipated signature date is March 2010. Unlike the other Watershed Partnerships, Waianae has greater community engagement in the set up of the Partnership and objectives that cover a watershed perspective - beyond the land boundaries of the upper watershed land owners. Also, the objective more clearly includes education and volunteerism in the management of the partnership. This may provide a good example of community collaboration. Partnership Members include DLNR, Army DPW, Navy, BWS, Mao Farms, and Kaala Farms.

Climate Change:

The climate change caucus discussed the pending endorsement of the Framework for Addressing Climate Change Adaptation in Hawaii by the ORMP Policy Group at their upcoming meeting in February. If they do endorse the Working Group to move forward with climate change adaptation, the next steps would be to start implementing the framework. Initially this would

include working with ICAP and other partners to put together an adaptation team, do an impact assessment, and seek out funding for the subsequent steps such as a risk and vulnerability assessment. The caucus will wait and see what kind of support we get at the Policy Group level in a few weeks before making any decisions.

Next Steps

There will be an ORMP Policy Group meeting on February 3rd, 2010, from 9am-11am in the Pacific Services Center conference room. The ORMP Working Group decided to hold its next meeting directly after the ORMP Policy Group meeting, from 12:30-3:30pm in the same location (Pacific Services Center). Agenda items will include: discussion and next steps on the climate framework and other Policy Group meeting outcomes, input on the SWARS draft document, and caucus time.