



Ecosystem Protections Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Date: 08/30/2011

Start Time: 2:00pm

End Time: 3:40pm

Meeting Method: Conference Call, Go-To Meeting

Attendance:

Adam Pack (Co-Chair), Lisa White, Jack Kittinger (Co-Chair), Alex Sheftic, Maka`ala Ka`aumoana, Eric Kingma, Hannah Bernard, Sarah Mesnick, Micki Ream, Joe Paulin, Elia Herman, Sarah Courbis, Malia Chow, Jean Souza, Jon Martinez, Joey Lecky

Public: Heide Weber (Oahu), Gordon LeBedz, Nina Monasevitch (Kauai)

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

I. Meeting opening – roll call

Take Tomson had to resign from the working group due to other work obligations.

****Meeting time changed to Tuesdays at 2pm****

Apologies for the late notice, but scheduling conflicts with the start of school year means we need to move the call day to Tuesday.

No workshop

II. Updates on technical expert questionnaire

Draft expert list internally reviewed

Sarah M reviewed 2 questions:

Question 1. Based on your research, and the best available science in your field, what do you consider the most important priorities or recommendations for sanctuary management as they consider implementing an ecosystem-based approach in the main eight Hawaiian Islands?

Question 2. Based on your research, and the best available science in your field, what do you consider as the most critical gaps in our understanding of natural processes in the main eight Hawaiian Islands that would hinder the ability of sanctuary management to implement an ecosystem-based approach?



Ecosystem Protections Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Concerns were raised about the phrasing of questions if they are going to Hawaiian cultural experts. Cautioning about wording “scientists” and “main Hawaiian Islands”. Need to consider culturally place-based ecosystem management system that was in place from the start.

The current approach being taking by the WG is piecemeal in gathering scientific and governance information on EPWG end then integrate with NHWG.

Maka’ala stated integrating from the beginning is preferred, because documents down the road have a habit of getting a life and community has to be correct later. This [piecemeal approach] is not the way to go about it.

Sarah C suggested connecting with scientists with Hawaiian background.

Agreed that integration is crucial, but need to plan way moving forward to solicit information and integrate with the Native Hawaiian working group. Should we engage NH constituents now, rather than only biological scientists and integrate later?

The phrasing main 8 Hawaiian Islands should just be Hawaiian Islands. To hone in on sanctuary waters use HIHWNMS in question.

Eric explained that in Climate Change working group asked outside experts for background information about climate change and its impacts, incorporated the information in to their recommendation report. It was pretty much the same process as outlined here without the direct request for recommendations.

Alex agrees the recommendations from both working groups should be considered in the final document, but to avoid a rushed product need start working away at it now.

Current plan: Sanctuary staff (Sarah) will send letter out and follow up with experts to solicit feedback and incorporate their knowledge and input into the recommendations.

Sarah will email the revised letter to the working group for further comments.

Discussion about the “right time” to engage NH and EP working groups to integrate their information. Adam, Jack will have this conversation with Kehau to determine if the 2 questions letter is the right way collect knowledge from Native Hawaiian community or is that information already being solicited by NHWG.



Ecosystem Protections Working Group

Meeting Minutes

If the goal is justification for EBM there should be a statement in document that the ecosystem-based approach is the correct way because it is the correct way to do things here, it's the traditional way and it's the way of the future.

Is the job for EPWG to provide justification EBM? Has been done for western science and traditional practices. Or is it to provide recommendations on how to implement EBM? That is a much harder question to address.

III. Review draft outline for recommendation report and action items

Sarah reviewed the sections on the draft outline that was emailed.

Group edits for outline:

Adam – Intro have justification for EBM and western science and Hawaiian traditional management; References in between Discussion and Appendices

Maka'ala – traditional ecological knowledge generally accepted term. Practitioners are distinct.

Hannah – incorporate practitioners

Jack – break up results, some are intro, background, methodology, recommendations. Topics structured the WG exploration, but in the report it looks choppy. Once we flesh out the recommendations more and the topic information will inform.

Discussion on how answers from the technical experts will be incorporated?
Co-chairs will take the lead on revising outline. The experts' answers should be kept anonymous, but need to account for types of expertise solicited.

There are two ways to solicit input. Approach small number of experts and have a letter of endorsement signed. Get expert opinion from large group of experts and aggregate responses, which is process the WG is undertaking.

For transparency it is suggested to include a list of who was contacted is public, but not with names attached to comments.

Climate Change group does not list names currently in draft report.

If names are to be published that should be communicated clearly upfront. Ask experts if they are willing to be publically identified that they were consulted. The answers will be presented in aggregate and anonymously. At the least should list all organizations the respondent is affiliated.



Ecosystem Protections Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Need acknowledgement (check a box, initial) from each respondent if they are willing to share their institution/organization and/or name or no identification.

_institution

_name

_neither

Missing document for Topic 3 Additional Species, but given food chain rationale for EBM no need to explore topic further than 2007 report to the Gov.

IV. Public Comment (TBD)

Kauai – Gordon LeBedz concerned HIHWNMS, with the exception of the disentanglement program, has done nothing for whales, expanding to EBM could be way for Sanctuary to justify doing nothing. Recommends making phone calls to experts instead of sending a letter, because the working group is behind other working groups and recommendations need to be in by November. Agenda and questions to experts should be more targeted e.g. Ask experts what they think about no take areas and where should they be situated? Need to get moving.

Oahu – No comments.

Maui and Big Island no public.

V. Agenda items for next call

Action Items:

Sarah will email letter and outline incorporating meeting updates

Submit edits to letter to experts to Sarah, Jack and Adam

Provide input on draft outline to be compiled by Jack and Adam

Jack and Adam will consult with NHWG (Kehau)

Next meeting: Tuesday 09/13/2011 at 2:00pm