

## Watershed Working Group

14 August 2013, 8:30-10am

*Dates to Remember:* November 13, 2013, 8:30-10:00am next Watershed Working Group meeting

### *Attendees:*

- DEQ: Amber Roberts, Gus Camacho, Ryan Okano, Vinnie Sablan, Jose Quan, Clarissa Bearden, Kaity Mattos
- CRM: Lainie Zarones
- CIP/TRL: Tim Lang
- DFW: Frank Villagomez

### *Meeting Notes:*

- I. Opening, introductions: Lainie Zarones is the new CRM coastal planner working on marine spatial planning; Tim Lang is doing project management at CIP
- II. Main speaker: Clarissa and Kaity (SWQAMP)
  - a. New surface water (stream/storm drainage) sampling at 43 sites in 6 priority watersheds: Talofoto, Laolao, Kagman, Achugao South, West Takpochao North and Central
  - b. Sampling to begin soon for nutrients, bacteria, heavy metals, physical parameters
  - c. Sampling in upper, middle and lower watershed sites to help track sources of pollutants, identify priority sites
  - d. Pairing this data with stream inventories to identify land uses and potential violations around streams (e.g. Achugao Stream assessment of outhouses and piggeries) may lead to action on dry-litter piggeries and approval of composting toilets
  - e. Tim mentioned CUC may have funding to contribute to sewerline improvements in Achugao or Lowe Base (Clarissa will send info)
  - f. Recommendation to use USGS watershed numbers in the plan; send out WERI mercury study from hospital incinerator
  - g. Possibility to deploy DEQ's three rain gauges to collect data in priority watersheds. Main rain gauge currently is at the airport. CUC has 10 out collecting data until December that may be able to continue to be deployed after the study ends
- III. Project Updates:
  - a. Tim Lang - CIP
    - i. Dump closures are getting CIP money on all three islands, still determining what to do with replacement facilities on Tinian/Rota
    - ii. Garapan engineering designs are almost completed for the area between Orchid Street and Garapan Street, from Beach to Middle Road, including subgrade infiltration chambers, sidewalks at the school. 90% plans will be done in August, construction is ½ funded, to begin in Jan 2014. Project is from Garapan Tourism District 2010 study, also included in Garapan CAP

- b. Gus Camacho – DEQ: working with landowner with Navy Hill pigs to relocate to DLNR land in As Perdido. Owner is selling pigs in the mean time
- c. Robbie Greene – CRM: Saipan Lagoon Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project (sediment basins study by China House, Quartermaster and Cock Fight Arena) is in a final review/approval stage, a draft is available for anyone interested in making comments (contact Robbie or Kaity), and there will likely be a transfer of responsibility to DPW for plan implementation over the next couple months
- d. Jihan Buniag – DEQ/RARE: The launch of her social marketing campaign to encourage Laolao Bay landowners to use erosion control BMPs and plant natives will be Sept 28, to include presentations and giveaways at events, campaign prompts, 60sec PSAs, school visits and an art/song contest. Help is requested in determining “barrier removal” demonstration projects to offer training to landowners on how to use BMPs. Funding is available if anyone wants to host a training or demonstration project (e.g. the rain garden to be installed at SVES). Contact Jihan for more information or with you ideas.
- e. Information was requested on Laolao Bay dive site BMPs – ponding basins, permeable parking, walking path access limitations, etc. – Kaity will talk to Fran and try to get details and updates on these potential projects

#### IV. Garapan status report

- a. CAP draft finished, awaiting director’s approval (DFW, CRM, DEQ)
- b. Dispersal plan: agency/organization contributors, Chamber of Commerce, Legislature, community meeting, other recommendations?
- c. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination: Began smoking storm drains in June to identify possible illicit connections of sewer lines to the storm drain. Failed to identify any suspects. Attempting to connect with CUC again to get their customer information and identify non-customers who may have illegal discharges within Garapan

#### V. Next meeting

- a. November 13, 2013
- b. Topic: Jihan RARE Pride campaign launch (tentative)
- c. Future recommendations: Please continue to recommend future speakers or topics. Alternatively, if you have a topic you would like to present on, please contact Kaity.
  - i. Forestry?
  - ii. DEQ/CRM MMT 10-year data analysis
  - iii. NPS: Regional aquatic ecologist about data and monitoring programs