Hawaiʻi Ocean Resources Management Plan Working Group

Meeting Summary
May 2, 2013: 9:00am – 12:00pm
Office of Planning, 6th Floor Conference Room
235 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

Present:

April Coloretti (SSFM International)	Jim Buika (Maui Co. Planning)
Barry Usagawa (BWS) Bethany	Jim Coon (MACZAC)
Morrison (HI Co. Planning)	Jody Gallinto (Kauai County)
Bethany Morrison (HI Co. Planning)	Josh Hekekia (OP–CZM)
Bill Tam (DLNR–CWRM)	Leo Asuncion (OP–CZM)
Brad Romine (UH Sea Grant)	Luisa Cristini (UH–SSRI)
Charles Kaaiai (Wespac)	Lynn Sumida (OP–CZM)
Cheryl Soon (SSFM International)	Mark Fox (Nature Conservancy)
Doug Harper (NOAA)	Matthew Gonser (UH Sea Grant)
Elia Herman (DLNR–Sanctuary)	Melissa Iwamoto (PacIOOS)
Emma Anders (DLNR–DAR)	Nancy Matsumoto (BWS)
Glenn Martineau (USCG)	Sue Sakai (MACZAC)
Jesse Souki (OP)	Wayne Tanaka (OHA)

Welcome
Jesse Souki; CZM Program Manager welcomed the group and provided CZM and legislative updates.

SSFM ORMP Update Report – Administrative Review Draft and One-on-one agency meetings:

Cheryl Soon of SSFM gave an overview of the Pre-Final ORMP. The Working Group was provided a link to a website where they are able to download an electronic version of the Pre-Final ORMP. Hard copy distribution to agency heads and Policy Group will be done on May 6, 2013.

The Policy Group meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15 from 9am – 11am at the DLNR Board Room, 1st floor, Kalanimoku Building.

SSFM answered questions from the Working Group:

- Feedback on whether agency signature page was necessary. -- The consensus was that the final version of the ORMP should include an agency signature page.

- What should directors be prepared for during policy group? -- Directors should be prepared to make final decisions and signoff on the ORMP stated responsibilities assigned to each of the agencies involved.

- The ORMP does not include discussion on budgets? -- Budgetary items have yet to be evaluated, but will be dealt with during the implementation phase.

A Framework to Implement the Ocean Resource Management Plan (ORMP)

Miranda Smith, State Office of Planning provided an analysis on the next steps for the ORMP. Specifically, she introduced the framework for ORMP implementation. The Framework of the next phase can be broken down into three categories:

1) PLAN
- Goals
- Agencies
- Metrics

2) ACT
- Organization structure
- Decision rules
- Roles and responsibilities

3) THE GAP
- Focus on a policy framework
- Problem solving perspective
- Interagency coordination
- Guidance for resolving conflicts
- Need to try to find consensus, but when that is impossible, to make decisions
- Focus on measurable deliverables

A governance agreement can provide this framework.

The Framework's Objectives

A framework is a supporting structure. Not all frameworks are supportive, but most are. An agreement can be a framework for moving the ORMP process along to its next logical step. Agreements can structure our ORMP partnership[s. These agreements will help: Scope, Structure, Membership, and Roles.

The Process to building a framework includes: Scope – content of the agreement; prepare a draft agreement; circulate a draft for comment; prepare a final agreement; and adopt a final agreement. Examples of building a framework in recent Office of Planning initiatives include:

- **Submit Policy as part of Governor's Legislative Packet**.
- *Outcome: Statewide Climate Change Policy becomes a Priority Guideline under Hawaii State Planning Act.*

- **Review of Stakeholder Input and Draft Policy to Prepare Final Policy.**
- *Outcome: Final Statewide Climate Change Policy.*

- **Synthesize Comments**
- *Outcome: Compilation of Stakeholder input*

- **Circulate Policy for Comment**
- *Outcome: Broad stakeholder input on draft policy*

- **Prepare Draft Climate Change Policy**
- *Outcome: Draft Statewide Climate Change Policy*

- **Preferred Future Visioning Session**
- *Outcome: Vision of preferred future to support development of statewide climate change policy.*

An effective framework / Governance structure should include a Plan. The plan should spell out goals, agencies involved, and metrics. To be effective, a governance structure should be organized, spell-out specific decision rules, and assign roles and responsibilities to its members. Membership should be well organized and divided into groups such as: Policy Group, Working Group, Partners, and Lead Agencies. The ORMP currently has all of these in place.

In Summary, a framework will help implement the ORMP. An agreement can be a framework. In order to obtain an effective outcome, a framework should include structure, organization, and focus.

Climate Change Impacts in Hawaii – Emerging Law and Policy
Presentation by: James Buika, Department of Planning, Maui County. Mr. Buika provided a county planning perspective on threats to existing structures due to sea level rise and loss of coastal beaches.

He referred to his presentation as: "The 800-Pound Shark along the Shoreline: Gaps in Law and Policy to Protect Threatened Existing Development."

What gives Hawaii its sense of place?

The existing problem of beach loss alters Hawaii's sense of place. Beach loss requires legal and policy solutions today

- Beach loss is threatening existing development.

- Condos, roads, and critical infrastructure, built 30-to-50 years ago, were built too close to the ocean and are now falling into the ocean.

- We do not have adequate solutions in our tool kit to protect threatened existing development while preserving the coastal zone.

- Without new laws and policies in place to provide for additional mitigation tools, Hawaii will lose its sense of place.

- Our coastal environment is being negatively impacted by our requirements to protect failing development & infrastructure.

Existing development is further threatened even when old seawalls are undermined and fail.

- Recent Emergency Permit: Kahana Sunset AOAO is an example of impacts to life, safety and potential structural collapse of seawalls.

- Maui has lost nearly 4 miles of sandy beach coastline in the past century.

- 1200-foot revetment completed to protect threatened coastal highway in West Maui. Another 1200-foot revetment is planned for completion along same road.

- Over the next several years, Maui will add another mile of sea walls to the island's shoreline.

- A revetment is planned to protect the wastewater treatment plant at Kahului. The treatment plant was initially built too close to the coastline. Solution calls for building an armored revetment with heavy stone to prevent further shoreline erosion. However, sand is lost due to hardened coastline solution.

Our current tool kit: Cost-effective Protection of Threatened Structures:

1. Emergency protection with temporary sand bags (geotubes)
2. Rock revetment with variance under Shoreline Rules (& State permits)
3. Seawall with variance under shoreline rules (& State Permits)

The result of these limited, protective solutions is a loss of beaches with ongoing cumulative impacts to the shoreline. What Mr. Buika feels is needed is a streamlined permitting process for groins and offshore structures to create a cost-effective solution. This could be an addition to the tool kit.

Beach replenishment:

If beach replenishment is done, it is:
- Expensive
- Question of sand source
- Environmental impacts
- Water quality impacts, and
- Stability of replenished sand.

If beach replenishment is not done, we will be faced with:
- Shoreline hardening
- Storm damage
- Ecosystem damage
- Shoreline access issues, and
- Impact to tourism / economy.

Proactive takeaway: protecting & restoring dunes would protect existing development.

Expanding our current tool kit includes creating additional cost-effective options, and protection of existing limited sand sources.

1. Preserve existing known sand sources for beach nourishment.
2. Research legal avenues to restrict deportation of ancient sand dune deposits. Stop sand deportation ASAP.
3. Develop ordinance to require beneficial uses of excavated sand from major public and private developments.

Conclusion / Recommendations

Mr. Buika noted that the following recommendations be considered:

- Create an interagency policy to research, expedite, and test offshore interventions as solutions to protect development, to include groins, breakwaters, and reef balls.
- Implement new State legislation to subsidize beach nourishment for public and private projects, and to preserve existing known sand sources for beach nourishment.

- Provide local ordinances to stop deportation of ancient sand dunes.

- Restrict use of excavated sand only for public good.

- Create and fund a program to identify offshore sand deposits for future excavation.

Next Steps for Working Group

The next Policy Group meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2013 at the DLNR Board Room, 1st Floor, Kalanimoku Building.

The June Working Group meeting will be scheduled by the Office of Planning, either on June 6, 2013, or the following week (week of June 10). The meeting will be held at the Office of Planning Conference Room, 6th Floor, State Office Tower.