



City and County of Honolulu Storm Water Utility Study Stakeholder Advisory Group

October 19, 2020, 4:00-6:30 pm

Conducted Virtually

ATTENDEES

American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawai'i (June Nakamura)
AARP (Kealii Lopez)
Fresh Water Initiative (Mark Fox)
Hawaii Auto Dealers Association (Dave Rolf)
Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Legal and Economic Justice (Gavin Thornton)
Hawai'i Association of Watershed Partnerships (Shelly Gustafson)
Honolulu Board of Water Supply (Barry Usagawa)
KUA (Wally Ito)
NAIOP (Darian Chun)
Neighborhood Board #4 (Sharon Schneider)
Neighborhood Board #8 (Tim Streitz)
Neighborhood Board #25 (Bernie Marcos)
Neighborhood Board #31 (Levani Lipton)
Neighborhood Board #28 (Dee Dee Letts)
Sustainable Coastlines (Rafael Bergstrom)
Waikiki Business Improvement District (Jennifer Nakayama)

Public Agency Staff

Randall Wakumoto (City and County of Honolulu Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM))
Ross Sasamura (City and County of Honolulu DFM)
Matt Gonser (City and County of Resilience Office)

Consultant Team

Juli Beth (JB) Hinds (Birchline Planning LLC)
Joan Isaacson (Kearns & West)
Laurens van der Tak (Jacobs)
Jessica Chiam (AECOM)
Ming Ding (AECOM)
Cami Kloster (G70)
Janice Jensen (G70)
Dana Butler (Hastings and Pleadwell)
Jack Hughes (Kearns & West)

Members of the Public

Dana Okano (Hawaii Community Foundation)
Ujay S.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Joan Isaacson (Kearns & West) welcomed everyone and thanked participants for joining the webinar. It was noted that the Stakeholder Advisory Group achieved a milestone in completing phase 1. Ross Sasamura, City and County of Honolulu DFM expressed his thanks for the everyone's efforts on the Stakeholder Advisory Group and emphasized the significant progress made in the last 18 months. Please see slides 1 to 3 of the presentation materials.



2. Agenda Overview

Joan reviewed agenda items including Summary Report review and comment, upcoming important dates, and tips for productive discussions. She noted that the Stakeholder Advisory Group feedback is critical to providing a perspective from the community. Please see slides 4 to 7 of the presentation materials.

3. Public Comment

Joan asked if there were any comments from members of the public. There were no comments from members of the public. Please see slides 8 and 9 of the presentation materials.

4. Updates

a. Storm Water Master Plan process and Draft Typical Details

Please see slides 10 to 21 of the presentation materials.

Randall Wakumoto (City and County of Honolulu DFM) provided an update on the City's effort to revise some of Standard Details and Specifications that have not been updated since 1984. The three areas being revised are drainage, transportation, and green storm water infrastructure. Green storm water infrastructure includes permeable pavements, tree box filters, bioretention basins and a plant palette. The revisions and additions would usually occur over several years; however, it is being done in a 6-month period. Feedback is being solicited from public and private sector stakeholders.

While the details are "typical" and address the minimum design standards, they do not eliminate the need for design professionals be involved in implementation. The details apply to new construction; a separate document will address retrofits. Design criteria guidance should provide a long-term life span and account for the effects of climate change and sea level rise.

A draft set of typical details was released for review and comment. The second draft will be posted by November 13th and final package will be submitted for signature by DFM Director and Chief Engineer, Ross Sasamura, before the end of the year.

Final documents will be posted as both PDF and CADD files. A Memorandum of Understanding will be developed with responsible departments. Comments can be sent to DPWStandards@honolulu.gov.

b. Community Outreach and Engagement

Please see slides 29 to 35 of the meeting presentation.

Cami Kloster (G70) provided a brief update on future community engagement. Outreach for the remainder of 2020 will focus on sharing through e-newsletters and social media Storm Water Utility reports and information as they are available.

Planning for Round 3 of Storm Water Utility outreach is underway and will include a focus on Storm Water Master Plan topics to engage citizens in the Strategic Plan component. Initial plans for 2021 outreach include presentations to Neighborhood Boards island wide. Stakeholder Advisory Group members who are on their Neighborhood Boards will be asked for their assistance in having the Storm Water Utility briefings placed on the Board agendas.

The Storm Water Quality Division outreach team has several new community events taking place this month including Imagine a Day Without Water on 10/21, the virtual Mauka to Makai Festival on 10/24, and a Make



a Difference Month campaign centered on Plogging (jogging and picking up litter) with an associated social media contest.

JB Hinds (Birchline Planning) encouraged Stakeholder Advisory Group members who would like to have the project team deliver a (virtual) presentation to their respective organizations to request one. The project team has recently given a presentation to the Board of Water Supply stakeholder advisory group and has another presentation/panel discussion coming up with NAIOP.

- c. Updated draft storm water fees with public/quasi-public road exemption
Please see slides 36 to 41 of the meeting presentation.

JB shared the core recommendation to exempt public and quasi-public roads along with parcels with less than 300 square feet of impervious area. The recommendation would provide greater clarity, reduce confusion, and decrease the administrative cost burden. The recommendation similar to about 2/3 of other storm water utilities in the US.

The proposed definition would be based on the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu Sec. 14-32.2 Surface Maintenance (1)-(4). The key defining characteristic is that eligible roads have public use.

This recommendation results in reducing the amount of area subject to fees; however, it creates a clearer administration and understanding of roads and public benefits. The associated rate impact is approximately \$0.10/month per 1,000 square feet of impervious area, for a total of \$4.85/month per 1,000 square feet.

Q&A/Discussion

Please note: For all Q&A / Discussion sections, the notes with dashes (-) represent comments and questions from the Stakeholder Advisory Group and the notes with open points (o) represent the project team's responses.

- Would the fee be so prohibitive that the owner would be disincentivized in turning roadways over to the City?
 - o In general, property owners want to turn over roadways to the City. Ross explained that there are cases where private parties have charged the public on the usage of certain roadways for parking, which is being disputed and undergoing litigation. The key question is whether the roadway is available for public use; however, if private owners charge for parking, the owner would need to pay a storm water fee.
- It was noted that some Neighborhood Boards are not currently meeting because their usual public-school cafeterias location is not available due to COVID-19 restrictions.

5. Draft Summary Report

First, Joan reminded Stakeholder Advisory Group members on the purpose of the Hawaii Community Foundation Summary Report and audiences. JB walked the Stakeholder Advisory Group through the sections of the draft Summary Report. Comments are requested from the Stakeholder Advisory Group by Friday, October 30th. Please see slides 42 to 45 of the meeting presentation.

Q&A/Discussion

- The report might have too much extra content as it reads heavy on the input part. Section 2 is much longer than the section on process which is important and somewhat dense.
 - o Joan noted that section 3 might seem longer due to graphics. Internal reviewers thought it was a light section!



- Could an infographic be included about what this (report summary) means for the public? This would help to reduce information overload and keep up the momentum. Include things like this is not a tax, structure of the funding, function, pricing – the important takeaways. The content could resemble an elevator pitch.
- A one-page colorful graphic that conveys major findings would be great.
- Maybe add photos of the storm water system/infrastructure to show what the money will go towards – and the types of green infrastructure that people will get credit for. Also, it could include that there will be money for public green storm water infrastructure for greening communities.
- One of the few comments that came out of the Board of Water Supply briefing was a question on the credits. Could a simple graphic be created that allows the public to think about how each of us can take advantage of credits available to us? Clearly, the person asking the question was interested in minimizing her storm water costs.
- An infographic could make fee comparison to something people buy without thinking - like "for the price of two cups of coffee a month, you'll contribute to maintaining safe and clean waterways across our island...".
- An infographic should say **why** this is important (i.e., our drinking water).
- Sea Grant recently gave a community presentation on this topic. Talking about this can be part of our community responsibility.

JB proposed the creation of a basic flyer on a Storm Water Utility: what does it mean in terms of benefits. And the subject for a second flyer might be: what you can do on a property to obtain credits.

6. Next Steps for Stakeholder Advisory Group

- a. 2021 Quarterly meeting schedule and dates
- b. Potential additional and newly designated members

Joan gave an overview of the proposed Stakeholder Advisory Group quarterly meeting dates for 2021 and asked for suggestions on potential organizations to solicit for new members. The project team hopes that the current members can continue into 2021! Please see slides 46 to 48 of the presentation materials.

Q&A/Discussion

- How about someone to represent community associations, such as a representative from the Association of Apartment Owners? Do we already have that? Mililani Town Association is the largest community association and there is also the Community Association International.
- DLNR divisions: DOFAW - Division of Forestry and Wildlife; DAR - Division of Aquatic Resources
- Land Use Research Foundation
- Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations <https://waicleanwater.org/>
- Hawaiian Electric Company
- An organization or multiple organizations to represent churches
- Faith Action (<https://www.faithactionhawaii.org/>) focuses on housing and touches on development. There is also the Interfaith Alliance.



- Other developers
- Hotel/Resort interests: Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association / Hawaii Tourism Authority

The project team will consider the many helpful suggestions – and, at a minimum will reach out to many of these groups to provide an update.

- Is the storm water utility team planning to brief the new mayor on the great progress accomplished to date, and if possible, provide the Stakeholder Advisory Group some indication of new mayor's willingness to continue the momentum forward? What can the Stakeholder Advisory Group do to provide our collective support as a nudge? We are hopeful.
 - o Randall explained that there will need to be a briefing the incoming administration (new Department of Facility Maintenance Director and Mayor) on the Storm Water Utility Study once elections are over.

7. Wrap Up

The project team thanked everyone for their participation and asked that any comment be sent to Randall.