



American Samoa Ocean Planning Team

Teleconference Summary

May 23, 2017

Meeting Outcomes:

1. AS DOC and OSA are now engaged in ocean planning.
2. CONCUR completed the interviews; drafting report and will present to ASOPT and stakeholders tentatively the last week of June
3. Objectives survey to be developed and sent to stakeholders in the next week
4. Next ASOPT meeting: week of August 7
5. Next Listening sessions: a week in September
6. The Data Team needs volunteers from the local ASG agencies

Attendees: Miranda Foley, Scott McCreary, Sarah Pautzke, Keith Mattson, Nate Ilaoa, Chris King, Brian Peck, Joe Paulin, John Parks, Nicole Griffin

Update from PI RPB Representatives

In March 2016, the ASOPT strongly recommended that AS Department of Commerce (AS DOC) and Office of Samoan Affairs (OSA) be engaged and participating. The PI RPB representatives have coordinated with the Governor to ensure renewed participation from the AS DOC Coastal Management Program (AS DOC). We now have a full ASOPT that includes the OSA and DOC.

PI RPB meeting highlights

The PI RPB 2017 Goals relevant to the American Samoa ocean planning process:

1. Finalize draft American Samoa Ocean Plan by December 2017
2. Complete an American Samoa stakeholder assessment
3. Develop a mapping interface for the region that includes American Samoa knowledge and information
4. Identify data gaps for American Samoa and incorporate them into the ocean plan
5. Identify and increase general funding support for PI RPB capacity

PI RPB commitment to the ASOPT: Planning in another jurisdiction will not be at the detriment to planning in American Samoa. It will not happen if it slows, hinders, or stops planning in American Samoa.

PI RPB feedback to the ASOPT: The PI RPB provided feedback on the draft ocean plan goals and objectives that can be incorporated into our in-person discussions when the ASOPT

refines their work in the next meeting. The feedback discussion is better suited for an in-person meeting than relay as bullet points.

Stakeholder Assessment Reflections

CONCUR interviewed several people in early May and provided a briefing to the ASOPT in person on Friday, May 19. CONCUR was asked what went well and what could have gone better. AS DMWR Director Sesepasara's efforts as an advisor and liaison were extremely valuable and much appreciated. Teamwork with translators went very well before and during the meetings. The conversations with the *pulenu'u* were well received and created continuity between the March introductions and the May interviews. The effort was structured as a team so that more interviews could be conducted. Focusing on specific villages was a major part of the effort, and that went well. We were cautioned that travel to Manua can be problematic based on weather, so we must be flexible when traveling there. Additionally, instant communication is not necessarily feasible; some communication was via paper letter. Illness and off-island of interviewees also posed an obstacle.

Recommendations are not yet drafted, but are forthcoming by the end of June. They will include rationale and ideas for implementation. Some of the big take-home messages from the interviews:

- Only 1 of 34 interviewed had heard of the ASOPT; none of the village leaders had heard of the effort.
- Agencies that should be centrally involved include OSA and DMWR. Agencies mentioned secondarily include DOC and EPA.
- Using the OSA to engage the *pule nuu* is the appropriate mechanism for engaging villages

CONCUR will be returning to American Samoa at the end of June to present their findings to ASOPT members as well as others interviewed.

Updated timeline

The ASOPT reviewed the American Samoa process timeline. The actions slated for May 2017, which include adding the vision to the draft Ocean Plan, outlining the introduction section, and outlining the goals section has been completed. A survey about the Ocean Plan objectives was slated for May 2017; the ASOPT agreed this should still continue as planned in June 2017. Feedback from the survey will be used to refine the Ocean Plan's objectives during the next in-person meeting.

During the next in-person meeting, the ASOPT will confirm their goals, refine objectives, develop and refine actions, build on data mapping efforts, and structure the listening sessions.

Timing for the in-person meeting: so that the PI RPB representatives can be available, the ASOPT agreed tentatively to August 7, 2017 for the week of the next ASOPT meeting. For the listening sessions, the ASOPT is targeting the weeks of September 4, September 11, or September 25.

Data Support

The Data Team is ready to support the American Samoa Ocean Planning Team efforts. The Data Team needs volunteers from American Samoa to cross pollinate between the two teams. At this point, there has been no participation from American Samoa local agencies.

The Data Team is determining their next meeting.

Wrap Up

Travis Thomason is the new director for NRCS, and is planning a trip to American Samoa soon. The ASOPT members were encouraged to engage with him.

John Parks, Sarah Pautzke, and Miranda Foley will work on developing the objectives survey, which will have a structure similar to the goals survey.