

Meeting notes for the MTMAC Meeting on 03-05-24 8:30am ChST; 12-20-23 12:30pm HST

Attendees:

MTMAC Members – Richard Salas (CNMI), Floyd Masga (CNMI), Brian Mafucci (USCG), Mark Cruz (Navy), Frank Rabauliman (CNMI)

USFWS – Sean Macduff, Jihan Younis, Laura Beauregard

NMFS – Malia Chow, Kaipo Perez, Ann Barlow, Richard Hall

CNMI –Sylvan Igisomar

Meeting Notes:

Sean M. welcoming partners and MTMAC

New Introductions (Sean):

- Brian Mafucci- USCG alternate for Maile Norman
- Sylvan Igisomar- CNMI DLNR

Election of leadership positions (Sean/Floyd):

- The MTMAC decided to nominate and choose leadership positions in the main virtual meeting room (opting not to use a breakout room)
- After description of positions were presented, Frank suggested that Sean facilitate the election process pending the selection of a Chairperson
- Sean asked for nominations for Chairperson. Frank nominated Floyd. Rich seconded. All MTMAC voted in favor
- Floyd asked for nominations for vice-Chair. Frank nominated Rich seconded. All MTMAC members voted in favor
- Floyd asked for nominations for Secretary. Frank nominated Mark seconded. All MTMAC members voted in favor
- All selected members accepted their new positions and responsibilities

Review of Roles and Responsibilities (Sean/Floyd):

- Discussions on the legal aspect of the proclamation, transparency, and public participation took place.
- The need for clear roles within MTMAC, distinct from other science communities, was emphasized by Frank Rabauliman.

- Legal advice was recommended by Floyd Masga to address the matter of clear roles, bylaws, and the sufficiency of the MMP (Monument Management Plan).
- The authority and roles of MTMAC members under the proclamation, including exemptions granted to DoD, were discussed for clarity.
- Updates on Bylaws, scheduling the next meeting, and the public component, including public comments and engagement, were shared.
- Malia made a request, and Floyd recommended the group take a vote to get scientific review done due to concerns about the understanding of scientific information.
- Sean expressed his availability to discuss the MMP, public-facing issues, and the science process for questions, emphasizing the importance of scientific information.
- A motion was made and approved for Sean and Malia to provide scientific information on areas impacting the role and permitting – what is allowed and what is not.

Management and Agency Updates (All):

- Sean
 - The public website was updated to show new MTMAC members and completed meeting notes.
 - Sean to share teams site to serve as repository for MTMAC information for MTMAC members and MMCT members.
 - Sean shared that USFWS teams site has some difficulty sharing with military partners. Needs to be fixed.
 - Members were asked for their photo and bio for NOAA website.

Action Items and Timing for In-person Meeting (Sean):

- The scheduling of the next meeting for the week of May 6 was proposed, with clarification on meeting frequency and regular or special meetings. Sean to send out doodle poll.
- Proposed in-person meetings on May 7 and May 8 to review the agenda and discussion of regular meetings following the in-person meeting.
- The need for a rehearsal to go over the agenda before meetings was highlighted by Floyd.
- Frank requested information on science-based permits in the MMP and urged for urgency in reviewing the provisions within the MMP.
- The possibility of quarterly or monthly meetings and the formation of a subcommittee to sanction decisions were proposed, with the Chairman and Sean to discuss further.