



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

May 3, 2021, 4:00-6:30 pm

Conducted Virtually

### ATTENDEES

American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawai'i (June Nakamura)

Board of Water Supply (Barry Usagawa)

Hawai'i Community Foundation (Dana Okano)

Hawaii Reserves, Inc. (Jeffrey Tyau)

'Iolani School (Jaron Kawamura)

Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership (JC Watson)

NAIOP (Darlan Chun)

Neighborhood Board #4 (Sharon Schneider)

Neighborhood Board #8 (Tim Streitz)

Neighborhood Board #9 (Matt Weyer)

Neighborhood Board #25 (Bernie Marcos)

Waikiki Business Improvement District (Jennifer Nakayama)

Wai'anae Mountains Watershed Partnership (Yumi Miyata)

### *Public Agency Staff*

Randall Wakumoto (City and County of Honolulu Department of Facility Maintenance (DFM))

Roger Babcock (City and County of Honolulu DFM)

Tonya Ketzka (City and County of Honolulu DFM)

Dawn Szewczyk (City and County of Honolulu DFM)

Kelli Kolona (City and County of Honolulu DFM)

Kyle Tokuda (City and County of Honolulu DFM)

Matt Gonser (City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency)

### *Consultant Team*

Juli Beth (JB) Hinds (Birchline Planning LLC)

Joan Isaacson (Kearns & West)

Jack Hughes (Kearns & West)

Laurens van der Tak (Jacobs)

Ming Ding (AECOM)

Cami Kloster (G70)

Janice Jensen (G70)

Lauren Roth Venu (3Rwater)

### *Members of the Public*

Christin Reynolds, One World Water

Alex Yee, Honolulu Resilience Office

Rod Low



**1. Welcome and Agenda Overview**

Joan Isaacson (Kearns & West) welcomed everyone and reviewed slides 1 to 5 of presentation materials provided at <https://www.stormwaterutilityoahu.org/>.

**2. Public Comment (see additional information at the bottom of this agenda)**

No public comments. See slides 6 and 7 of the presentation materials.

**3. Updates and Reports**

**a. State of Hawaii storm water utility legislation activity**

Department of Facility Maintenance Director Roger Babcock provided an update on the legislative activity. A bill introduced to exempt the State of Hawaii from Storm Water Utility fees was heard by the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection. DFM submitted testimony against granting the exemption, as did some Stakeholder Advisory Group members and organizations, and it was passed by the House with a change to only exempt harbors and airport. The bill was referred to another committee and was not heard in the Senate and is now dead for this session. Babcock noted that the Stakeholder Advisory Group comments made a difference in the House’s consideration of the bill. However, this bill may be held over to next year’s legislative session. See slides 8 and 9 of the presentation materials.

**b. Upcoming Water Environment Federation (WEF) legislative issues webinar**

Juli Beth (JB) Hinds, Birchline Planning is part of the WEF Stormwater Policy Committee which is hosting a session on how state properties are handled in storm water utilities across the country and how and how other local jurisdictions have initiated local dialogue with state agency agencies. Once the date is set, the webinar invitation will be shared with the Stakeholder Advisory Group. See slide 10 of the presentation materials.

**c. Anticipated City Council consideration of storm water initiatives**

Randall Wakumoto provided an update on the City Council process. This year the Department of Facility Maintenance will be introducing a bill for an ordinance to create a special storm water fund. Introduction of the bill for an ordinance for collection of fees and credit and hardship policies is planned for 2022. Storm Water Utility bills to property owners would not go out until 2023 at the earliest. See slides 11 and 12 of the presentation materials.

Before a bill is introduced, there will be an update provided to the City Council Public Infrastructure and Technology committee as an update. The bill is planned to have a first reading in June at City Council. The bill will be referred to a City Council committee once it is introduced, and it is not known which committee it will be referred to. Stakeholder Advisory Group support will be important for the City Council to vote in support of the Special Fund.

Randall will send out communication regarding the timing of the bill introduction and opportunities for Stakeholder Advisory Group support.



#### d. Follow the Drop – Mālama Maunalua Project

Lauren Roth-Venu provided an update on the Follow the Drop pilot program. The computer application was initially funded by the state and the Hawai'i Community Foundation as a school educational tool. It is now being further developed as a potential tool for helping homeowners implement the appropriate storm water improvements for their properties. The app may also be used as a vehicle for submitting Storm Water Utility credit applications in the future. See slides 13 to 36 of the presentation materials.

The tool is interactive and allows the user to begin designing green storm water infrastructure by looking at the area of capture and the annual rainfall for the area. The application links to the Water Quality Rules volume, helping users to better understand the volume of storm water their property is generating. It could also be used to show a property's utility fees and projected savings by installing a specific project and to track ongoing maintenance of storm water improvements. Mālama Maunalua will be helping to pilot this application in the 'Āina Haina community.

#### 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.*

- Will each homeowner be able to customize the app for their property – or will they need to go to a website to find out what they can do?
  - o There will probably be a link in the app with a tool for figuring out the area.
- Are both methods for retaining the water designed for the water to permeate into the ground?
  - o The water quality volume typically applies to the first inch. For larger more intense rain events, the water may end up in the storm water system.
- If water is retained for a long time, moss, mold, and mosquitoes can accumulate. The water needs to be used or infiltrated.
  - o There needs to be guidelines about maintaining the system and how to utilize the water.

#### e. One Water Planning

Matt Gonser from the City Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency provided an overview of City efforts including a One Water approach. See slides 37 to 50 of the presentation materials.

The City Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency was created from a voter charter amendment. Storm water directly relates to two components of the Office's Resilience Action Plan. One is the recommendation to establish a storm water enterprise fund to better finance water management. The second is the development of a climate adaptation strategy that references a One Water approach.



Ordinance 20-47 creates a One Water panel to have a coordinated approach to think across system. The ordinance calls on eight departments to integrate frameworks. The initial focus will be on establishing Memorandums of Understanding across departments.

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- What would be the earliest win from the Storm Water Utility process to support the One Water framework?
  - o The nationwide framework can be used to support Hawaii efforts to integrate thinking across departments to maximize synergies and opportunities. As this effort is in the planning stages, outcomes are still being identified.
- Will the Office of Sustainability and Resiliency be taking on rising sea level, hardened shorelines, polluted waters, and coordinating efforts?
  - o This is under consideration. Planning and structures are needed to address these problems.
- We have big job ahead of us!
- The Board of Water Supply has a Stakeholder Advisory Group for Neighborhood Board members as well. When storm water utility items go to City Council, the team should share the advisory group discussions. For projects with co-benefits, then can be two groups supporting them.
- Where can folks go for more information on the One Water Panel?
  - o Information on the panel is not available at this time.

#### 4. Community Outreach, including Neighborhood Board Briefings and Community Meetings

Cami Kloster, G70, provided an update on community outreach efforts related to the Storm Water Utility and long-term Storm Water Planning (see slides 51 to 56 of the presentation materials).

The project team has been providing updates to O'ahu Neighborhood Boards on the storm water utility and will be attending nearly every Neighborhood Board meeting virtually or in-person. In general, the Neighborhood Boards have been very appreciative of receiving the information.

The upcoming Storm Water Quality Division's meetings on long-term Storm Water Planning are being publicized at the Neighborhood Board meetings. The Stakeholder Advisory Group is encouraged to spread the word about the meetings in addition to the publicity provided via other means including Facebook, an e-newsletter, Spectrum ad, Star-Advertiser e-blast, and North Shore News ad. A Storm Water Planning website is under development.



## Q&A/Discussion

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- Could the project team please send copies of the materials sent to Neighborhood Board chairpersons also to the Stakeholder Advisory Group Neighborhood Board members?
  - o Yes, future communications will be copied to the relevant Stakeholder Advisory Group Neighborhood Board members.

## 5. Storm Water Strategic Plan

Cami provided an update on the Storm Water Strategic Plan process as part of the long term overall Master Plan (see slides 57 to 72 of the presentation materials).

The vision for the long-term planning was shared as was how the various components of the Master Plan relate to the Strategic Plan as the overall “umbrella” plan.

A draft set of values for the Strategic Planning effort was provided for Stakeholder Advisory Group input.

Additional values of equity (supporting underserved communities) and accountability (with performance metrics) were suggested by Stakeholder Advisory Group members.

A draft survey to be used at the Storm Water Planning Community Meetings was given to Stakeholder Advisory Group Neighborhood Board members in attendance and their feedback was solicited. The feedback provided will be used to make improvements to the survey prior to the community meetings, and their feedback will be included in the overall results used to develop the Strategic Plan.

The breakout sessions focused on the following questions:

- What would you like to see happen to improve storm water quality across O’ahu?
- What partnership opportunities do you see for implementing the efforts?

### **Break Out Group #1**

- Education is important at front end. Accurate information is important too.
- Catch basin and drain cleaning.
- Flooding and stream maintenance. Debris in streams impacts flooding.
- Resiliency is very important for the whole community.
- Partnerships and collaboration.
- Public & Engagement / Awareness – especially if asking people to do things on their property.
- Community needs to feel it is a benefit. Green infrastructure that meets multiple values/goals – green infrastructure and community asset (recreation). May need to replace soils. “Flood parks” Examples on Hawai’i Island, ‘Imiloa Center) can be based around sea-level rise. Visual reminder that city is putting money where its mouth is!



- Mauka conversation – vast area outside of the urban area; can infiltrate water and stop the dirt/erosion sooner!

***Breakout Discussion #2***

- Need to have a watershed approach, partnerships, and collaboration. These are the umbrella to the water quality and other needs
- For public engagement, partnerships, and collaboration, working as a volunteer can be an enjoyable way to engage.
- Would like to learn more about green storm water infrastructure (GSI) including where the existing GSI is and where additional GSI could go.
- Could work with associations. They have worked with schools in Mililani.
- There were issues mentioned regarding unauthorized trees in Pali Momi that were removed. Going forward, we want to ensure that community can be involved in the right ways.
- Would want to see agriculture in a culturally relevant way, using 'ulu and taro for example.
- Signage would be helpful to interpret and share about place, history, cultural relevance, etc.

**6. Wrap-up**

**Next Meeting: Monday, August 2, 2021, 4:00 - 6:30 pm**