

CESSPOOL CONVERSION WORKING GROUP (CCWP) MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 9, 2018
Time: 1:30PM – 3:30PM
Location: Kinau Hale, 1250 Punchbowl Street, Room 205, Honolulu, HI
Attendees: Ted Bohlen (TB), Deputy Attorney General
Stuart Coleman (SC), Surfrider Organization
Jason Kagimoto, County of Kauai,
Eric Nakagawa, County of Maui
William “Bill” Kucharski (BK), County of Hawaii
Dr. Darren Lerner (DL), University of Hawaii, Water Resources Research Center
Representative Nicole Lowen (NL), House of Representatives
Mike Montgomery (MM), EPA Region 9
Erica Perez (EP), Coral Reef Alliance
Sina Pruder (SP), Department of Health
Ken Hiraki, Hawai'i Association of Realtors

Not present: Bruce Anderson (BA), Chair, Department of Health
Senator Kalani English, Senate
Dr. Kawika Winter, Hawai'i Institute for Marine Biology
Lani Fernandez (LF), Bank of Hawaii
Lori Kahikina (LK), City and County of Honolulu

AGENDA

A. Call to Order at 1:35PM on September 13, 2018 by Sina Pruder

B. Objectives

- a. DL stated that the UH has the expertise to be engaged in objectives #2, #3, #4, #5, #10, #13 and #14.

For objective #2, WRRRC faculty and/or affiliate faculty have the capacity to conduct research analysis to determine environmental wastewater treatment recommendations based on location. He mentioned that there is an overlap with objective #11.

For objective #3, this would be a good place of an outreach specialist. WRRRC is in the process of recruiting for an outreach specialist that might be hired by December 1, 2018. This outreach specialist could collect existing research data and develop a needs assessment for areas that there is a lack of data. This effort is partly being funded by the \$500,000 that WRRRC received by Act 132.

For objective #4, WRRRC researchers could test alternative wastewater systems. They have an individual that can conduct these types of testing. He works for WRRRC and the College of Engineering.

For objective #5, faculty at the UH Department of Economics or UH Economic Research Organization (UHERO) could conduct studies on an owner's ability to pay for the upgrades. There are individuals that could conduct studies directed to address this situation.

For objective #10, the outreach specialist is a joint hire between WRRRC and SeaGrant. This objective would involve getting feedback from the Counties and working with faculty with a social science background.

For objective #11, similar to objectives #2 and #4. Work can be done to address all three objectives.

For objective #13, look at facility with expertise in social science. Would involve during surveys, human perception and human studies and willingness on the financial side.

For objective #14, could be based on research that determines cesspool impacts on aquifers and recreational waters. WRRRC and/or affiliate faculty can evaluate available data on cesspools that shows impacts to ground and surface waters and data where there are no impacts.

NL – Felt that the financing could be handled by expertise outside of UH and that the Counties, DOH and CCWP could do the outreach.

EP- Also felt that outreach should be done by Counties and DOH.

BK- For objective #14, treatment is irrelevant because you exempt or you don't.

DL – The outreach specialist can develop educational tools, go to the communities, residents and educate homeowners of the impact of cesspools. Is there a potential for the outreach specialist to tie into the CCWP?

BK – We have our 15 objectives, we should work on placing these objectives into the subgroups.

EP, NL, SC and SP all felt the need for a facilitator to help guide our CCWP.

EP volunteered to assist with facilitating meetings until we hired a professional facilitator for the CCWP. The CCWP members were all in favor of having EP assist with facilitating the CCWP and subgroup meetings until we retained the services of a facilitator.

EN – The objectives assigned for the CCWP to address was similar to developing a Preliminary Engineering Report.

KH- Felt that there was a lack of data. Decisions should be data driven.

b. **Subgroups**

The CCWP were all in favor of the three established subgroups.

Subgroup #1 – Data Collection and Cesspool Prioritization

Subgroup #2 – Technology

Subgroup #3 – Finance Options

Exemptions will be evaluated under Subgroup #1.

CCWP members were asked their first and second choice of subgroups they would want to participate in.

Below are the choices of the CCWP members

Subgroup #1 – Data Collection and Cesspool Prioritization

EP(1st), DL (1st), BK (2nd), EN(2nd), SC(2nd), SP(2nd), JK(2nd)

Subgroup #2 – Technology

BK(1st), EN(1st), JK(1st), MM(2nd), EP(2nd), SC(1st), DL(1st), Ted(1st), DL(2nd), SP(1st)

Subgroup #3 – Finance Options

EP, NL(1st), KH(1st), MM(1st), Ted(2nd)

BK asked what are the sunshine requirements for these subgroups? If the subgroup makes quorum for the CCWP, how will this be handled? We need guidelines for subgroups to meet sunshine laws. TB to provide guidance to the CCWP.

For the next meeting, CCWP members were asked to review the objectives and to assign to the three subgroups. This information should be emailed to EP for discussion at our next meeting.

C. Adjournment: Time - 3:34 PM