

Ocean Resources Management Plan Working Group

Meeting Summary

Office of Planning Conference Room
Tuesday, June 24, 2008; 9 a.m. – 12 noon

Members Present:

Thorne Abbott (Planning, Maui)
Grant Arnold (OHA)
Heidi Guth (OHA)
Dawn Johnson (SCD)
Sam Lemmo (DLNR/OCCL)
Marnie Meyer (OP/CZM)
Dana Okano (Planning, Hawaii)
Chris Ostrander (Pacific Islands IOOS)
John Parks (NOAA/OCRM)
Hudson Slay (DOH/CWB)
Lisa Ellen Smith (Planning, Kauai)
Kelvin Sunada (DOH/EPO)
Barry Usagawa (Board of Water Supply, City/Co.)
Dean Watase (DOT/Harbors)
Leonard Young (DOA)

Others Present:

Linda Colburn (Facilitator)
Melissa Iwamoto (OP/CZM)
Kevin Richards (SCD)
Doug Tom (OP/CZM)

Welcome

Doug opened up the meeting by welcoming our new Working Group members, John Parks from NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), and Lisa Ellen Smith, the new CZM planner at the Kauai County Planning Department.

Recap of Policy Group expectations

Doug provided a recap of the Policy Group Meeting:

- Our next steps, as approved by the Policy Group:
 1. Streamline implementation activities;
 2. Develop a public outreach strategy to support ORMP and help MACZAC reach out to public;
 3. Reassess resources after legislative session;
 4. Explore need for rule/legislative changes (2009);
 5. Budgets assessments;
 6. Cross-sector collaboration, institutional arrangements, and conflict resolution;
 7. Update the ORMP to address priorities and progress, while keeping the 3 Perspective framework;
 8. Address future priorities, such as global climate change; and
 9. Strengthen participation.

*Highlights

- The Policy Group also indicated that we need to focus on the following as we move forward:
 - Perspective 3 (Promoting Collaboration and Stewardship) needs to be further developed, focusing on involving the community and supporting a bottom-up approach
 - Focus on implementation, keeping in mind our agency goals when looking at collaborative efforts.
 - The ORMP update is not so urgent and should keep the 3 Perspective framework. Perhaps an annex to the management goals and strategic actions to reflect changing priorities and progress will be sufficient.
 - Clear indicators for the management goals are needed

- The members of the Policy Group agreed that their next meeting needs to be by September in order to submit any proposals to the Governor and Legislature in time for the 2009 session.

- The focus on a collaborative watershed approach is supported.

- Doug reminded the group that Marnie will prepare an annual report to the Legislature by the end of the year. It would be good to highlight plans that implement the ORMP as well as those that focus on collaborative projects. This can be a good opportunity to show that some fiscal support will be necessary. What needs do the agencies have? We need to make it clear as to what we need (fiscal and substantive) in order to move forward.

Agency updates re: Legislative changes

Members gave a brief update, on legislative and/or budget changes during the 2008 Legislative session. Highlights are below:

DOT: They are moving forward with harbor improvements (Harbors Modernization Bill). Budget was reduced from \$842 million to \$600 million, which will likely to be an important issue for the Harbors Division.

County of Hawaii: Two Community Development Plans are in sub groups of county council and are expected to go before full council in August or September, so they are on hold until then. Resources are static.

SOEST/HiOOS: Federal support was cut by 40%, so ocean observation product release and development for fiscal year 2009 will be delayed, may not be at the scale they had hoped, and may result in a longer time frame as well.

DLNR: The four stewardship management areas are going well. DLNR has conducted site visits to highlight what management actions and plans will be, phasing, etc. Each team will be making presentations in July and August. They are also inviting people from other teams to join. These are not public discussions, but they could arrange for ORMP WG members to attend. MACZAC might be able to participate as well.

Budget projections are affecting us. State revenue projections are way down, so that will impact DLNR. Cuts have occurred in DLNR General Funds, and more are likely.

For the first time in 10 years, Hawaii will be hosting the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting in Kona starting on August 23rd. There will be a number of workshops before the meeting, such as: community-based management, sustainable tourism practices, innovative mechanisms for global climate change, and watershed planning. To see short summaries of the planned events, visit: <http://www.coralreef.gov/taskforce/pdf/CRTF%20Session%20Summary%2062408.pdf>
To register, visit: <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=620847>
For more information about the USCRTF, visit: <http://www.coralreef.gov/>

DOA: There has been a 4.7% reduction in the DOA budget. We get to select where we take our cuts. Believe will continue with business as usual, somehow. Leveraging resources could help considerably.

DOH: Having similar issues as DLNR and DOA with state budget cuts. Federal funding has remained fairly constant. DOH and CZM have initiated some of the actions in the ORMP Work Plan, such as an RFQ to start developing watershed guidance. DOH has also put out an RFP looking for implementation activities to implement watershed plans. There were around 11 proposals received. Priorities remain the same. Don't think budget cuts will affect that.

County of Kauai: N/A. Lisa Ellen Smith is brand new to the Planning Department this week, and will catch up.

OCRM: The FY 08 budget was approved at \$2 million. ORMP implementation is a big piece. Most of the funds go to the counties. FY09 will probably be \$2 million.

The Coastal States Organization (CSO) and NOAA have proposed reauthorization of the Coastal Zone Management Act. So far, Congress supports reauthorization, but it will depend on the new administration. Proposed changes include base funding as well as a large (\$150-300 million) pot of competitive funding starting in FY10. If this group makes a significant effort to try to do collaborative coastal resource management, and demonstrate this at the state level, it would be very helpful for competing for this funding. The message from back east is that NOAA is very supportive of what we are doing so far.

The Coral Reef Conservation Act was just reauthorized. OCRM wants to see CZM back at the table with DLNR on coral reef conservation efforts, and encourage coupling the ORMP with Coral Program efforts and funding.

County of Maui: There is no money. Three staff positions the county wanted to get were cut. Harbors improvement was significantly reduced. Right now there is only one cruise ship- and it is leaving. There has been a lot of investment in small boat harbors through DLNR, so Maui really appreciates that. There is a proposal to expand Lahaina Harbor, but that is on the back-burner now.

DOT: Going to look at Hana and take on the necessary improvements.

Maui (continued): Maui Planning sent copies of the ORMP out to the general plan advisory committee - 25 members, along with a letter asking to account for the goals and objectives within the ORMP.

FEMA hosted a workshop on updated flood maps.

Maui is excited about the reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act, as there is a lot of concern about the status of reefs on Maui.

OCRM: The Coral Reef Initiative is state directed through the Coral Reef Program. Hopes the current level of funding going to DLNR is helping to conserve reefs. DLNR is the focal point, but open to suggestions to improve that effort.

Maui (continued): All are invited to the Hawaii Congress of Planning Officials (HCPO) conference in Maui in September. The theme is: Wind, Water and Waves. CZM and HiOOS can have a booth, and we are expecting 500 participants. See website at: <http://www.hcpo2008.com/> and email Thorne if you want to set up an exhibit booth.

CZM: MACZAC is meeting at the end of the last day of HCPO, and that is open to the public as well. CZM is beefing up outreach for the ORMP- this will provide a structured way to explore that topic there with MACZAC, which would be great.

OHA: OHA is experiencing budget difficulties this year. Normally agencies and community groups can come to OHA for grants, but they may not have any grants this year. Collaborating with the Policy and Working Groups is how they can contribute.

BWS: The budget was approved yesterday. There is partial funding for Koolaupoko and North Shore Watershed Management Plans. They are working on watershed planning and community outreach for Koolaupoko, which will also be a great time and opportunity to talk about the ORMP.

CZM: Everything remains the same. We are working on developing the community-based resource management project and broadening the scope of ORMP Perspective #3.

Interim developments

Athline Clark, State of Hawaii Co-manager of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, gave a presentation to the Working Group on the Draft Monument Management Plan. Comments on the draft management plan, environmental assessment, and accompanying documents are due by July 8th, 2008.

Prospective expansion of the Working Group

Several suggestions were made as to which groups might be a valuable addition to the Working Group in the future as we progress. However, the group doesn't want to get so big that it is unmanageable. Suggestions to have different groups come to Working Group meetings to make informative presentations, rather than officially join. This suggestion was well received by the

group, as our focus right now is to implement the ORMP, and hearing about what other partners are doing could be beneficial to all parties. For example, the group would welcome a presentation on the Local Action Strategies. More discussion is needed as we continue to move forward and identify other groups that we would like to hear from or include on the Working Group.

Suggested for consideration:

- University of Hawaii Vice Chancellor of Research
- Army Corps of Engineers
- DLNR Coral Program
- Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs (they are technically members but currently don't have a representative on the Working and Policy Groups)
- Aha Moku Council

Revisit of Prospective Collaborations

Members revisited prospective collaborations. Doug recommended that we draw on positive economic benefits since the economy is down. Some highlights were:

County of Hawaii: The Deputy Director is working with the **Kohala Center** and the community in South Kohala in creating a management plan for Kahalu'u Beach Park. There are a number of community meetings, and people really want to see the beach restored to its natural state, as currently it is all hardened shorelines. This would require a strong political will...want to talk to **OCCL** to collaborate on studies done and on identifying the implications it would have.

- **SCD:** There are luxury home developments in Kohala Center.
- **OHA:** There are also a lot of Native Hawaiian sites in this area, and restoration of those sites. This should be considered as well.

County of Maui: The harbor in Hana is in horrible condition. They are fixing the revetment because it is collapsing, but they are having problems getting boulders out there for the work. **SCD** has contract for \$60 million to get rid of cliff debris from the earthquake- discussing whether they can take that aggregate to Hana and use it for that project. Conversation between **DLNR-DOBOR**, also talking to **SCD**.

*** If we don't develop a full fledged collaborative effort in time for the 2009 Legislature, just demonstrating that this working group helps things get done more effectively is still important to show.*

County of Hawaii: Held a water quality monitoring meeting in April, but need to work out a better system for reporting guidelines of data that is being obtained. County is working with **DOH** on this. Goal is to make the data useful/compatible for **DOH** and **HiOOS**.

DOH and CZM: **DOH** and **CZM** have continued to work together to coordinate watershed management. They would like to talk to **Maui and Hawaii Counties** to discuss watershed coordinators and also to come up with a process that will meet everyone's needs.

DOA: Hawaii County's Research and Development Division is creating GIS maps for agricultural and coastal lands – showing offshore and coastal areas that are available for aquaculture development. Next year there will be more details on ag development on the Big Island. If **Maui and Kauai Counties** are interested in doing the same, we could start a dialogue as well.

Maui Fresh Fish has proposed open water cages off of Lanai to raise opakapaka.

- **OHA:** Open ocean aquaculture is also a concern of Native Hawaiians.

Fishponds: Multiple parties may need to talk about fishpond restoration and streamlining the permitting process, including **DOA, DOH, Counties, OHA, and OCRM, MACZAC, CZM, and community groups**. Right now **DHHL** holds all leases for fishponds.

CZM: CZM is working on perspective 3 - capacity building workshops and pilot communities...it is still at the beginning stages, so would love to have other agencies collaborate on this.

BWS: Working on Oahu's watershed management plans, outreach to **communities** has been strong. Engaging the communities is very important in the process.

Please continue to touch base with one another and let Marnie know if collaborative efforts get going.

Summer schedule

The Working Group summer meeting schedule is as follows:

- July 25
- August 11
- Policy Group meeting to be (hopefully) scheduled sometime in the third week of September