

Ocean Resources Management Plan Working Group

Meeting Summary

Office of Planning Conference Room
Friday, July 25, 2008; 9 a.m. – 12 noon

Members Present:

Thorne Abbott (Planning, Maui)
Grant Arnold (OHA)
Dawn Johnson (SCD)
Kevin Richards (SCD)
Marnie Meyer (OP/CZM)
Dana Okano (Planning, Hawaii)
Chris Ostrander (Pacific Islands IOOS)
Hudson Slay (DOH/CWB)
Lisa Ellen Smith (Planning, Kauai)
Jackie Lynne Burke, for Dean Watase (DOT/Harbors)
Leonard Young (DOA)
Donna Wong, for Jim Coon (MACZAC)

Others Present:

Linda Colburn (Facilitator)
Melissa Iwamoto (OP/CZM)
Doug Tom (OP/CZM)
Melanie Saucier (OP/CZM)
Jessica Stabile (OP)

Welcome

Doug opened up the meeting by reminding everyone about preparing legislative proposals for the upcoming Policy Group meeting. He mentioned that he wants to piggyback some CZM related things on the proposal. 3 examples were given including: changing SMA permits to not be so broad based; adding time performance provisions within the SMA permit system; and issues related to public access. The suggestions came mainly from Parts 2 and 3 of Chapter 205A.

Linda also asked the members to look at Chapter 205A and identify barriers that each person may have concerning their job functions.

Updates on collaboration efforts

UH-SOEST/HiOOS

DLNR approved an MOA between OCCL and UH Coastal Geology group with Chip Fletcher that involves coastal hazard mitigation, data sharing, and product development. It is funded at 100K/year and encompasses all islands. The main goal is to take all data, integrate it, and share it. It is a candidate for policy group legislation because we could show collaboration by asking for funding to further the data system. Showing statewide buy-in with the help of the national system (feds) would help the ORMP's mission to collaborate and share information. The current pilot project on Oahu will also help to further develop the full system.

Efforts of DOH and CZM in Watershed Management

There are basically three steps to the progress we are making with regard to Watershed Planning and Management:

1. DOH has a small contract that just began (and will run for 6 months) for the consultant to provide a comprehensive update of the management measures of the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program (CNPCP) Management Plan in a consolidated form. The other aspect of this contract is to develop recommendations for a reporting mechanism on the implementation of the management measures in a way that is most useful to the affected agencies.
2. CZM has a small contract (which will run through the end of June 2009) to help us determine where and when to focus our watershed implementation efforts. This consultant will also help us to coordinate a watershed summit, which will be a small meeting of affected agencies on the topic of watershed planning for priority watersheds.
3. These efforts will help us work collaboratively with other agencies to develop a Watershed Guidance Document. We envision that this document will help organizations and agencies navigate the process of developing watershed management plans, provide continuity throughout the state with regards to watershed planning, and provide a stronger linkage to the CNPCP management measures as a means to implement watershed plans and improve water quality. This effort is about a year away from being completed.

We still need to determine the best time to engage with other agencies.

County of Hawaii

1. County of Hawaii is partnering with UH Manoa SOEST on the potential of linking SMA permit-holder water quality monitoring data to the HiOOS web site. This will insure near-real-time data on coastal water quality is being made available to the public. (if Chris O. mentioned this already, OK to use his as he's far more eloquent than I)
2. Also coordinating with DOH, DLNR-DAR, UH Manoa, and others on revisions to water quality monitoring program methods and reporting requirements.

DLNR

DLNR conducted its first major ORMP Stewardship Management Area site visit on July 22 at Kealakekua Bay. The site inspection included a boat excursion from Honokohau Harbor to Honaunau and back. There was a simultaneous land based tour. During the site visit the group looked at the protection of cultural and recreational resources in this area and ways to improve management of the various activities taking place in the area. The site visit was attended by the DLNR Chair and Deputy Director, DLNR administrators, and employees involved with the Kealakekua Bay project. A draft report has also been completed in concert with this effort.

The DLNR has three more ORMP Stewardship Management Area site visits planned. They are as follows: 1) Haena on August 6; 2) Kaena Point on August 7; and 3) Ahihi-Kinai on August 21. These site visits will be conducted in a similar fashion to the Kealakekua Bay event, and each area has an individual draft management plan associated with it.

These four resource management efforts have been previously described by DLNR in ORMP events and to the ORMP Policy Group, and are intended to implement the policies and objectives of the ORMP.

After all of the site visits are completed, action plans will be finalized and DLNR will seek implementation in concert with the larger community, government agencies and interested stakeholders.

County of Maui

There is a great need for a conversation between DOT and the County of Maui directors on the critical highway link between West Maui and the airport and the Kahului hospital. There are brushfires and erosion into the ocean. The highway needs to be moved inland, and needs to be worked on in its entirety, not just one small section of it.

Legislation

This group is interested in proposals that could be submitted to the legislature for consideration for the 09 or other sessions. Working Group members were provided with copies of HRS Chapter 205A for review and asked to discuss other prospective measures for the Policy Group's consideration. The following are proposed as possible changes to legislation in relation to the implementation of the ORMP:

- CZM is considering modifications to ORMP statutory language:
 - SMA permits have nexus to permit conditions/CZM policies
 - Codification of time performance conditions/current practice
 - Public access issues. Developers (pre CZM) have restricted access. Looking at language that could impose access via imminent domain.
 - Address vegetative overgrowth issue.
- The Policy Group agreed with the Working Group on the importance of addressing climate change. Possible idea to change the national CZMA when reauthorized to give state CZM Programs local responsibility for dealing with climate change matters.
 - What preparation is necessary?
- In order to address the following ORMP Management Goal:

Management Goal 1.1 - Improve coastal water quality by reducing land-based sources of pollution and restoring natural habitats.

Strategic Action 3: Restore and protect wetlands, streams and estuaries.

Improve interagency coordination, effectiveness and efficiency in watershed management through the creation of a watershed coordinating committee to ensure ecological function is maintained to the greatest extent practicable.

CZM and DOH have determined that an executive order is not the appropriate vehicle to broaden the scope of watershed management by linking them to the Hawaii Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program (CNPCP), which was an action listed in the ORMP Work Plan under Strategic Action 3a. However, it may be advantageous to integrate the suggestion that the CNPCP be specifically mentioned in Policy E under Section 205A-2(c)(4), HRS, which states,

Promote water quantity and quality planning and management practices that reflect the tolerance of fresh water and marine ecosystems and maintain and

enhance water quality through the development and implementation of point and nonpoint source water pollution control measures.

In other words, changes to 205A could clarify that the measures referred to in Policy E must be consistent with the Hawaii CNPCP and the 6217(g) guidance. Since the actions and rules of all agencies must comply with the objectives and policies of Chapter 205A, HRS, this would certainly help strengthen our efforts to implement the Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Program and would complement the watershed guidance that we have collectively identified as an ORMP priority.

- The idea of proposing a dedicated source of funding for watershed protection/ocean resource management via legislative bills (two attempts came up in 1999 and 2000 on watershed protection)
- UH-SOEST/HiOOS
Goal: Procurement of funding to expand the HiOOS data capabilities to include acquisition, integration, and hosting of OCCL/UH partnership data, county SMA oceanographic related data and, available data sets from DOH/EPA, County Environmental Services, DLNR, and NOAA.

This integration of existing data would allow for interoperability between presently disparate datasets, increase awareness of open and coastal ocean conditions, and assist in decision making and resource management. Additionally, such a data set would provide a working database from which efforts tied to coastal hazards mitigation, ecosystem management, water quality remediation, and cell-by-cell beach management could draw relevant information.

Public Outreach Strategy

The group discussed various outreach strategies and best practices. Notes on specific strategies and suggestions were sent out to the group, and will be used as we continue developing the ORMP Outreach Strategy.

Meeting Announcements

- U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting; August 24th-29th, 2008, Keauhou, Hawaii
- Pre- Coral Reef Task Force meeting workshops: Bridging Communities & Government; Traditional Ecological Knowledge; Recreational Stewardship; Watershed Planning (check with Hudson if you have trouble registering for this one); and Climate Change
- Hawaii Congress of Planning Officials: September 10th-12th, Grand Wailea, Maui (check with Thorne if you want a display booth)

ORMP Meeting Schedule

The Working Group summer meeting schedule is as follows:

- August 5th (note meeting date change)
- Policy Group meeting set for September 15th from 9am-11am at the State Office Tower. Room TBA.
- Starting in October, the Working Group will resume monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month (October 2nd, November 6th, and December 4th) from 9am-12 @ the OP Conference Room.