

Ocean Resources Management Plan Working Group

Meeting Summary

Office of Planning Conference Room

January 8, 2009: 9:00-12:00 noon

Members Present:

Thorne Abbott (Planning, Maui)
Grant Arnold (OHA)
Jim Coon (MACZAC)
Chris Ostrander (UH/HiOOS)
Todd Low (DOA)
Marnie Meyer (OP/CZM)
Dana Okano (Planning, Hawaii)
Lisa Ellen Smith (Planning, Kauai)
Jean Tanimoto (NOAA PSC)
Barry Usagawa (BWS)
Dean Watase (DOT)

Others Present:

Linda Colburn (Facilitator)
Scott Glenn (UH, DURP)
Doug Tom (OP/CZM)

Interim Developments

Climate Change

- An unusually high tide above the usual full moon levels is expected next full moon this January. Resulting rise in sea level may simulate projected sea level rise due to climate change over the next century. If it occurs as projected, the event could make implications for long term sea level rise more compelling to members of the public. This affects considerations of possible coastal hazards for this episode as well as for the longer term. This may change the way we think about permit applications as well as our assessment of potential shoreline hazards in the future.
- New climate change study: US Climate Change Science Program and the Subcommittee on Global Change Research have released: Abrupt Climate Change. Final Report, Synthesis and Assessment Product 3.4
- In late February, Doug will be attending NOAA's annual Program Managers' Meeting, where he hopes to learn more about how the states will be tasked to deal with climate change under the next reauthorization of the national CZMA. He reminded the group that the Policy Group wants us to move forward with developing a scope of work for a climate change impacts study, and he is glad that everyone is willing to help and contribute to getting that done.
- Scott Glenn, a graduate student at UH, attended the meeting to offer help on the climate study. Scott is currently working with Karl Kim and others at UH tasked by the Legislature to conduct a study of the state's environmental review process. The project tasked to UH is meant to:
 - a) Review the feasibility and impact of requiring an environmental impact statement to include effects of a proposed action as a contributor to climate change, and
 - b) Develop strategy for modernizing Hawaii's environmental review system to incorporate national & international best practice standards.

The study is due in December, 2009. Scott is currently conducting stakeholder interviews around the state and would like to hear from you if you have input. He can be reached at: sjglenn@hawaii.edu

Budget Constraints

- A commonality of the Working Group across state, federal and county agencies is a halt on projects moving forward until there is more news on the budget crisis. New projects are being halted, with most just trying to maintain ongoing projects.
- Jim Coon reported that there has been a drastic drop in revenues for many businesses in Maui as well. There will be many business failures in the next few months as tourism is way down in Hawaii; everyone is struggling to break even when the cost of equipment maintenance, etc. go on whether business does or not. It may be 2011 before the industry sees good times again for these types of businesses.
- HIOOS - Funding for the Integrated Ocean Observing Systems of the Pacific and Hawaii will continue to be cut. They have been told that a 40% budget cut is the best they can hope for. They will continue to develop the Hawaii Ocean Observing System and plan for the eventual buildout of an observing system to the broader Pacific region.
- DOT's harbors modernization project is moving forward, but due to the changing economic climate, adjustments are being made to the timing and number of projects.

Legislation

- Doug Tom reported that there will be several bills introduced to amend CZM law:
 - a) to streamline provisions for the SMA permit system, and
 - b) to deal with vegetation encroachment on the shorelines and public access issues

The Working Group requested an overview of the legislative process at a future meeting, as questions of when agencies can comment, etc. came up. CZM will arrange for a presentation at the next meeting.

Other News

- The Ko'olaupoko Watershed Management Plan is wrapping up. Over the next 3-4 months, BWS will be talking to agencies and want to include the ORMP; they are currently working with communities, boards, legislators, etc. The pre-final management plan is posted on the web.
- The EIS on large capacity ferry has been released and is available on DOT's website.
- Hawaii County has yet to hire a new planning director. For now, the department is moving forward with Community Development Plans and the Mayor continues to accept applications for the position.
- Possible National Monument designations in the Pacific: The people in Guam and Saipan CNMI don't want the designations, as they fear they will lose their rights to fisheries, and it doesn't appear to come with any funding mechanism. The people cannot afford the costs themselves.
- Good news for Humpback Whales: The numbers of humpbacks this season are already up, even though most don't even get to Hawaii until mid January. The SPLASH program has already estimated as many as ten thousand whales, while an international group figures there are closer to twenty thousand of the north Pacific population.

Working Group Capacity Building

Members made suggestions for consideration to build capacity for the Working Group:

- An explanation of the legislative process, including the timing for submission of bills and provision of testimony, effective lobbying efforts, and ballot box initiatives.
- Jim O'Connell, Sea Grant Representative to the County of Kauai, can be a good resource as he has a long history in coastal management. He can talk about Kauai's new shoreline setback ordinance, or talk about the differences in management between MA and HI, for example.
- City and County of Honolulu still needs to be part of the ORMP.
- There was a discussion about whether or not other divisions of DLNR should be involved in the WG, such as DOBOR, DOCAR and Parks. The group was reminded that we as Working Group members are supposed to be working internally in our agencies on ORMP since not everyone can be in the

group. For now the group agreed that the missing DAR representative should be filled and present at meetings.

- NOAA holds Blue Bag luncheons at the Pacific Services Center and welcomes Working Group members to attend and share information with the public, constituents and partners. If you are interested in making a presentation or coming to hear others, please contact Nadia Sbeih at: nadia.sbeih@noaa.gov
- How do we engage cultural practitioners in designing tools and program development?

Cross-sector Caucuses

The WG discussed some of the elements the caucuses should focus on before the break-out, including:

- Proposed solutions
- Practical, doable, short timeframe, measurable, pragmatic, achievable
- 3-6 months initial timeframe
- Tie benchmarks to the Legislative session, Policy Group meetings, and the next Legislative session
- Reconvene larger Working Group to brief on caucuses
- Keep an audit trail – minute taker
- Clear objectives on what the caucus wants to achieve,
- Prioritization of objectives
- Steps to take to achieve goals
- Identify partners and/or resources

WG members then broke out into the following caucuses: Climate Change and Policy/Legislation. The caucuses on Watersheds and Outreach were deferred as key members were not present. The Working Group then reconvened to report back and wrap up. Caucuses reported on the group's objectives, priorities in the next 3-6 months, and next steps. Each caucus will send notes to Marnie within one week's time of a Working Group meeting, and will be included in the WG meeting summary.

Next steps

The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 5th, 2009 @ the State Office Tower, 4th floor, from 9am-noon. As discussed, CZM will try to schedule a presentation on the Legislative process for WG members. A large portion of the meeting will also be dedicated to break-out caucus time as well.

Doug will keep the Working Group informed on all ORMP-related bills during the Legislative Session.

Caucus Break-Out Notes

Caucus groups were asked to talk about the objectives of the group, priorities, and next steps. Below are the notes from the two caucus sessions.

Climate Change

Note taker: Marnie

Objectives:

1. Develop scope of work for climate change proposal (FIRST PRIORITY)
 - a. Possibly start with a literature review
 - b. Identify what policies/practices already exist re: climate change
2. Find out what other state action plans are, and how they can help Hawaii in developing one for policy/management
3. Integrate/coordinate plans throughout the state and different agencies/groups
4. Identify practices we can take to mitigate the impacts (once we find out what they are)
5. Look into how land use policies take into account adaptation to climate change
6. Explore ways to make sure management plans throughout the state are coordinated so all stakeholders are on the same page re: climate change

Next Steps:

- Re-read Working Group proposal on climate change
- Start development of scope of work for proposal
- Investigate other state programs with climate change activities

Policy/Legislation

Note Taker: Thorne

Doug Tom started the meeting by requesting the caucus members to identify the following:

- What are the elements of the group?
- What is policy?
- What are the thoughts and desired outcomes, particularly as it relates to daily implementation of the ORMP through the [county] permitting systems?
- What is the relationship to other caucus groups?

Some caucus members held that the groups purpose was to recommend specific language changes to HRS 205A as related to the ORMP. Some felt recommendations should be made on this and possibly other relevant legislation to the Policy WG. However, no consensus was reached on the topic and this was primarily an expression of ideas.

Primarily the meeting entailed a discussion, initiated by Jim Coon who, along with Doug, framed the legislative review process including the introduction of bills, committees, crossover, conference committees, full vote, and when appropriate to submit testimony.

Next Steps:

- Answer the preliminary questions that were asked above
 - a) Preliminary discussion included focusing on legislative activity through cross over (short-term,) preparing for the next Policy Group (short-term), and planning and preparatory work for the next legislative session in 2010 (long-term)
- Development of caucus format
 - a) Caucus agenda will be driven by bills introduced and actions they may address
 - b) Focus on policy issues that don't require funding