

CESSPOOL CONVERSION WORKING GROUP (CCWG)

Main Group - Meeting Agenda

Date: October 29, 2020

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: Webinar

Call in Details: Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85449590140>

Meeting ID: 854 4959 0140

Dial by your location
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Members Present:

Sina Pruder (SP)
Ted Bohlen (TB)
Michael Mezzacapo (MM)
Stuart Coleman (SC)
Representative Nicole Lowen (NL)
Darren Lerner (DL)
Ken Hiraki (KH)
Jason Kagimoto (JK)
David Albright (DA)
Bill Kucharski (BK)
Erica Perez (EP)

Guests:

Cari Ishida (CI)
Jennifer Ivey (JI)
James Roberts (JR)
John Katahira (JK)
Ann Hajnosz (AH)

Roger Babcock (RB)
Ramzi Mansour (RM) *stand-in for Lori
Kahikina

Seema Chavan (SC)
Danielle Restelli (DR)
Joachim Schneider (JS)
Elizabeth Benyshek (EB)

Members Not Present:

David Smith (DS)
Kawika Winter (KW)
Eric Nakagawa (EN)
Lani Fernandez (LF)
Senator Kalani English (KE)
Bruce Anderson (BA)

Facilitation Support:

Christin Reynolds (CR)
Kayla Saunders (KS)

AGENDA

- A. Call to Order by TB at 9:04am
- B. Approval of June 19th meeting minutes
 - a. No comments from group or public for adjustments.
 - b. TB moves to approve meeting minutes as drafted
 - i. 2 abstains from vote
 - ii. 9 members say “aye”
 - iii. No oppositions

C. Review of Finance and Technology Research:

- a. Review of ongoing research items
- b. Overview of septic tank systems
- c. Overview of emerging/approved on-site treatment and disposal technologies
- d. Financial estimates of cesspool conversions and statewide affordability analysis (including funding assistance data and prioritization)
- e. Funding mechanisms of cesspool conversions
- f. Questions/Comments:
 - i. Question: Are there cheaper innovative technologies that were considered?
 1. Yes, these are included in the Technical Memo. There are some promising passive systems on the market today.
 - ii. Question: Does the Department of Health (DOH) have any sense of the proportion of cesspools where replacement would be constrained (i.e. require a higher treatment level)?
 1. They are currently working on the data and prioritization piece of this, which will provide this information. It was found that in Upcountry Maui, 40% of the sites are constrained due to lot size and slope.
 - iii. Question: Are the installation costs broken down by county/region? For example, Upcountry Maui versus North Shore Oahu.
 1. Yes. The costs are also broken down by legislative district.
 - iv. Comment: This could be a major economic impact to Hawaii county. We must consider the impacts to the local economy.
 - v. Question: Will this study categorize areas in order to concentrate on tackling issues regionally?
 1. Yes, the Data and Prioritization subgroup are looking at those priority areas and will address in most suitable way.
 - vi. Question: With communities adjacent or in very close proximity to the shore, perhaps the best mitigation plan would be to implement sewage treatment in those areas?
 1. The County sewer lines do not currently extend to several of those areas because they do not have a dense enough population.
 2. There are two options available:
 - a. Replace the cesspool with on-site treatment
 - b. Build a centralized treatment system for that area
 3. Graywater treatment options provided - currently in mid-research phase and recommendations will be provided later
 - vii. Question: Have the 50-foot setback and sea-level rise been considered?
 1. Depth-to-groundwater is key factor.
 2. They are currently looking at these factors in the Data and Prioritization subgroup.
 3. They can use GIS to consider other risk factors as well.

- viii. Question: Assuming that the DOH will not necessarily want to deal with homeowners directly, will the County administer this?
 - 1. Funding could be allocated to different agencies, institutions, counties, NGOs to manage the distribution of funds to individual homeowners.
- ix. Question: If you are selling your home, will this repayment loan be transferred to the next homeowner?
 - 1. That is for the State to consider, but it is a possibility.
- x. Comment: Subgroup meetings to be held in December 2020.
- xi. Comment: Ongoing review of comments and feedback for the homeowners' informational packet.
- xii. No public questions or comments.

D. Updates on complimentary initiatives:

- a. Outreach
- b. Work-4-Water
 - i. Overview of health impacts associated with wastewater
 - ii. Suggests increasing the rate of converting systems by 20% in order to meet the required replacement rate
 - iii. Project goals:
 - 1. Create resilient and educated workforce
 - 2. Evaluate new wastewater technology
 - 3. Improve water quality and ecosystem health
 - iv. Solution:
 - 1. Workforce development
 - 2. Infrastructure investment
 - 3. Cesspool replacement
 - 4. Water protection
 - v. One Water approach as a framework for the implementation and operation of projects
 - vi. Overview of the short-, mid-, and long-term beneficial outcomes
 - vii. Budget breakdown
 - viii. Questions and comments:
 - 1. Question: Would the homeowners be funding the 2,000 jobs created?
 - a. The 2,000 number is the estimated number of people needed to do all of the mentioned tasks.
 - 2. Question: Is funding secured for this initiative?
 - a. Currently awaiting decision on a Federal grant for the Training portion.
 - b. Applying for another federal grant by end of CY.
 - c. Ongoing research for other options.
 - d. Need letters of support for federal grants.
 - e. Need matching funds.
 - 3. Question: Is there a plan to make it easier for homeowners to contact an engineering firm?

- a. They are working with a few engineering firms and putting a list together of available firms with contact information for homeowners.
 - b. Installations will be conducted by smaller, contracted companies.
4. No public questions or comments.

E. Adjournment by TB at 11:07am