

Hawai'i Ocean Resources Management Plan Working Group

Meeting Summary

March 25, 2010; 9am -12pm

State Office Tower 6th Floor Conference Room

Members Present:

Cindy Barger (USACE)
Jim Coon (MACZAC)
Jeffrey Dack, for Jim Buika (Planning, Maui)
Steve Frano (NOAA OCRM)
Melissa Iwamoto (OP/CZM)
Heidi Kai Guth (OHA)
Todd Low (DOA Aquaculture)
Marnie Meyer (OP/CZM)
Hudson Slay (EPA)
Jean Tanimoto (NOAA PSC)
Barry Usagawa (BWS)
Dean Watase (DOT Harbors)

Others Present:

Donna Brown (MACZAC)
Jeff Burgett (USFWS)
Maxine Burkett (UH, ICAP)
Ron Cannarella (DOFAW)
Linda Colburn (Facilitator, Where Talk Works)
Zena Grecni (ICAP)
Abbey Mayer (OP)
Pat Rivera (WTW)
Deanna Spooner (Hawaii Conservation Alliance)
Jessica Stabile (OP/MACZAC)

Welcome/Interim Developments

Introductions and interim developments were made around the room. Of note, Jim Buika, coastal resources planner for Maui County, will replace Thorne Abbott on the Working Group.

Policy Group Debrief (Director Mayer Interim Liaison)

OP Director would like to increase communications between the Policy and Working Groups, and has offered to be a resource person for Working Group members to bring questions to in order to get feedback from the Policy Group. Director Mayer provided these comments on the February Policy Group meeting:

- He recognizes that engaging the Policy Group at a different level is needed moving forward. He understands that the Policy Group tasked the Working Group to work on climate change and that he was waiting to give a product to the Policy Group. He indicated that he is here today to get more intimate details of the obstacles facing the Working Group to give to the Policy Group. He would like to increase dialogue between the two groups.
- He indicated that the Policy Group is impressed with the climate change framework, and appreciates the tremendous efforts the Working Group put forth. While he knows there were some frustrations getting the work done, he feels the Policy Group is engaged.
- The length of Policy Group meetings might be an issue: for Oahu Policy Group members, three hours is too long. For members from the Neighbor Islands, this length of the meeting is okay.

The group responded with the following comments:

- Is the variety of presentations ok? Could there be a rearrangement of the presentation to concentrate on a single issue during a meeting?
- The Working Group is looking for leadership commitment from the Policy Group. Does the Policy Group believe that there is a sense of urgency? Are they ready to identify steps of implementation? There is a need to educate the community to counter misinformation.
- There needs to be more frequent meetings of the Policy Group.
- Background material from the Working Group should be provided to each agency's Policy Group representative before their meeting so that an agenda with a decision-making model to move issues forward can be developed.
- Working Group members should provide questions that the Policy Group can answer.
- The Working Group needs to hold itself accountable for timeframes.

Other CZM updates from Director Mayer:

- The current legislative session has been very quiet on land use or coastal issues.
- Lateral shoreline access/vegetative growth bill is now an amendment to the definition of shoreline. It empowers DLNR to cite landowners regarding overgrowth of vegetation.
- The Office of Planning, in partnership with the Center for Island Climate Adaptation & Policy (ICAP) and the U.H. Sea Grant College Program, sent a letter of intent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding intent to apply for funding assistance to conduct a statewide climate change vulnerability and risk assessment. The Director acknowledged Cindy's assistance. Should Hawaii receive funding, the cost will be shared at 50% Federal and 50% State. Members of the Working Group may be asked to assist regarding matching funds.

Pacific Islands Climate Change Cooperative (PICCC) Briefing

Jeff Burgett, interim coordinator for PICCC, made a presentation to the Working Group. PICCC is new climate change initiative providing a range of scientific and technical tools to help Hawaii and the Pacific Islands Region make informed decisions for landscape-scale conservation. It is currently housed under the Hawaii Conservation Alliance, and is funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The group discussed how PICCC efforts are closely integrated with the ORMP. PICCC brings scientific horsepower, new tools, and possible funding opportunities. The ORMP brings state sectors and local focus, coordination and complementary efforts. For more information on PICCC, please see: <http://hawaiiconservation.org/blankpage.asp>, or see today's presentation posted on CZM's website at: http://hawaii.gov/dbedt/czm/ormp/working_group.php.

Moving Forward on the Climate Change Adaptation Framework: Group Discussion

Now that the climate change adaptation framework has been completed and endorsed by the ORMP Policy Group, what are the next steps in order to implement the framework? The Working Group had many questions moving forward, including: Have all the players been identified? How much funding is needed? Will technical assistance be needed? Will a reorganization of an agency be needed to address climate change adaptation? The group had a discussion on next steps, which was led by Maxine Burkett, from the UH William Richardson

School of Law, ICAP. Discussion topics focused on issues such as a vulnerability assessment, outreach/education, an Executive Order, how to ensure collaboration, and potential opportunities:

Vulnerability Assessment

- A statewide vulnerability assessment should happen by the end of the calendar year.
- Work currently being done needs to be identified. What is possible in terms of time and budget is already clear. Perhaps we can fund graduate students to develop some sort of organized compilation of what we know so that the vulnerability assessment is drawing on information already available and not creating new information.
- In addition, a lot of work can and should happen prior to a vulnerability assessment, such as scoping the potential impacts to different planning sectors, and identifying all of the essential partners.

Draft Executive Order

- The key aspect that is missing is approval to work on climate adaptation from the executive level at the state. An Executive Order (E.O.) is being drafted by ICAP, in preparation for the new administration in 2011. The Working Group will be given an opportunity to provide input.
- The E.O. can represent sanctioning and resolution within the state and a unified plan that represents the state's perspective. Without an E.O., agencies will stay within hazard mitigation, and may not address other critical impacts such as public health and safety, poverty, impacts on cultural resources, and other social impacts.

Outreach/Education

- The group wants to make sure that they conduct climate change outreach very carefully, and if there is any information available on how to do this. They discussed whether first steps were needed before outreach, such as having a draft E.O. ready.
- Before going to the public, the group needs to determine what their role will be, who the target audiences are, and to what end?
- Beginning the vulnerability assessment could solicit answers to these initial questions.
- MACZAC Chair offered that MACZAC could discuss climate change outreach/education at their next meeting on April 26, 2010. MACZAC has public education tools, including posters and a CD on climate change. This could be good outreach to distribute to high schools.
- If resources for new outreach materials are not available, at least some outreach on climate change can be conducted at public events where people can walk around and do different things.

Fostering Collaboration:

- It is apparent that we need to engage other agency heads. OP agreed to send a letter to the Policy Group and other key organizations to identify a point person in each agency for climate change-related efforts. This would allow an opportunity to secure alignment and support, ask questions, get feedback, and assess how different agencies are already addressing climate change. It was made clear that this process or group of contacts should not, and would not, preempt the Climate Change Task Force.

Potential Opportunities:

- DOFAW will be submitting Hawaii's Statewide Assessment of Forest Conditions and Resource Strategy (SWARS) to the federal government on June 18, 2010. The document is a strategy used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to evaluate the forest service and standalone programs by each chapter. Climate change is a big issue. The document could result in federal funding for climate change initiatives. It was also pointed out that the Hawaii Tourism Authority gave \$10 million to the state to preserve resources that tourists want to look at. It would be helpful for the Working Group to identify items on their "wish list" of what could get done with these two funding sources. It is likely that the Hawai'i Secretary of Agriculture will sign this document.
- Robbie Kane at the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) was identified as being someone who could be a resource regarding HTA funding for environmental resources.

Next Steps

- ICAP will share a draft of the E.O. with the Working Group for input.
- OP will send a letter to the ORMP Policy Group and other key organizations to solicit a point of contact for climate change.
- *Next Meeting Date:* The next ORMP Working Group meeting is scheduled for May 6th, 2010.