

Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council (MACZAC) / Ke Kahu O Na Kumu Wai

**MINUTES**

Friday, December 4, 2020: 9:30 am – 12 pm  
Zoom Virtual Meeting

**ATTENDANCE**

- Members Present: Phil Fernandez, Jim Coon, Rich Brunner, Steve Mechler, Robert Nishimoto, Sue Sakai, Donna Brown
- Members Absent: Kimbal Thompson, Nick Palumbo
- Office of Planning/Coastal Zone Management (OP/CZM) Staff Present: Mary Alice Evans (OP), Justine Nihipali (OP/CZM), Lisa Webster (OP/CZM)
- Others Present: Hawai'i State Representative David Tarnas, Stephanie Bennett (NOAA), Stan Ruidas (Game Management Advisory Commission), Nancy McPherson (DHHL)

**DISTRIBUTED MATERIAL**

- MACZAC Meeting Agenda for December 4, 2020
- Minutes from September 18, 2020 MACZAC Meeting [Draft]
- CZM Report to MACZAC (December 4, 2020)

**I. Call to Order**

MACZAC Chair, Phil Fernandez, called the meeting to order at 9:31 am and welcomed everyone. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves. Steve Mechler, MACZAC member, announced that this will be his last meeting, that he's enjoyed being a part of MACZAC and would be happy to answer questions or offer input for future MACZAC endeavors, but he will not be continuing on for another term.

**II. Approval of September 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Sue Sakai, MACZAC member, moved to approve the September 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes, and Jim Coon, MACZAC Vice-Chair, seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved by all members present.

**III. Remarks**

Mary Alice Evans, Office of Planning Director, deferred to Justine Nihipali, CZM Program Manager, for remarks.

**IV. Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program Manager's Report**

Justine Nihipali, CZM Manager, provided a CZM Program Report highlighting the following:

**National Initiatives**

**National CZM Program Funding**

For FY 2020 (July 2020 – December 2021), the CZM line item increased by \$1,500,000 nationally for a total of \$77,000,000. CSO and state and territorial programs are requesting an increase of funding to \$87,000,000 for FY 2021. The State will receive \$2,516,000 this upcoming fiscal year in 306/309 funds.

**Hawai'i CZM Program**

- 8 of 11 (2 are 0.5 FTE) positions staffed (1/2-time Project Analyst)

- CZM currently has three Project Analyst vacancies and has completed the interview process for two positions.
- 1 intern position
  - The graduate intern position has been filled.
- CZM Website updated periodically (<http://planning.hawaii.gov/czm/>). Working on improving communications for consistency and currency. Analyzing existing website to make it more efficient and streamlined.

#### Section 312 Evaluation

- No new activity
- CZM Staff contact is Debra Mendes

#### Section 309 Assessment and Strategy

- CZM submitted its final 5-year Section 309 Assessment and strategy (2021-2025) on May 8, 2020. Received approval from NOAA on June 30, 2020.
- CZM Staff contact is Justine Nihipali

#### Routine Program Changes

- Hawai'i CZM Program submitted its program changes to NOAA OCM for concurrence by integrating statutory and regulatory changes into the CZM Program.
- The public notice was published on December 1, 2020 on Hawai'i CZM Website at <http://planning.hawaii.gov/czm/federal-consistency> and NOAA OCM's Website at <https://coast.noaa.gov/czmprogramchange/#/public/home>
- Any comments on the Program Change should be submitted by December 22, 2020, to the NOAA Program Change Website at <https://coast.noaa.gov/czmprogramchange/#/public/home>
- CZM Staff contact is Shichao Li

#### Ocean Resources Management Plan

- Staff capacity limited; working on distribution challenged by COVID-19.
- Dashboard – State contract was terminated with Socrata. Currently migrating to new platform OpenGov
- Staff and Program Manager are collaborating with stakeholder agencies to discuss opportunities to apply for the NOAA Project of Special Merit competition to advance Focus Areas #1 and #3.
- Current ORMP available online at ([https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/ormp/ormp\\_update\\_reports/2020\\_ormp\\_final.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dbedt/op/czm/ormp/ormp_update_reports/2020_ormp_final.pdf))
- CZM Staff contact is Justine Nihipali [temporary]

#### Coastal Non-Point Pollution Control Program (CNPCP)

- Five remaining Management Measures (MMs) and one Administrative Element (AE) require approval by NOAA/EPA: Roads/Highways/Bridges (3 MMs remaining); On-Site Disposal Systems (OSDS) (1 MM remaining); and Monitoring and Tracking (1 AE remaining)
- Working with DOT, DOH, counties (planning departments, public works departments) on completing the above Management Measures. Received final products for Roads/Highways/Bridges MM with County of Hawai'i DPW. AECOM presented to COH DPW Administrator and Supervisors on November 9, 2020. This will be incorporated in our justification for the RHB MM.
- Information on the CNPCP can be found online at (<http://planning.hawaii.gov/czm/initiatives/coastal-nonpoint-pollution-control-program/>)
- CZM Staff contact is Debra Mendes

### Climate Change Adaptation

- Office of Planning Director and CZM Program Manager serve as Commissioners on the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission
- Meeting was conducted on October 28, 2020 via web conference. Numerous entities, including UH Sea Grant and DLNR requested Climate Commission's endorsement.
- CZM Staff contact is Justine Nihipali

### Coastal Hazards

- Section 309 Coastal Hazards Strategy for the Probabilistic Tsunami Design Zone Mapping – Maui Island (Phase I) contract was completed February 26, 2020. This is for the high-resolution mapping for the island of Maui - request for extension in process due to feedback received from the technical meeting on October 30, 2020. Questions were raised on the topography used to run the model which contained some buildings. Consequently, the modeling team decided to re-run their models to ensure that the models used bare earth topography to ensure that the inundation modeling does not affect the flow. The extension would run through June 30, 2021. Submitted proposal in response to the project of special merit funding cycle due January 15, 2020 for Maui (Phase II) and Kaua'i Island (\$250,000). We were successfully awarded the full amount and have issued a request for proposals to conclude this project. CZM Staff contact is Yusraa Tadj
- Updating the Hawai'i Historical Shoreline Database: Historical and future shoreline change rate GIS layers for O'ahu are available online, and two web maps have been created for City and County of Honolulu planners. Consultant requested a no-cost extension to September 30, 2020 - completed. CZM Staff contact is Shichao Li

### County CZM Projects

- Kaua'i County was provided resources to update its Public Access database as well. To be completed June 30, 2021. Due to COVID-19 restrictions this project has been delayed. NOAA granted a 12-month extension for the award.
- Kaua'i County was provided resources to obtain GIS layers to analyze and inform potential expansion of the SLR-XA for their SMA.
- DPP was provided resources to update its aerial seawall imagery database - completed.
- County of Hawai'i project: Phase I Analysis to Establish Research-Based Shoreline and Riparian Setbacks. No-cost extension requested and granted. Expected completion is December 31, 2021.
- County of Hawai'i project: Pilot Public Access Geodatabase Update.

### Other Initiatives

- Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force. Two projects have been completed and CZM staff continues to support one project to meet objectives of Act 15, SLH 2018. The most recent meeting was held November 14, 2019. CZM Staff contact is Justine Nihipali.
- South Shore Promenade – Proof of Concept Study. CZM received a preliminary report from the contractor in March 2019. A near complete Final Report was received in November 2020. The 3 catalytic sites are: (1) Ala Wai area, (2) Keehi Lagoon area, and (3) Richardson Field/Pearl Harbor Regional Park. CZM Staff contact is Josh Hekeka.
- Hawai'i Congress of Planning Officials (HCPO). Office of Planning hosted HCPO on October 19-23, 2020 in partnership with the American Planning Association (APA), Hawai'i Chapter.
- CZM Program is involved with a number of external groups and activities:
  - Coral Reef Initiative Working Group (DLNR-DAR)
  - Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
  - Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and HISC Resource Committee

- Coastal States Organization
- Continue to review environmental assessments/environmental impact statements to ensure CZM objectives, policies, and initiatives are considered

Ms. Nihipali added that she has proposed a modified schedule for ORMP Working Group meetings, to meet quarterly, rather than monthly. Between Working Group meetings, Ms. Nihipali hopes to convene Action Team meetings to further the implementation of the ORMP. There will be a joint ORMP Council/Working Group meeting January 8, 2021, and the MACZAC representatives to the ORMP Council and Working Group will be asked to attend. The Council will be hearing the proposals that CZM is putting forward for the NOAA Project of Special Merit competition, with applications due January 15, 2021. CZM is working on one proposal for Coastal Hazards, as well as a second proposal, working with DLNR/DAR relating to increasing capacity of statewide monitoring for Marine Ecosystems. The intention of this second proposal is to build off of the work being done now by the Marine 30x30 Initiative and will include input from the MACZAC Marine Ecosystems PIG.

Chair Fernandez noted that Mr. Coon is MACZAC's ORMP Coordinated Working Group representative and Chair Fernandez is the ORMP Council representative.

Mr. Coon noted that he preferred monthly ORMP Working Group meetings to the modified schedule of quarterly meetings. Mr. Coon believes that the interagency networking opportunities are valuable for all attendees.

#### **V. Discussion: Game Management Advisory Commission (GMAC) Activities**

Stan Ruidas, GMAC Chair and Lānaʻi representative, gave a brief description of GMAC and its activities. GMAC members are appointed by the Governor, with two representatives on the Big Island – one in Kona and one in Hilo. Maui, Molokaʻi, Lānaʻi, and Kauaʻi have one representative each, while Oʻahu has two representatives. The Deputy Chair of DLNR, Bob Matsuda, also sits on the Commission. GMAC advises DLNR/DOFAW on concerns having to do with game management, including those of the animals and the land. GMAC members are the liaisons between the hunting community and DOFAW. Hunting is essential, especially during COVID, for subsistence. Hunters also prefer eating food from the land because it is GMO- and hormone-free. Hunting is necessary, and there has been a hunting culture in Hawaiʻi since man came to Hawaiʻi. Hunting also has economic benefits and provides a sustainable source of food.

On the north side of Lānaʻi from Kaumalapau Hwy to Keomuku Rd is the State Lease Land, leased from Pūlama Lānaʻi. A steering document is being developed by a consultant for the State of Hawaiʻi to renew the lease. The document will include a management plan which includes erosion control. Mr. Ruidas is also on the Hunting Advisory Committee for Pūlama Lānaʻi. On the Pūlama Lānaʻi-managed side of the island, between Maunalei Gulch and Kapoho Gulch, there's a partnership between Pūlama Lānaʻi/Larry Ellison and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, with each contributing \$500,000 per year to take care of the ocean, but Mr. Ruidas noted that you cannot take care of the ocean until you take care of what is mauka. In order to develop management plans, hunters were consulted about what to do with the ungulates. Some say you have to build fences, but where do you put the fence? Only in the gulches, or up on top? Hunters worry that fences will lead to closure of areas to hunting. The landscape is changing and experiencing drought. You cannot have too many animals, or it will lead to overgrazing, and you cannot have too few animals or there will be overgrowth of vegetation. You have to find the balance in between, and you have to manage the animals to manage the land.

The land is dry right now, and if there are too many animals, erosion will occur. The kahawai (streams) are backing up and bringing all the debris along the sides of the gulches to the ocean because they are not being maintained regularly. There is a lot of sediment pollution in the ocean on the east side of Lānaʻi, and you cannot grow ogo in polluted waters. Without limu, there's no life in the ocean, because everything starts with limu. It's hard to find limu throughout the State right now. Wally Ito is a limu expert, is head of the Limu Hui, and helps researchers grow limu at DAR's Anuenue Fisheries Research Center on Sand Island Parkway. Mr. Ruidas shared that he believes that if efforts are successful to take care of the mountain, by cleaning the kahawais and creating water catchment areas to capture the sediment, in the goal of taking care of the ocean on the east side of Lānaʻi, the ocean and the tides will take care of the land itself. Mr. Ruidas noted that additional funds are needed to successfully implement these projects. Chair Fernandez stated that MACZAC can write letters of support for proposed projects.

**VI. Development and Coastal Hazards PIG - Action Item: Vote to Create PIG and Establish Membership**

Ms. Sakai made a motion, and Donna Brown, MACZAC member, seconded, to create the Development and Coastal Hazards PIG with the following membership: Ms. Sakai, Ms. Brown, and Rich Brunner, MACZAC member. The motion was unanimously approved by all members present.

Dr. Bob Nishimoto, MACZAC member, requested an invitation to join the first meeting of this PIG to discuss setbacks in East Hawaiʻi.

**VII. Land-Based Pollution PIG - Action Item: Vote to Create PIG and Establish Membership**

Ms. Sakai made a motion, and Ms. Brown seconded, to create the Land-Based Pollution PIG with the following membership: Chair Fernandez and Kimbal Thompson, MACZAC member, who previously agreed to join. The motion was unanimously approved by all members present.

**VIII. Discussion Highlighting Critical Marine and Coastal Hotspot Issues and Next Steps**

Maui – Mr. Coon and Ms. Brown shared the following Maui hotspots:

- Mr. Coon shared that he continues to get calls about the beach restoration project planned for Kāʻanapali Beach which will raise the sand 3-4 feet and will take about 6 months. Some of the calls are in support of dune restoration, while others are from people worried that the project will destroy the beach for several months. This project was discussed in detail at the September 18, 2020 MACZAC meeting.
- Ms. Brown shared that she has observed the slow overcrowding of the beaches as the tourists return.

Oʻahu – Mr. Mechler and Ms. Sakai discussed the following Oʻahu hotspots:

- Mr. Mechler feels that the new development in the works at the old Anderson Estate, located in Waimanalo, and linked to former President Barack Obama, goes against all the environmental rules – and sets a bad precedent for people who follow the rules. This project was discussed in detail at the September 18, 2020 MACZAC meeting.
- Ms. Sakai shared that Oʻahu still feels locked down and quiet, with things just starting to reopen, and traffic still light. Ms. Sakai added that we don't want to go back to the way it was before the pandemic, we need to find the sweet spot, and find other ways to drive the economy.

East Hawai'i – Dr. Nishimoto discussed the following East Hawai'i hotspot:

- The feral pig population seems to have increased during the pandemic, and there are many dead pigs that have been hit by cars along the road.

West Hawai'i – Chair Fernandez discussed the following West Hawai'i hotspot:

- The fishermen are reporting much higher numbers of fish without the tourists being around.

## **IX. Public Input**

Representative David Tarnas thanked MACZAC members for their efforts. He noted that he appreciates that MACZAC members are knowledgeable about different coastal issues. Representative Tarnas will be chairing the Water and Land Committee and he welcomes input, both formal and informal, from MACZAC members.

Nancy McPherson, DHHL Planner, thanked Ms. Nihipali for providing CZM updates. Ms. McPherson also stated that she was happy to see that MACZAC was forming PIGs in support of the ORMP focus areas.

## **X. New Business**

The next MACZAC Quarterly Meeting will be held on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 am on Zoom. MACZAC elections will be included as an agenda item. Chair Fernandez suggested that each PIG should review their ORMP focus area and report back in the next meeting with a discussion of what they found in analyzing MACZAC goals and objectives and the ORMP write-up for their chosen focus area. Chair Fernandez suggested thinking about the following questions: What are the priorities? What can MACZAC do to move these priorities forward?

Ms. Sakai made a motion, and Ms. Brown seconded, to update the membership of the Marine Ecosystems PIG to the following membership: Dr. Nishimoto, Ms. Brown, Nick Palumbo, and Mr. Coon. The motion was unanimously approved by all members present. Dr. Nishimoto requested that Lisa Webster, MACZAC Administrative Support, disseminate a recent article by Robert Duerr regarding the Marine 30x30 Initiative that was published in Hawai'i Fishing News and quotes Chair Fernandez heavily.

Chair Fernandez noted that there will not be a Legislative Working Group formed in 2021, but that MACZAC members are encouraged to send letters of support for bills of interest to their legislators.

Ms. Nihipali noted that Ms. Webster will reach out to each PIG to provide expectations of the PIGs and inclusion of PIG members into ORMP discussions. Ms. Webster will also work with PIGs to coordinate meetings before the next MACZAC meeting. Ms. Nihipali also noted that letters of support for Projects of Special Merit proposals would be helpful and appreciated.

## **XI. Adjournment**

Chair Fernandez adjourned the meeting at 11:34 am.