

## Watershed Working Group

November 18, 2015 8:30-10:00am

*Attendees:* **BECQ-DCRM** – Avra Heller, Jihan Buniag, Ryan Okano, Becky Skeele; **MINA** – Brooke Nevitt, Jojo Cruz, Becky Furey; **DLNR** – Gus Kaipat, Frank Ada; **NOAA** – Dana Okano, Steve McKagan; **NPS** – Mike Gawel; **HEC** – Emanuel Borja; **Public Health** – Lily Kapileo; **Rep. Ogumoro** – Pedro Guerrero

*Dates to Remember:* n/a

*Watershed Working Group Meetings: 8:30-10am at BECQ*

- **February 17, 2016**
- **May 18, 2016**
- **August 17, 2016**

*Meeting Notes:*

- I. Opening, introductions, housekeeping
  - a. BECQ Watershed Coordinator is being hired for, hopefully by next WWG meeting
- II. Socioeconomic surveys from Rota & Laolao Bay – Brooke Nevitt (MINA)
  - a. Socioeconomic surveys were conducted on Rota in summer 2014, and on Laolao Bay in fall 2014
  - b. Copies of the reports as well as the SEM-Pasifika socioeconomic guidelines are available from MINA. Please email Brooke for a copy ([brookenevitt.mina@gmail.com](mailto:brookenevitt.mina@gmail.com))
- III. Talakhaya CAP Update – Avra Heller (BECQ-DCRM)
  - a. The update was signed and finalized in July and will be distributed soon. Contact Avra ([avrahellerDEQ@gmail.com](mailto:avrahellerDEQ@gmail.com)) for a copy.
  - b. Changes included an increased focus on monitoring, including water quality and species counting.
    - i. Dana Okano mentioned that the new NOAA Coral Fellow will be based on Rota and will be incorporating water quality monitoring into her work plan, as well as continuing revegetation work.
  - c. The plans for a locally managed marine protected area were deemed unrealistic and therefore were removed in the new CAP Update.
- IV. Garapan CAP Update – Avra Heller (BECQ-DCRM)
  - a. Workshop was held in March 2015.
  - b. Development and urban planning were added, including a focus on green space and stormwater management
  - c. The CAP was not funded this year under BECQ funding, but BECQ will continue to collaborate with other agencies as they address Garapan CAP concerns.
  - d. BECQ does have funding from Department of Interior for a community litter watch.

V. Project updates:

- a. Avra Heller (BECQ-DCRM): Former Watershed Coordinator Kaity Mattos forwarded a potential grant opportunity, due February 3.
  - i. Potential for collaboration with American Memorial Park on wetland restoration?
    1. Informational webinar is November 19 at 5 am (registration for the webinar can be found at:  
<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/1529561781313393921>)
    2. Grant information (including FAQs) can be accessed at:  
<http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/home.aspx>
  - ii. The report from the Pacific Islands Watershed Institute training in May is attached
- b. Steve McKagan (NOAA Fisheries):
  - i. A year-long CREEL study was recently completed on Rota. The report synthesizing all the data is being finalized and will be released in early 2016.
  - ii. The Reef Resiliency study for Saipan, Tinian and Rota has been published as both a report and as a scientific paper. This study surveyed 80 sites on the three islands and includes potential watershed management opportunities.
    1. Report:  
[http://data.nodc.noaa.gov/coris/library/NOAA/CRCP/project/204/CNMI\\_Resilience\\_Maynard\\_et\\_al\\_CRCP\\_Tech\\_Memo\\_22.pdf](http://data.nodc.noaa.gov/coris/library/NOAA/CRCP/project/204/CNMI_Resilience_Maynard_et_al_CRCP_Tech_Memo_22.pdf)
    2. Publication:  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320715300926>
- c. Brooke Nevitt (MINA): MINA has received a grant to support Schools for Environmental Change, led by Jojo Cruz. This year's focus is on watersheds.
- d. Pedro Guerrero (Rep. Ogumoro): Shares his concerns about the pollution and stormwater flow through Garapan into Micro Beach. Suggests collaboration with AMP, BECQ, and other agencies to address this challenge.
- e. Mike Gawel (NPS): Confirms that the National Park Service and AMP are interested in collaborating to address stormwater challenges in Garapan.
- f. Dana Okano (NOAA CRCP): The American Planning Association's Community Planning Assistance Teams (CPAT) offers pro bono planning assistance to communities to lack the capacity or technical resources necessary. This could be potential assistance in addressing the concerns with Garapan drainage through green infrastructure and other zoning mechanisms.
  - i. See attached flier for more information.
- g. Frank Ada (DLNR-Forestry): We helped with plantings on Rota, including 40,000 seedlings in 2014 and over 60,000 in 2015.