

Watershed Working Group

July 20, 2016

8:30-10:30am

BECQ Conference Room

Attendees:

BECQ (Jihan Buniag, Vanessa Nogis, Joe. M. Kaipat, Fran Castro, John Iguel, Jonathon Arriola, Rodney Camacho, Ryan Okano, Katie Graziano), Rachel Bouchillon (NOAA/BECQ), John Furey (Furey & Associates), Robbie Greene (PCRP), Andre Kozij (Apaseem/ Furey & Associates), John Fraser (Apaseem), Gus Kaipat (DLNR – Admin), Lainie Zarones (DLNR), Mike Tenorio (DFW), Trey Dunn (DFW), Steven McKagan (NOAA), Dana Okano (NOAA/CRCP).

Tasks and Major Updates:

- Find a speaker for Sept 28 – maybe National Park Service (Mike Gawel) with regards to AMP?
- WWG still needs representation from more agencies, especially CUC and DPW, also BEH (John Tagabuel).
- Need to up a WWG page on the BECQ website for accessing past presentations and meeting notes.
- CAP Discussion – brainstormed common priorities in Garapan. For next time, Katie will bring refined list of CAP Strategic Actions that reflect the priorities discussed.
- Seeking appropriate funding and writing contribution for Island Ecology & Resource Management textbook rewrite. Contact John Furey.
- Rachel Bouchillon (NOAA Coral Reef Management Fellow) is developing a map-based permitting tool for CNMI, and is looking for contributions from any interested agencies or individuals. Contact her at rbouch.crm@gmail.com, 783-7982
- BECQ Water Quality Branch is doing stream hikes to look for illegal discharge from piggeries or other sources – please let Ryan Okano know if you are aware of any spots they should check out. ryanokano@becq.gov.mp 664-8531 (.....or use the Reef Report app!)
- Robbie Greene will (re)start work on climate vulnerability and resilience in a few weeks. He can do useful things with maps, i.e., if you pick a point on the map he can outline all of the upland watershed area that drains to that point. Robbie.greene@pacificCRP.com
- Horsley Witten Group (environmental engineering consultants) is available to do technical review of any engineering plans (such as the BSI stormwater plan.....). Contact Dana Okano dana.okano@noaa.gov

Dates to Remember:

Upcoming Watershed Working Group Meetings: *8:30-10 am at BECQ Main Conference Room*

- **September 28th, 2016**
 - Moved from Sept. 21st, because of USCRTF meeting.

- Speaker TBD!
- **November 16th:** Open to suggested/interested speakers.

Meeting Notes

Round table updates

- Jihan Buniag (Outreach, CRI) – Finished up Watershed Warrior Curriculum at Garapan Elementary with field trip to LaoLao. RFP for ridge to reef. Also did LaoLao field trips with Schools for Environmental Change and Kagman High School. CRI Interns are working with different branches (including one with Water Quality/watersheds). Eco-camp next week on Rota. USCRTF in September on Guam, Rota and Saipan.
- John Furey - Goal to reassess and rework “island ecology and resource management” textbook and bring it up to date, using the WWG as an advisory board, to use textbook in resource agencies and public schools. Will have more information next time. (Dana has advice for funding – maybe BWET education grant, out of Hawaii?) Also, Apaseem will have a conference in November (probably the week before Thanksgiving) – looking for people to present their work.
- Robbie – 1) working again in a few weeks. Climate vulnerability work. 2) last summer, revisited the Garapan GAP, to make it climate smart – there were some priorities identified in the workshop last summer, so Robbie will be working with the CAPs and making sure we are considerate of climate stressors 3) Helped Ryan with watershed delineation, using remote sensing data. If anyone needs to assess what upland areas are contributing to a certain point on Saipan, we have the data and the tools to do that quickly.
- John Iguel– MMT – Doing surveys at Talakhaya, visual observation the land is looking pretty pristine, the marine side just doing visual observation, will have more data for a report but so far it’s looking slightly better than it had before. Won’t know until the data is processed. 2 sites in the Garapan watershed that they are working on, following up on the CAP to do surveys.
- DLNR, Gus Kaipat - nothing to report, DLNR is in support of this group
- Lainie (DLNR)- all the endangered spp are still endangered. 72 new terrestrial spp and 3 new corals listed. CNMI has the highest density of federally listed endangered spp in the nation.
- Rachel Bouchillon – NOAA Fellowship, 2 year project with BECQ developing a map-based permitting tool that incorporates any factors that might affect the permitting process. Looking for feedback from other managers and agencies, please contact Rachel with any ideas for conditions that could be included in a permitting app: rbouch.crm@gmail.com, 670-783-7982.
- John Frasier – noticed that people are illegally harvesting sea cucumbers at LaoLao Bay, need enforcement??
- Ryan Okano, BECQ Water Quality – did a stream hike ‘sanitary survey’ in Navy Hill, in the Garapan (West Takpachao) Watershed found a piggery dumping into the stream, worked with owner who put in a septic system (with the advice of NRCS). If you know of piggeries doing something bad, let us know!
- Rodney Camacho, MMT– seagrass is looking bad. Right in front of BSI, feces in the water. Otherwise, hoping to finish and present thesis soon!

- DFW – just started Managaha tourist impacts study, working with Ryan for WQ data. Looking at the whole perimeter of the island. Also, recruiting a new MPA coordinator to replace Britta. Outreach signs are being developed for managaha to educate the tourists.
- BECQ Jonathon - preparing for the rainy season , working with developers and contractors , erosion control , bracing for the rain , septic systems, mostly the construction sites. Phase 3 road project,
- Pacific Islands Environmental Conference (PIEC) – next year. Will be held on Saipan.
- Dana – Horsley Witten is available to review any kind of engineering plans.
- Katie G – On Talakhaya, they started seasonal planting, made it through the dry season with no burning. The USCRTF in September on Guam will have a watershed workshop, still deciding on a topic, probably highly erodible soil, controlling erosion from construction, unpaved roads, etc. In Water Quality, Olivia is ordering “stormwater sentinels” which are placed into stormdrains to collect sediment, oil and other pollution. Thinking of putting them in the Paseo.

DISCUSSION – What can we focus on to implement in the CAP?

Potential to do education and outreach in Garapan, related to the new drainage system near Garapan Elementary School.

AMP has a bunch of trees still down – might be a focus. Trees might be impacting that drain channel.

Also, AMP created wetland – get rid of water hyacinth, other funding sources. AmP is supportive. Saltwater well – to bring saltwater into the park to kill the hyacinth.

Restaurants around Garapan – kitchen and sewage connections, etc. Businesses with septic systems. Outreach to minimize illegal discharge.

Littering – new regulations, could be a low hanging fruit.

Working with DPW to clean all storm drains. – Kaity Mattos got funding. But it was never totally finished.

To do: Katie G will synthesize input on Garapan priorities, come next time with a refined list of strategic actions that we might focus on.

Potential Speakers:

Rodney Camacho (MMT) will eventually present his UOG Master’s thesis about lagoon seagrass.

Mike Gawel (National Park Service, stationed in Guam) – might be able to present about the AMP project, current issues and potential solutions.