

Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Sanctuary Advisory Council Minutes
Tuesday, January 13, 2009

Present: Dean Hudson, Gene Brighthouse, Lupe Tauanuu, Bert Fuiava, Emily Gaskin, Ephraim Temple, Netini Sene, Fatima Leau, Lucy Jacob, Veronika Mortenson, Kevin Grant (via phone), Charles Birkeland (via phone)

Welcome

Call to order: 1:40 PM

Dean welcomed everyone back. Introduction followed by the review of minutes from the last meeting held on August 20, 2008 – minutes accepted; motion to approve by Dean Hudson, seconded by Ephraim Temple.

Gene provided a brief explanation as to the purpose of the SAC meeting. She recommended that at every SAC meeting, an FBNMS team update could be implemented.

Sanctuary Team Updates:

Education/Outreach Profile: Veronika described the focus of FBNMS Education/Outreach Program. Some programs noted were Community Based, Student Ed., Fagatele Bay Experiences, Teacher Workshops, Student Internships, and Outreach Events. [refer to handout in packet].

Hyperbaric Treatment Project: Gene discussed current efforts to secure funds to install a Hyperbaric Chamber at the LBJ Medical Center. With the support of colleagues from Alpena Michigan, we are exploring different options and looking to various interest groups for support. In addition FBNMS is pioneering efforts to develop a territorial tourism program to provide additional leverage for the need for a hyperbaric chamber.

Special Projects: Emily discussed the completion of the Socioeconomic Study of Fagatele Bay and provided some of the results from her survey. In addition, she presented her next study on population and family planning in American Samoa. She also discussed the work that she is doing to promote a territorial tourism program.

Rose Atoll: Kevin announced the establishment of the Rose Atoll National Monument through Federal Proclamation. He provided information about the role of U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Fagatele Bay National Marines Sanctuaries, and the Territorial Government to govern and enforce conservation within the monument. He also discussed some of the rules and regulations governing the monument.

Management Review Plan Status

Gene provided an update on the Management Plan Review and provided an overview of the Scoping Meetings that will be held during the week of February 9, 2009. Veronika briefly described the 3 venues (???) and the reasons for selecting the sites. Members of the SAC were invited to facilitate the events given their availability. FBNMS also requested to volunteers from the SAC to join Veronika in media appearances (TBD). Gene reviewed the handouts provided to the SAC and asked the members to please review the materials (Fact Sheets, FAQ's, Register Notice, etc...) by the end of January. The documents will be made available for public viewing on the Fagatele Bay website. In addition, we will be posting advertisements in the local newspaper beginning immediately to notify people of the scoping meetings.

Action Items

The next meeting will be scheduled for February 9th, 2009 from 1-4pm. The meeting will be held with the Coral Reef Advisory Group.

Closing

Meeting adjournment at 2:45 PM.