

Watershed Working Group

November 15, 2021: 1 – 3pm; DCRM Conference Room & via Zoom

Attendees:

Zachary Williams (DCRM), Robbie Green (PCRP), Mary Fem Urena (DCRM), Marlyn Naputi (DCRM), Colleen Flores (DCRM), Seamus Harrison (DCRM), Kylie Hasegawa (DCRM), Steve McKagan (NOAA), Larry Maurin (DEQ), Pedro Tudela (DLNR-Forestry), Rich Salas (DCRM), Jovahna Taitingfong (DCRM), Kelsey McClellan (Johnston Applied Marine Sciences), Ilan Bubb (OPD), Jolly Ann Cruz (MINA), Janice Castro (NOAA), William Cing, Art Charfauros (DCRM), Carmen DLC, Olivia Tenorio (DEQ), Manny Camacho (OPD), Noreen Sablan (OPD), Becky Skeele (Koa Consulting), Anne Kitchell (Horsley Witten Group)

Dates to Remember:

- Achugao Watershed Community Workshop
 - Nov. 23, 4:30–7pm
 - Tanapag Middle School Cafeteria
- Living Shorelines & Nature-Based Solutions Guidebook for the CNMI
 - Feedback sought: <https://tinyurl.com/nbssurveydcrm>
 - Respond by Dec. 3, 2021

Speakers

[See PowerPoint slides linked via WWG page]

Opening and introductions

<https://dcrm.gov.mp/our-programs/water-quality-and-watershed-management/watershed-working-group/>

- I. Zachary Williams, *DCRM* | Watershed Coordinator (zwilliams@dcrm.gov.mp)
 - Watershed Updates
 - [Talakhaya Watershed Management Plan \(TWMP\)](#)
 - Completed 2020
 - [Garapan Watershed Management Plan \(GWMP\)](#)
 - Completed 2021
 - Achugao Watershed Management Plan (AWMP)
 - Ongoing
 - Laolao Bay Watershed Management Plan (LWMP)
 - Ongoing
- II. Robbie Greene, *Pacific Coastal Research & Planning*
 - Achugao Watershed Community Workshop
 - “How can we enhance the natural, cultural, and built features in Tanapag and San Roque?”
 - Trying to get broad vision from community of what they want the watershed to look like. (e.g. More restoration? Concerns or reoccurring hazards?)

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- Tuesday, 11/23 from 4:30–7pm at Tanapag Middle School Cafeteria
- [See Workshop Flyer on WWG page]

III. Anne Kitchell, *Horsley Witten Group* | Associate Principal (akitchell@horsleywitten.com)

- Laolao Bay Watershed Management Plan – DRAFT Action Plan
 - Incorporates 2012 CAP progress review; derived from workshop input, field observations, and characterization report findings
 - 10-Year Goals
 - Adopt a sustainable eco-tourism and recreation approach that protects natural resources and fosters a conservation-minded partnership between public and private landowners.
 - Maintain or improve water quality to meet CNMI standards for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and for recreational uses.
 - Enhance ecosystem capacity to provide critical watershed services such as habitat, recreation, erosion control, and protection against extreme events.
 - Create educational opportunities for residents and visitors to learn and experience the cultural, historical, and natural resources of the watershed.
 - Includes “concepts for specific actions
 - [See DRAFT Action Plan on WWG page]
 - Open to comments (please submit by mid Dec. 2021).
 - akitchell@horsleywitten.com

IV. Zachary Williams, *DCRM* | Watershed Coordinator (zwilliams@dcrm.gov.mp)

- Watershed Updates (cont.)
 - 2020–23 DOI CRNR Grant projects update
 - Achugao Watershed Upland Reforestation
 - Final siting underway (survey/permitting with DFW and HPO)
 - Kagman Forestry nursery undergoing repairs
 - Watershed Warriors
 - Expected to continue with GTC Elementary School (conversations with PSS ongoing)
 - Carefully navigating COVID precautions
 - Fire Prevention Information Programming
 - Wildfire signage: awaiting NEPA clearance
 - New Year’s radio ads incoming (Power99)
 - 2021–24 DOI CRNR Grant projects update
 - More updates to come in 2022
 - 2021–22 NOAA CRCP Grant projects update
 - CRI Rota Watershed Technician
 - New, full-time position to help implement TWMP
 - Supervised cooperatively between DCRM and Rota DLNR
 - Hiring soon

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- Mangrove Nursery & Reintroduction
 - Year 1: nursery siting; Year 2: nursery establishment and propagation
 - More updates to come in 2022
- Raingardens
 - Continued maintenance of existing raingardens
 - Installation of two new raingardens in Garapan and/or Achugao watersheds
 - Year 1: nursery siting; Year 2: nursery establishment and propagation
 - Preferably in highly-visible and impactful locations, with landowner buy-in for maintenance
 - Further discussions in 2022, or contact zwilliams@dcrm.gov.mp with ideas
 - Group comments/ideas:
 - Higher in watershed, Coral Rd.
 - Garapan Elementary School grounds
 - CHCC Hospital grounds
 - AMP / Peace Park

V. Mary Fem Urena, *DCRM* | Coastal Planner

- Living Shorelines & Nature-Based Solutions Guidebook for the CNMI
 - Increased awareness to shoreline developers and residents
 - Green infrastructure and more green approach
 - Well-informed guidebook expected to be completed by February 2022, outreach to shoreline developers and stakeholders completed by end of September 2022
 - Pre-engagement survey: <https://tinyurl.com/nbssurveydcrm>
 - Respond by Friday, Dec. 3, 2021
 - Give idea of what partners think of issues, what preferences there are, how best to receive feedback from stakeholders and shoreline developers

VI. Olivia Tenorio, *DEQ Water Quality Surveillance & Non-Point Source*

- Storm Drain Guard Pilot Project
 - Three (3) storm drain guards installed in Garapan, at intersection of Coral Tree Ave. and Coconut St.
 - Purpose is to actively engage public on stormwater pollution and prevention, test possible solution to storm drain blockages
 - Cooperative between DEQ and DPW
 - DPW conducting maintenance
 - “Maintenance checklist” [see slides]
 - Working towards Obj. 13 of GWMP

Roundtable Discussion

Zachary Williams, *DCRM* | Watershed Coordinator

- Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) Conference 2021, Virtual Tour: Marine & Terrestrial Conservation in the CNMI

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- <https://youtu.be/ocxNPTPtjBI>
- OIA Technical Assistance Program (TAP) Program Grant (CFDA 15.875)
 - Applications due April 1, 2022
 - <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=15.875>
- NOAA CRCP Domestic Capacity-Building Partnerships Grant (CFDA 11.482)
 - Letters of intent due Dec. 10, 2021
 - <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=336225>

Robbie Greene, *Pacific Coastal Research & Planning*

- Beach Rd. Shoreline Enhancement Project
 - Preparing for 2nd workshop, open to community / general public
 - Jan. 2022

Travis Spaeth, *DEQ*

- EPA Infrastructure Bill summary
 - <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/fact-sheet-epa-bipartisan-infrastructure-deal>

Pedro Tudelo, *DLNR-Forestry*

- Laolao Bay Restoration
 - USF Forest Service-funded (\$70,000 grant) project to plant mostly native trees in Laolao Bay Watershed
 - Working with private land owners, granted access for restoration work