

Hawai'i Ocean Resources Management Plan Coordinated Working Group

Meeting Summary

March 4, 2021
9:00am – 11:30am
Zoom Meeting

Present:

	Name	Agency/Organization
1	Barcina, Keelan	OP-CZM
2	Bennett, Stephanie	NOAA Office for Coastal Management
3	Black, Cameron	Hawaii State Energy Office
4	Buika, Jim	Mauai County Planning Dept
5	Chang, Sarah	OP-CZM
6	Chikasuye, Katia	HI-EMA
7	Fujii, Neal	DLNR-CWRM
8	Hee, Brandon	DOT-Highways
9	Idica, Romio	Kauai County Planning Dept
10	Lander, Melanie	UH Sea Grant
11	Langenberger, Fiona	PacIOOS
12	Li, Shichao	OP-CZM
13	Marcoux, Stacia	DLNR-DAR
14	Markel, Amy	DLNR-DAR
15	McPherson, Nancy	DHHL
16	Mendes, Debra	OP-CZM
17	Nihipali, Justine	OP-CZM
18	Reder, Ben	USACE
19	Romine, Brad	UH Sea Grant & OCCL
20	Sayegusa, Jodi Higuchi	Kauai County Planning Dept
21	Sullivan, Kevin	Hawaii County Planning Dept
22	Surprenant, April	Hawaii County Planning Dept
23	Tadj, Yusraa	OP-CZM
24	Usagawa, Barry	Honolulu BWS
25	Woznick, Theresa	HI-EMA

Welcome & Introductions

Justine Nihipali, Planning Program Manager, Office of Planning (OP), Coastal Zone Management Program (CZM), welcomed participants to the Coordinated Working Group (CWG) meeting. Participants introduced themselves and the organizations/agencies they are representing.

Office of Planning Updates

Justine shared the following announcements on behalf of the CZM Program:

- New OP-CZM staff: Keelan Barcina and Sarah Chang are new Project Analysts joining the team, and Lisa Webster is shifting from her position as the MACZAC Coordinator to a part-time Project Analyst.

- Open Position: OP has a job opening for an Administrative Assistant that will support MACZAC. The meeting's follow-up email will include a link to the posting for attendees to share with their networks. [Link to job post \(ID 221094\)](#)

Presentation & Discussion

Neal Fujii, State Drought & Water Conservation Coordinator, from the Commission on Water Resource Management (DLNR-CWRM) gave a presentation titled, *An Introduction to the Commission on Water Resource Management: Selected Policies and Programs and Connections to the ORMP*. Topics covered in the presentation included:

- Mandates outlining CWRM's authorities
 - Hawaii State Constitution Article XI, Section 7; State Water Code HRS, Ch 174C
 - Commission has a dual mandate to balance Reasonable & Beneficial Use (agricultural commercial, industrial) with Protecting Public Trust (traditional & customary rights, ecological balance, public recreation, domestic use)
- Hawaii Water Plan:
 - Program for comprehensive water resources planning
 - Composed of 5 different plans: Water Resource Protection Plan, Water Quality Plan, State Water Projects Plan, Agricultural Water Use & Development Plan, County Water Use & Development Plans
- CWRM Connections to ORMP
 - Programs: Hawaii Water Plan; Instream flow standards; Ground water & surface water permitting
 - Issues: Traditional and customary practices; Ground water dependent ecosystems; Climate change and sea level rise impacts; Watershed management
 - "One Water" (everything as one hydrologic system) as an approach to planning and management
- Water Management Areas
 - Within a designated Water Management Area, permits are needed to withdraw water, in addition to a permit for well or pump construction
 - 8 criteria for designation, typically done because a resource is threatened (reaching sustainable yield quantities)
- Case Study: Keauhou as a GW Management Area
 - Applied for designation due to: increasing water usage in area; endangered species habitat; and presence of fish ponds and other traditional uses
 - Commission decided not to designate because none of the 8 criteria were met, but there were some benefits that resulted from the non-designation process, including:
 - Local updates to water usage plans for the area
 - DHHL Water Reservation
 - Enhanced ground water monitoring
 - A symposium on Adapted Management of Ground Water Dependent Ecosystems, which included cultural experts, kupuna and scientists
 - Symposium summary can be found here ([link](#))

Presentation slides can be found on the OP website ([Link](#))

Following the presentation, the floor was opened for comments and questions. Topics covered in the discussion included:

- A suggestion for guidance for counties on how to navigate the various water use authorities, and how to better understand the ecologic and legal implications of permitting actions. While CWRM is still working to understand these interactions as well, they are open to opportunities to talk story at the staff level.
- Currently adopted county water use plans can be found [here on the CWRM website](#). Molokai is working on a water use plan to submit to the Commission.
- General support for the incorporation of TEK into planning and management. As well as the need to elevate water supply issues to the same level as land use issues, and not just thinking of management from the perspective of land use impacts on water.
- A suggestion to regularly include someone from CWRM into ORMP/CWG meetings to provide perspective.
- At the county level, the Commission works closely with the water departments. The working relationship with the planning departments varies by county.
- How does submarine discharge of freshwater affect nearshore marine/estuarine systems?
 - Still unknown, some research is referenced in symposium document ([link](#))
 - UH is looking at how fish ponds are affected by freshwater supply
 - One critique of the current models is that sustainable yields don't account for the amounts of waters needed to support ground water dependent ecosystems
 - CWRM currently doesn't have the capacity to conduct research to address these questions, but there is interest in collaborating and supporting related projects
 - Nancy McPherson shared a [link](#) to a USGS model of ground water flow in Molokai:

2021 Legislative Session ORMP-Related Bills

CWG attendees received a list of ORMP-related bills ([Link](#))

Current session is focused on covid relief so many of the bills being tracked by CZM died early in the session, with many not even receiving a hearing. CZM-tracked bills are highlighted in orange, and the three still active (at the time of the meeting) are **HB243 HD1**; **HB554 HD1** and **SB474 SD1** (details can be found on the PDF).

OCCL is tracking the following bills of possible interest to CWG members:

SB367: Waives the requirement for section 401 water quality certification for certain small-scale beach restoration projects authorized by the Department of Land and Natural Resources. (SD2)

- Brad Romine shared a [link](#) to the DLNR Small Scale Beach Restoration statewide programmatic final EA

SB178: Establishes a two-year beach protection pilot program under which no vehicles are authorized to drive on the beach in Polihale State Park without a permit. Requires a report to the legislature. Effective 5/6/2137. Repeals on 6/30/2023. (SD2)

HB1298: Transfers to the general fund the excess balances of various non-general funds from various state departments and agencies. Effective 6/30/21. (HD1)

HB1299: Repeals various non-general funds of the department of agriculture; department of budget and finance; department of business, economic development, and tourism; department of defense; department of education; department of health; department of human services; department of labor and industrial relations; department of land and natural resources; department of the attorney general; department of public safety; department of transportation; University of Hawaii; department of commerce and consumer affairs; department of Hawaiian home lands; judiciary; and Hawaii public housing authority. Implements recommendations of the auditor. Transfers most unencumbered balances to the credit of the general fund. (HB1299 HD1)

At the federal level:

Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act of 2020: Provides capitalization grants to State EM agencies and this revolving loan fund can be used for cost-shares and in-kind matches. Contact Katia Chikasuye with questions.

ORMP Agency Updates and Announcements

Sarah Chang, CZM: Focus Area 1 – exploring the possibility of using various geographic scales for shoreline adaptation planning, and thinking about how one would define a “region” for the purposes of making management decisions. Focus Area 2 – started a conversation with UH Sea Grant about creating a report that would outline the various federal, state and county level agencies involved in land-based pollution management. Focus Area 3 - had an Action Team meeting with DAR about their LOCAL program. Hard copies of the ORMP will be mailed to CWG members within the next few weeks.

Brandon Hee, DOT-Highways: DOT is branching out with innovative strategies and a particular interest in nature-based solutions, for example, working on an asphalt that would be manufactured with recycled fishing nets. Suggestion to connect with NOAA marine debris program as a source for nets. Another idea is to look at the impacts of fringing reefs on coastal protection, and how it can be used to think about road protection. DOT has applied for a NOAA Grant to put perforated concrete into shoreline areas, and grow coral on top, and adding nickel as a catalyst to reduce acidity of the area. They are looking to pilot this in Hanalei Bay where there is a vulnerable bridge. Suggestion to connect with DAR-Coral Restoration and Permitting Specialist.

Jodie Higuchi Sayegusa, Kauai County Planning Dept: Implementing the new shoreline setback ordinance that was adopted in January. The new mandates incorporate updated erosion data which was collected using funding from CZM’s Project of Special Merit. Property owners must sign off/notarize a disclosure statement regarding SLR exposure. Increased setback from 40 ft to 60 ft. Designated vulnerable areas were identified on the west side. The Planning Dept is now drafting administrative rules to describe what sorts of mitigation would be required for structures within these designated vulnerable areas.

Jim Buika, Maui County Planning Dept: Developed an RFP for Maalaea Bay for a beach nourishment project. Funded by the county council, it provides \$175,000 to do a sand study offshore, and its implications will affect all 3 ORMP Focus Areas. Working on a project to consolidate and streamline the permit process. Maui County is also redoing SMA rules, to include guidelines for small projects that wouldn’t require permits, and moving shorelines to the erosion hazard line plus 40ft. They are currently working on how to implement these changes and meeting with community members to address comments and concerns. Kahana Sunset, severely threatened condo unit with structural cracks. Very complicated situation that asks how do you manage retreat of this structure? Could this location be used as a case study or pilot for managed retreat strategies? Another complex situation at Puamana Park, a low-lying sliver park, with severe coastal erosion, exposed burial sites, and threatened highways. The park is closed indefinitely. New hire joining the Maui County Planning Dept starting in June.

Brad Romine, OCCL: Oahu MPO has money to do a conceptual feasibility study on nature- based solutions in Punaluu beach area. Through the State Climate Commission, Shellie Habel and Brad will lead presentations on SLR Planning Tues May 4th 10 am and Fri May 7th 10am. Presentation will include recent updates to SLR Viewer, and guidance to utilizing SLR exposure areas in planning. For more information, reach out to Dept heads, who should have received invites to share with staff. OCCL is

continuing to go through comments on the Kaanapali beach restoration project draft EIS. Final version expected within the next few months.

Amy Markel, DAR: Ocean Acidification action plan draft is being completed. There is interest in blue ecosystems as potential sinks for carbon sequestration, and what restoration opportunities exist for limu and coastal plants. The 30x30 team is developing a strategic communications plan. They are conducting working group meetings with fishers to discuss herbivore management plans. Public scoping meetings are scheduled for late March/early April. [Holomua: Marine 30x30 Roadmap](#)

Cameron Black, Hawaii State Energy Office: BOEM contracting NREL to conduct a scoping study of offshore wind in Oahu. Questions can be sent directly to Cameron. Information on [Cost Modeling for Floating Wind Energy Technology Offshore Oahu, Hawaii](#)

Ben Reder, USACE: Completing a draft NEPA EA for Haleiwa harbor dredging/beach restoration project. The HIPA version will be coming out on March 23rd for comments. Link for the [Draft integrated feasibility report and environmental assessment](#)

Nancy McPherson, DHHL: Continuing work on Molokai south shoreline erosion map. The plans consider everything from nature-based solutions to seawalls. They are planning to conduct community meetings in the Fall.

Next Steps & Housekeeping

Next meeting set for June 3rd 2021