

Watershed Working Group

July 29, 2022: 8:30 – 10am; DCRM Learning Center & via Zoom



Attendees:

Zak Williams (DCRM), Mary Urena (DCRM), Colleen Flores (DCRM), Kylie Hasegawa (DCRM), Rich Salas (DCRM), Jovahna Taitingfong (DCRM), Art Charfauros (DCRM), Olivia Tenorio (DEQ), Becky Skeele (Koa Consulting), Travis Spaeth (DEQ), Elly Perez (DCRM), Jordan Suel (DCRM), JD Herndon (DFW), Steve McKagan (NOAA), Amber Weston (OPD), Erin Derrington (OPD), Anne Kitchell (HWG), Josephine Cardelle (NRCS), Jacqueline Lizama (Office of the Governor)

Dates to Remember:

- Taskforce meeting
 - Sept. 12
- International Coastal Cleanup (ICC)
 - Sept. 17

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
 - Watershed Warriors
 - Year 2
 - 50% improvement in understanding overall, with 84% improvement in recognition of Achugao watershed
 - Adapting and expanding program in 2023 (final year under DOI grant)
 - more focus on climate change suggested
 - San Vicente rain garden restoration
 - completed July 1, 2022
 - included native wetland plant species
 - signage to be installed soon
 - Additional raingardens
 - Selected sites:
 - Tanapag Middle School (Achugao)
 - continued support from school faculty
 - AMP / Boating Safety (Garapan)
 - support from NPS
 - Mangrove nursery
 - Permitting ongoing
 - on-track for installation/propagation in FY23
 - Opportunity to replace existing invasive *Pluchea indica* with *Lumnitzera littorea*

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- Grant Opportunities
 - NOAA Infrastructure Bill
 - **More info and links on meeting slides**
 - Coastal Zone Management Habitat Protection and Restoration Grants (\$35 million)
 - National Estuarine Research Reserve System Habitat Protection and Restoration Grants (\$12 million)
 - Marine Debris Removal (\$56 million)
 - Marine Debris Challenge Competition (\$16 million)
 - Marine Debris Community Action Coalitions (\$3 million)
 - Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants (\$85 million)
 - Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Underserved Communities (\$10 million)
 - NFWF America the Beautiful Challenge
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II. Anne Kitchell, *Horsley Witten Group*

- DRAFT Achugao Watershed Management Plan (AWMP)
 - **More details on meeting slides**
 - Will be out in the next few weeks for comment / feedback (mid-August)
 - Existing conditions and pollution source [complete]
 - Load modeling and restoration potential [complete]
 - Implementation strategy for review [current focus]
 - Goals & objectives
 1. Reduce watershed pollutant loads to Tanapag Lagoon by 30% through green infrastructure and better land use management.
 2. Restore 30 acres of native upland and wetland habitats through revegetation and invasive species management.
 3. Empower watershed communities and promote stewardship through 30 engagements, advocacy, and educational activities.
 - Project lists
 - See slides #23–24 for examples
 - Cost estimates
 - Education & monitoring

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- Q&A
 - Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan calls for restoration/maintenance of at least 10% of land (more than states in AWMP)
 - Follow-up meeting topic
- Survey results
 - 24 responses
 - Overall, respondents would prefer focus on nature and the community, not large tourism (but small-scale okay)
 - Full report to be included in AWMP

Roundtable Discussion

Zachary Williams, DCRM | Watershed Coordinator

- Grant: NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants
 - <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/transformational-habitat-restoration-and-coastal-resilience-grants>
- Grant: NOAA Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Underserved Communities
 - “<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/coastal-habitat-restoration-and-resilience-grants-underserved-communities>”
- Grant: NFWF America the Beautiful Challenge 2022
 - <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/america-beautiful-challenge/america-beautiful-challenge-2022-request-proposals>
- Training: Project Management – Identifying, Analyzing, and Managing Project Risk
 - “This class revolves around the advanced practices for identifying, communicating, managing, and controlling project risks... includes discussions, hands-on exercises, scenarios, and case studies.”
 - Aug. 8–12 @10am-1pm → Virtual
 - More info here: <https://learn.pitiviti.org/137>
- Training: Coral Disease Identification Workshop
 - Wednesday, Aug. 10 @1pm → DCRM Learning Center
- Training: LEED Green Associate
 - Wednesday, Aug. 24 @12–6pm → BECQ
 - “LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) is a sustainability scorecard for green buildings. The LEED Green Associate is the best professional designation to show employers and clients that you have certified knowledge in the field.”
 - \$300 registration fee
 - <https://leadinggreen.com/saipan/>

Travis Spaeth, DEQ

- Funding opportunity: Public works infrastructure (EPA)
 - maybe go after Achugao project (Middle Rd. stream crossing)



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- Send flyer or link to website that gets sent out with CUC power bill
 - Can push to add for outreach

Erin Derrington

- Next planners TF meeting 9/12
 - Agenda items email planning@opd.gov.mp

Mary Fem

- Better Buildings Guidebook
 - Offers incentives to build green and implement green infrastructure and storm water management
 - Pamphlet will be out next month

Colleen Flores

- International Coastal Cleanup (ICC)
 - September 17
 - Registration open on [DCRM webpage](#)