

Watershed Working Group

16 May 2012, 2-3:30pm

Action Items

- Please send Garapan plan information to Kaity (kaitlinmattos@deq.gov.mp) as soon as possible (including plans to look at or contact people for finding out more about existing Garapan projects)
- Look through proposal for Garapan CAP and give any feedback on the scope, who to invite and the schedule by May 31st.
- Look at MOA from 2004 and send revision recommendations to Kaity
- Check your availability for the next WWG meeting to be held on August 15th and respond to Kaity

Dates to Remember

- May 22nd at 8am: USDA-NRCS is joining with DEQ to do plant care at the Laolao Revegetation site in honor of USDA's 150th Anniversary
- June 25-28th from 8am-4pm: Garapan Conservation Action Plan Conference
- Tentatively August 15th, morning: Watershed Working Group 3rd quarter meeting

Attendees

- DPW: Tom Camacho
- NOAA: Dana Okano
- DEQ: Derek Chambers, Kaity Mattos, Tim Lang, Aric Bickel, Jose Quan, Jihan Buniag, Olivia Tebuteb, Ryan Okano, Fran Castro, Shelly Kremer, Clarissa Bearden
- American Memorial Park: Nancy Kelchner
- USDA-NRCS: Jay Doronila
- CRM: Rachel Zuercher, Rose Pangelinan
- CUC/US Public Health Service: Brian Bearden
- SNISWCD: Ike Cabrera

Meeting Notes

- I. Opening: Attendance sheet, introductions
- II. Project updates
 - a. AMP constructed wetland: Park staff from Guam are meeting with local agencies (DPW) to discuss mechanically eliminating water hyacinths and photo-document how they grow back in to eliminate stormwater backflow problems. Youth Conservation Corps kids will help with this project. CUC is not involved in this project except where it involved a possible sewer leak into the wetland that has been fixed.
 - b. CRM

- i. Army Corps retention basin project is slightly delayed. There will be a feasibility report and environmental assessment coming soon. Currently the team is figuring out land acquisition questions. The next step after reports are filed will be to determine how to acquire funding (through Army Corps or independently)
 - ii. CELCP program not funded for this year
 - iii. Rain Garden workshop successfully installed a rain garden in front of the CNMI Museum. Please send suggestions to CRM for other places to put rain gardens
- c. DEQ
 - i. Water Quality: have had all green flags for several weeks after working with CUC to improve a problem site in Jan/Feb
 - ii. Storm drain labeling: campaign still active, 45 drains labeled out of ~100 in target area
 - iii. Blue Starfish/Coral-Conscious Business program: Still in development, name is being reworked. Meeting with DPW next week to discuss strategic approaches for businesses to improve stormwater practices.
 - iv. Laolao Bay water quality monitoring just finished 12 months of sampling and the data is being evaluated; the revegetation project is finished with 67% plant survival current. Volunteers are needed to maintain plants over the next several months.
 - v. Watershed/Natural resource atlas: will be hosted on ArcServer and use ArcOnline, working with ESRI and local Homeland Security to get licenses and training. Please see the attached project plan for more details. If you have any data layers that your agency would like included in this, please talk to Jose Quan (josequan@deq.gov.mp)
 - vi. Surface Water Quality Assurance Project Plan: (with CRM) RFP is closed and proposals are being reviewed. Contract expected within the next month or two to being developing a plan to monitor surface waters
 - vii. Laolao Bay CAP: Report from CAP review last February will be coming soon and will serve as an addendum to the Conservation Action Plan
 - viii. Talakhaya: Starting revegetation in June for 6 weeks, estimate of 30,000 plants will be planted this summer. Field agents are out now working to prevent and educate about fires. A fire last week burned some of the 2010 planting area, but the full extent is still to be determined.
- d. Laolao ARRA Project: 5 stream crossings on Laolao Bay drive and 1 on Railroad drive have been started and are 60% complete. Road access will be unrestricted soon.
- e. CUC
 - i. Currently working on 2 projects, 1) lift station upgrades (new pumps) from Seaport to Sadog Tasi treatment plant and 2) eliminating lift stations in Garapan to decrease sewage backflows near the hospital, Hyatt and AMP and eliminate smells. Long-term goals are being evaluated and projects may be planned to replace more old pipes in the Garapan area when funding is available.

- ii. Would like Watershed Working Group's assistance in projects to connect more people to CUC sewer lines instead of private septic systems, particularly along Beach Road (Garapan to Microl Toyota, San Antonio) and in areas where current sewer system is not near capacity using funds from an EPA grant. WWG could help determine priority areas to figure out how to appropriate money.
 - f. NOAA
 - i. Pacific Service Center will be coming out in June to work on GIS projects, see attached email and contact Dana Okano, dana.okano@noaa.gov, with questions about their visit)
 - g. Soil and Water Conservation District: Currently working on Kagman Watershed Project and looking for additional funds to complete reservoir. Will be lobbying US Congress for funding to complete this project.
- III. Garapan Conservation Action Plan – Please see attached CAP summary document for information and to make comments on the following topics which were discussed at the meeting:
- a. Overview of Process
 - b. Dates, registration
 - c. Scope/Area
 - d. Targets, threats, participants
 - e. Agenda
- IV. Renew MOA for Watershed Working Group
- a. Renew commitment from 2004 for all participating agencies/organizations to form Watershed Working Group – list participant groups and goals/objectives of WWG
 - b. Get signatures of directors/heads of all participating groups
 - c. WWG members should review 2004 MOA and make revision suggestions to be discussed at next meeting (August)
- V. Other new business?
- VI. Close: Next meeting tentatively scheduled for August 15th, morning.

ATTACHMENTS

- NOAA Pacific Services Center Email from 4 May 2012 about CNMI GIS projects
- Scope for Watershed Atlas Project (from DEQ)
- Garapan CAP Summary
- Copy of 2004 Watershed Working Group MOA