

CESSPOOL CONVERSION WORKING GROUP (CCWG)

Main Group - Meeting Agenda

Date: December 3rd, 2019

Time: 12:19pm - 2:03pm

Location: University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program, HIG 210

Call in Details: Dial in number: (319) 527-2774

Access Code: 247874

Members Present:

Sina Pruder (SP)
Bill Kucharski (BK)
Eric Nakagawa (EN)
Darren Lerner (DL)
Michael Mezzecapo (MM)
Erica Perez (EP)
Ted Bohlen (TB)
Kawika Winter (KW)
Lani Fernandez (LF)
Stuart Coleman (SC)
Ken Hiraki (KH)
Lori Kahikina (LK)
Jason Kagimoto (JK)
David Albright (DA) (phone)

Members Not Present:

Senator Kalani English
Bruce Anderson
Representative Nicole Lowen

Facilitation Support:

Christin Reynolds
Kayla Saunders

Members of the Public (9)

AGENDA

A. Call to Order by TB at 12:19pm

B. Approval of October 2nd meeting minutes

- a. BK suggests addition of Technology and Finance contract within C.1
- b. TB motions to include changes proposed by BK
 - i. All say "aye," KW abstains because not at previous meeting, no oppositions

C. Michael M. summary of Hawaii Research

- a. Four chapters and annotated bibliography on most relevant studies to Hawaii:
 - i. Ocean/coastal ecosystem pollution indicators
 - ii. Impacts on ocean/coastal ecosystems and human health
 - iii. Water resource modeling/monitoring/risk analysis
 - iv. Policy and community connections
 - v. Key concepts and knowledge gaps
- b. Suggestion to include groundwater terminology and not just zone management terminology when addressing the public.
- c. Research needed on new chemicals entering marketplace and how they interact with one another.

- d. Look into sources of enterococcus bacteria.
- e. Combine understanding of coastal water flow regimes with modeling in determining high-risk areas.
- f. Recent updates on water resource modeling/monitoring/risk analysis are not captured in slide deck, but will be in final draft.
- g. Desire to have an OWTS database to analyze trends and patterns in an effort to better manage these systems.
- h. Updates/Timeline:
 - i. Need to have data/prioritization subgroup review
 - ii. Optimize the 1st section of the report
 - iii. Complete annotated bibliography
 - iv. Perform revisions as needed
 - v. Goal: complete by Feb 2020
- i. Discussion:
 - i. Question: For Hawaii Island, is there any way of identifying ways to overlap current shoreline models and use private drinking wells to update groundwater information/data?
 - 1. Look into DOH study on drinking wells from the highway to shoreline that shows gradient of enterococcus.
 - 2. Private wells are not regulated by DOH.
 - 3. Importance of private wells not being installed next to cesspools.
 - ii. Question: Are there studies measuring the percentage decrease in pollution when cesspools were replaced with septic systems?
 - 1. Celia Smith to send datasets/publications from various islands to CCWG.
 - 2. Suggestion to the combine census data with predictive models in order to improve model accuracy.
 - 3. For community outreach purposes, suggestion to share a success story of an area that was converted.
 - iii. Question: Regarding data and data gaps - are there areas where “no replacement” is needed? Are there non-impact areas? How do we find areas where it makes no fiscal or environmental sense to replace a cesspool?
 - 1. Mention of looking at other states and their prioritizing processes, since this has not been done before in Hawaii.
 - a. Look at states with similar geological structure.
 - b. Suggestion of looking at Honomanu along the Hana coastline as a model of a “pristine” area.
 - c. Suggestion to look at before-and-after case studies on West Maui and to look at original datasets.
 - iv. Question: Have we looked at other island communities or just mainland?
 - 1. Mainland communities have only been looked at from a policy standpoint.

2. Follow-up Question: Are there any South Pacific or Island nations that have gone through this transition?
 - a. Examples: Guam, Suffolk County (wastewater systems close in proximity to coastal water)
 - b. Suggestion to look at those areas and the environmental impacts of similar transitions.
 - c. EP to look into and send information to group.
- v. Question: Are social aspects considered in prioritization process? Any equity implications?
 1. Data and prioritization group to consider this.

D. Outreach group proposal

- a. Review of the “Recommendations for an Outreach Subcommittee of the state of Hawai’i Cesspool Conversion Working Group” document with CCWG.
 - i. Highlights:
 1. Previous research and review of previous efforts that highlight the importance of community outreach as key component of success.
 2. Creation of a specialized outreach and education strategy to support policy that is transparent and meets the needs of unique local communities and stakeholders across each island.
 - ii. Vote to create a subcommittee with this focus - group would develop and create a statewide communications outreach strategy.
 1. Question: How would we fund?
 - a. DL proposes \$500,000 in two years to support an individual and assistance (i.e. student support) to create and deliver strategy and materials.
 - b. Suggestion that more people are needed and to utilize local resources on each island - communities respond better to local individuals that are very familiar with the area.
 - iii. TB motions to establish committee to work on outreach efforts in planning/initial state without implementation/execution.
 1. SC moves.
 2. KH seconds.
 3. All say “aye”, no oppositions, no abstentions.
 - iv. Question: Who would like to serve on this committee?
 1. MM, KH, EP, LF, SP, DL, SC volunteer.
 2. TB motions the membership of initial members.
 - a. KW seconds.
 - b. All say “aye”, no oppositions or abstentions.

E. Questions and Comments

- a. Question: When is the next meeting for data and prioritization?

- i. CR: January - will coordinate via email.
 - ii. MM: Report will be ready by then for review/editing.
 - iii. Legislature opens January 18th - suggestion to circle back and inform of CCWG updates.
- b. Question: Regarding conversion and selling properties, for sale starting in January 2020 (30-year mortgage), will it be mandatory to convert as part of sales?
 - i. Depends on mortgage company.
 - ii. Federal loan requirement informs of minimum standards of what an on-site system should be (cesspools are likely not accepted).
 - iii. Minimum property standards from FHA - loan must meet all federal, state, and county requirements.
 - iv. Conversion makes property more marketable.
 - v. Vacation rentals influx in plumbing has forced the market to support conversion.
- c. Comment: Group should work towards getting all on-site systems registered and create an updated database that DOH can access. There is a knowledge gap in improper maintenance or lack of maintenance all together and we should start a process in floating a bill into registration.
 - i. DOH currently suggests to pump every 3-5 years but is not a requirement.
 - ii. There is no database that currently exists on cesspools.
 - iii. If a bill is to be proposed, part of the bill would mention funding positions to create that database.
 - iv. Suggestion to get this information from the licensed pumpers that pump these tanks.

F. Adjournment by TB at 2:03pm

- a. Next meeting is TBD and to be emailed out by CR - kicking off subgroup meetings next year and then Feb/March for main group meeting.