

Watershed Working Group

October 26, 2016

10:00am – 11:30am

BECQ, 3rd Floor Conference Room

Notes/ Updates

Attendees:

John Tagabuel (BEH), Becky Furey (MINA), Lainie Berry (DLNR), Gus Aguon (DLNR-DOA), Ike Cabrera (NMI Soil & Water Conservation District), Pamela Sablan Aguon (USDA-NRCS), Gus Kaipat (DLNR), BECQ: Erin Derrington, Kathy Yuknavage Lyza Johnston, Mallory Muna, Robbie Greene, Jihan Buniag, Ryan Okano, David Benavente, Katie Graziano(BECQ).

Tasks and Major Updates:

- There is a lot of momentum for a Tour Operator Certification Manual, and for other measures to minimize the negative impacts of tourism at popular sites. Contact Kathy Yuknavage (kathyyuknagave@becq.gov.mp) if you want to get involved.
 - Kathy will contact Kate Fuller about the legal concerns related to tourism management, especially about the potential of using user fees to maintain restrooms at key sites.
 - Jihan Buniag, Mallory Muna (BECQ) and Becky Furey (MINA) will get involved with MVA for developing the manual.
 - There is also an anti-litter video in multiple languages available for download from Kathy.
- Contact Lainie (lzarones@gmail.com) if you want to contribute to the conversation about establishing a National Park in native limestone forest on Rota.
- A new stormwater retrofit is planned for the Da Ichi/Fiesta Drainage - <http://www.conteches.com/products/stormwater-management/treatment/cds>

Dates to Remember:

- **Nov. 2nd**, 9-10:30am, BECQ Conference Room - **Resilience Working Group**: Metrics of resilience and how to use them.
- **Nov. 18th** – deadline for 1st EQUIP sign up. Contact Pam Aguon (Pamela.Aguon@PB.USDA.GOV)
- **Jan. 18th**, 2017, 8:30-10:00am **Watershed Working Group**

Potential Speakers for January 18th meeting:

- **Tim (?)** – project engineer for Kagman Watershed Project
- **James Ripple** –consultant for Da Ichi/ Fiesta Drainage project
- **BECQ engineers**- knowledgeable about the project next to Garapan Elementary School
- **Rodney Camacho** – (BECQ Marine Monitoring) – Recently completed his Master's at UOG!

Updates

Gus Kaipat, DLNR: the parking lot at Fishing Base will be paved from the main road to the boat ramp, to provide safer access and parking for trailers. The project has been in process for awhile, with funding

from Westpac. Working with Dept. of Public Works. Comment from Jihan, BECQ: Has permeable parking been considered? Response: They will be applying for a permit, there will be opportunities to make suggestions for best management practices.

Dave Benavente, BECQ, Marine Monitoring Team: Long term monitoring continues in the lagoon and priority watersheds. Will provide more updates and analysis in next couple of meetings.

Kathy Yuknavage, BECQ, Water Quality Surveillance Branch:

Kathy helped lead us in a discussion about the prevalent issue of human waste and litter at populated tourist sites, and about the push to develop a new Tour Operator Manual for certification.

Red Flags at Grotto/Human Waste Issues:

Noticed an uptick in Red Flags at the Grotto, coinciding with an increase in tourists, with 33% Red Flags this year! Realized that there are no open toilets after hours, toilets close at 5 pm but tourists stay until sunset. Approached MVA, the site will be blocked off after regular hours (gate on the road – MVA will pay for the gate), to reduce the amount of human waste going into the Grotto. Expect some blowback from night divers who use the site, but the benefits really seem to outweigh the costs (no one wants to dive in human waste anyway...).

The group noted that it seems like public restrooms at the beach sites are almost always chained up(closed), even during daylight hours. Or, they are dirty and no one wants to go in them. Also, why not keep the bathrooms open all night? It comes down to lack of money and personnel to maintain them.

User Fees to Maintain Bathroom?

So, what about a user fee at Grotto or other sites, and that fee goes toward maintaining bathrooms. But, a bill was recently introduced to allow fees to go toward site maintenance, but it failed because of a stipulation that money collected on public lands must go to DPL (while bathrooms are maintained by ___ dlNr?). Need legal consul to work this out, there must be a way to make it work. Kathy will talk to Kate.

Litter and human waste at Hidden Beach and Jeffery's Beach:

Another issue is trash and human waste at Hidden Beach and Jeffery's, the tour operators are not accepting responsibility for their trash/trash of the tourists they are guiding. Many of the operators are not actually licensed. Working out the legal stuff so that licenses can actually be revoked for environmental violations.

Meanwhile, can block the road at Hidden Beach, maybe put in a raised walkway/nature path. A Jeffrey's, hoping to put in a composting toil (about 1 year down the road).

Rental Cars: Need to include Rent-A-Car owner in tour operator certification program. Renters need to be informed that they can't drive on the beach. BECQ fines the rental car company for

tourists that drive on the beach. BECQ is also developing placards (Mallory, education and outreach coordinator) to deter tourists who rent cars from driving on the beach.

MVA Tour Operator Certification Manual is in development, led by Kuen-Hee Han from MVA. Connect Jihan and Mallory (BECQ) and MINA with MVA, to provide support for content and editing. Lots of momentum for this manual right now, as there is clearly a growing need to manage tourism in a more sustainable way.

Kathy/Water Quality put together a 45 sec. anti-litter campaign in multiple languages, you can download on your phone and show to anyone while you're in the field. Proven effective with tourists speaking different languages .

Becky Furey, MINA : MINA has 7 bins available as part of the adopt-a-bin program, they need sponsors, running out of funds to maintain the bins. There will be 1 extra at the Garapan paseo as part of Garapan Surveillance Project. It costs \$1300 to renew a bin, \$1500 for a new sponsorship (extra cost to paint the logo). Kathy (BECQ) suggests \$1500 is fine for a renewal fee – BECQ would be willing to pay. It's an important program that needs to be sustained.

JollyAnne Cruz (JoJo) at MINA is working with schools to re-establish an island culture of recycling. Right now they have been providing recycling bins for cans at big events.

Erin Derrington, BECQ, Permitting: CRM is prioritizing public access issues. With the Rt. 31 (beach road) improvement project, permitting will consider these issues.

There is an exciting new project planned to retro-fit Da-Ichi (Fiesta) Drainage with a CDS hydrodynamic separator (<http://www.conteches.com/products/stormwater-management/treatment/cds>) which offers 90% treatment of all the stormwater that goes through that drainage.

Also developing conditions for areas of particular concern, public announcement will be coming out soon.

Robbie Green, BECQ, Climate Change and GIS person – Drones! Starting a new imagery acquisition project, to revamp some outdated landcover assessments of priority watersheds. Part of a NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant to improve watershed management and monitoring.

The Climate Change Resiliency Working Group will be Wed. Nov. 2 at 10am.

Lainie Berry, DLNR – National Park Service is doing a study on Rota to determine whether a park is a good idea. They are currently looking at an area of native Limestone Forest. Send her an email at lzarones@gmail.com if anyone wants to comment or participate. There will be conference calls to gather more information about native limestone forests.

Lyza Johnston, BECQ – Starting seagrass resilience assessment. Starting WQ Sampling next month. There will be 20 sites across 2 watersheds, half overlap with the long term monitoring sites.

Mallory Muna, CRI Education and Outreach Coordinator, BECQ – new to BECQ! She is getting content from enforcement for signage at beach sites or for tour operators.

Gus Aguon, DOA – following up on leak detections with CUC, CUC has detected some leaks. Also going to farms to check on wastewater, pesticide management. Found that BECQ Employee Bing is very helpful because she speaks Chinese with farm operators.

Updates on the Kagman Watershed Project – Have the necessary equipment, but lacking staff and money. The waterways are complete but there is still at \$10 million deficit.

Ike Cabrera – Soil and Water Conservation District – it is pretty overgrown now at the Kagman Watershed Project. Suggested that Tim, project engineer, might be willing to come to speak at a WWG about the project. Ike is also interested in learning more about the Garapan Watershed for future projects.

Pam Aguon, USDA-NRCS – New D.C. for the office! Remove from WWG email list: Kendall Hicks, Jay Durinella, John Bart Lawrence, Jeffrey Wheaton.

EQUIP Deadline is coming up – November 18th for 1st signup, January 20th for 2nd sign-up. After you apply, 30 days to clear land eligibilities. Working with DPL to get 5 year extended least on certain properties to make it eligible for EQUIP. Granted on a case by case basis.

Jihan Buniag, BECQ, Coral Reef Program Coordinator – attended the US Coral Reef Task Force in Guam and Saipan. Watershed site visits and presentations from Saipan, Guam, and other jurisdictions. Busy getting out the NOAA Coral Reef Program funding requests for NA17.

Katie Graziano, BECQ, Watershed Coordinator – Garapan Field Surveillance Project started early this month, MINA has 7 Rangers walking around Garapan, recording environmental violations with a focus on water quality violations. Also doing outreach and education to local business owners, workers, residents, and tourists, to emphasize the relationship between actions in Garapan and the health and safety of the Lagoon.

US Coral Reef Task Force in Sept. on Guam– Held a Watershed Workshop focused on erosion control and soil stabilization. Puerto Rico (the country in the Caribbean, not the village ☺) gave a presentation about techniques to stabilize dirt roads on coffee plantations in their priority watershed. Guam gave a presentation about using sediment socks in combination with trees for erosion control in barren areas, found it was more effective than trees alone, but sediment socks are really flammable (the whole area burned). Testing the use of sediment socks for stormdrains, etc. We talked about unpaved roads, especially the challenges with GapGap drive (going down to LaoLao from Kagman). Others in the group suggested a different pilot site to try road stabilization techniques, not on private land so fewer restrictions. Suggestion: Takpachao road, they did a compacted gravel portion that worked really well.