

Watershed Working Group

July 20, 2023: 9–10am; DCRM Learning Center & via Zoom



Attendees:

Zak Williams (DCRM), Olivia Tenorio (DEQ), Elly Perez (DCRM), Janice Castro (NOAA), Robbie Green (PCRP), Jolly Ann Cruz (MINA), Valerie Ann Hofschneider (DEQ), Rod Camacho (DCRM), Arthur Charfauros (DCRM), Kylie Hasegawa (JAMS), Anne Kitchell (Horsley Witten Group), Kelsey McClellan (NMC), Pedro Tudela (DLNR-Forestry), Avra Heller (EPA), Merrill Ayuyu (DEQ), Rob Ferguson (NOAA), Lyza Johnston (JAMS)

Dates to Remember:

- Next WWG Meeting
 - Week of Oct. 16 [TENTATIVELY]

Speakers

[See PowerPoint slides linked via WWG page]

Opening & 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 Warriors → Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School (Achugao watershed)
 - DOI-funded outreach program (Coral Reef & Natural Resources Program)
 - 3-year, just wrapped up final year
 - Pre- & post-quizzes to gauge learning outcomes
 1. Using your own words, what is a watershed?
 2. What watershed is your school located in?
 3. Name two plants or animals found on Saipan
 4. Name two pollutants that are found in Saipan
 5. How can you help reduce pollution?
 - Improvement across all questions every year; question #2 saw 80%+ improvement.
 - Plans to move program to San Vicente Elementary School (Laolao Bay watershed)
 - Awaiting grant determination (DOI CRNR)
 - Mangrove Nursery
 - NOAA-funded restoration project (Coral Reef Conservation Program)
 - 2-year, phase 1, to establish and populate nursery (out-planting planned for next 2-year grant cycle).
 - Nursery structure completed at American Memorial Park (AMP)
 - 60' 30', temporary structure designed to be disassembled to prevent typhoon damage or to move to other locations as needed for restoration efforts.
 - To be stocked with *Rhizophora mucronata*, *R. apiculata*, *Lumnitzera littorea*, and *bruguiera gymnorrhiza*.
 - Planning collection trip to Guam on Aug. 8
 - Management Planning

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- Achugao Watershed Management Plan
 - Completed plan ready for PDAC review.
 - Watershed Coordinator will proceed with submission
- Saipan Fire Management Plan
 - Completed plan ready for PDAC review.
 - Watershed Coordinator will proceed with submission
- Laolao Bay Watershed Management Plan
 - Not yet complete, awaiting progress updates from HWG.

II. Upcoming Grants & Projects in Priority Watersheds

In the spirit of the WWG, it would be helpful for us to share our suite of projects within the priority watersheds (Achugao, Garapan, Laolao Bay, Talakhaya) in order to leverage our efforts funds and to minimize project overlap or conflict

- Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM)
 - DOI-funded outreach program (Coral Reef & Natural Resources Program)
 - NOAA CRCP (FY 23–24)
 - Mangrove Nursery Out planting (Garapan & Achugao)
 - CRI Rota Technician (Talakhaya)
 - DOI TAP (FY 23–25)
 - Coral Reef Restoration Coastal Flood Mitigation Modeling (Garapan & Achugao)
 - Improve Stormwater Infrastructure at Tanapag MS GTC ES (Achugao)
 - Tanapag Beach Park Climate Adaptation (Achugao)
 - Lower Base Lift Station Pollution Prevention (Garapan & Achugao)
 - Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act
 - Private to public conservation easements
 - Prioritizing areas of particular concern (APCs)
 - Saipan, Tinian, & Rota
 - Hiring one Land-Use Planner & one Liaison (stay tuned for job announcement)
- Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
 - Reviewing impacts of stormwater catchment baskets (Garapan)
 - To determine if worth expanding... Tanapag?
- Department of Lands & Natural Resources (DLNR) Forestry
 - Renovating native tree nursery (USDA Forestry funding)
 - Planting at Peace Park (Garapan)
 - Agroforestry program
- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
 - Coral Program
 - Funding to support implementation of at least three sediment control measures in Achugao watershed
 - Under review (determination by Fall)
 - Ocean Guardian School Program

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- Tinian Elementary School
 - Focus on watersheds (animal habitat, flood mitigation, erosion, etc.)
- Tinian High School
 - Focus on marine debris
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) & CNMI Department of Public Works (DPW)
 - Sewer Overflow & Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grant (OSG)
 - Projects include:
 - Beach Road Shoreline Enhancement Plan stormwater/green infrastructure project components
 - Tanapag Village projects (Achugao
 - Tanapag drainage construction
 - Tanapag ponding basin construction
- Pacific Coastal Research & Planning (PCRP)
 - NOAA Restoration Center
 - Prioritize and select two projects (Achugao & Laolao Bay)
 - Stakeholder engagement and planning
 - Select one per watershed for implementation
 - NFWF Coastal Resilience
 - Phase 2 of Beach Rd. project
 - Permitting
- Johnston Applied Marine Sciences (JAMS)
 - NFWF
 - Nursery maintenance and expansion (40 trees, 10 tables)
 - Expand out-planting (Garapan & Achugao)
 - National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
 - Land-based nursery and research facility

Roundtable Discussion

Zachary Williams, DCRM | Watershed Coordinator

- Job Opportunity National Coral Reef Management Fellowship
 - 2024–2026 Fellowship at CNMI DCRM focused on strengthening CRI's communications & outreach program as well as its Marine Monitoring Program.
 - Deadline for applications 7 31 2023
 - More info & apply: <https://hcas.nova.edu/fellows/apply.html>
- Funding Opportunity: NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge
 - \$500,000 – 75,000,000 (**no matching requirement**)
 - “Proposed projects should address risk reduction, regional collaboration, and equity, and build enduring capacity for adaptation.”
 - Letter of intent due by Aug. 21, 2023 (Full application due Feb. 13, 2024)
 - More info & apply: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=348810>

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Rob Ferguson, *NOAA* | Land-Based Sources of Pollution Pillar Lead & Coral Reef Watershed Management Specialist

- Funding Opportunity: NOAA Climate Ready Workforce
 - \$500,000 – 10,000,000 (no matching requirement)
 - “This competition is designed to meet the emerging and existing skills needs of employers while helping workers enter good jobs, so that together they may enhance climate resilience.”
 - Letter of intent due Nov. 30, 2023 (Full application due Feb. 13, 2024)
 - More info & apply: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=348990>