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LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO • GOVERNOR OF GUAM | JOSHUA F. TENORIO • LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF GUAM
WALTER S. LEON GUERRERO • ADMINISTRATOR | MICHELLE C. R. LASTIMOZA • DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

APR 06 2021

TO: Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maha' hâga Guâhan

FROM: Administrator

SUBJECT: Guam Abandoned Derelict Vessel Removal Group 1st Meeting Minutes

Jessica Cruz
RCVD AT CENTRAL FILE
APR 7 '21 PM 2:30

Hafa Adai Maha'hâga!

As the lead member of the Guam Abandoned Derelict Vessel Removal Group, established by Executive Order (EO) 2020-42, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA) is submitting for your review and approval the required meeting minutes and outcomes from the first group meeting. The meeting was held virtually on Tuesday, March 9th, 2021, at 3:30 PM. In attendance were the following members:

- Walter Leon Guerrero, Administrator, Guam EPA
- Rory Respicio, General Manager, Port Authority of Guam
- Chelsa Muna-Brecht, Director, Guam Department of Agriculture
- Edwin Reyes, Administrator, Guam Coastal Management Program, Bureau of Statistics and Plans
- Sylvia Ipanag, Planning & Regulatory Manager, Guam Power Authority

Also in attendance were

- Jay Gutierrez, Acting Chief, Division of Aquatics and Wildlife, Guam Department of Agriculture
- Jesse Cruz, Environmental Monitoring and Analytical Services Division Administrator, Guam EPA

The meeting followed the attached agenda and the main discussion and outcomes are presented below.

The first discussion centered on the necessity of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Federal partners listed in the EO. The initial thoughts during the drafting of this EO was that a MOU was needed and would be the most expedited means for the federal partners to officially

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participate and assist in the removal project. But it turned out the MOU is not needed due to the following information.

- USEPA Region 9 – Provided a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) determination letter that the removal project falls under their jurisdiction. They also indicated that they would be the lead federal agency and committed up to \$696,000 to the project.
- DoD (CTF73) – The Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program application is complete and will be submitted the first week of April, after the public review period is complete. Once approved, the IRT will authorize the CTF73 salvage team to conduct the removal work on Guam.
- ACOE – A response letter was received stating the removal project does not require an ACOE permit and that they would provide technical assistance as needed for the project.
- USCG – In direct communications with USEPA R9, USCG Sector Guam have agreed to be the Federal On Scene Coordinator and in water Response team.
- NOAA – Submitted the required Endangered Species Act (ESA)/Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) biological evaluation for the removal project and should be receiving approval within the next several weeks.

Based on the status and information presented, the Group indicated that a MOU with the federal partners was no longer needed. As such the group was in compliance with the EO.

The next discussion centered on the availability of the CTF73 salvage team. LCDR Strother, commanding officer of the salvage team, provided an email update that he and his team would be available for three (3) weeks in the month of May, 2021, and then again in July, 2021. The group agreed to have all items in place to meet their start date.

This turned the discussion to the topic of additional funding. The Guam EPA Administrator reminded all partners that during the initial meetings that both the PAG and the GPA verbally committed to providing supplemental funding help with the disposal costs of the ADVs not covered by the USEPA funds. He also stated that the preferred mechanism was for each member retain their own funding and procure the required services and supplies directly, versus transferring the funding to Guam EPA. As this would speed up the procurement process. The identified disposal option would be to place all non-hazardous waste in a locally approved waste facility. Guam EPA would re-initiate communications with local facilities for pricing and restrictions.

The last item discussed was to convene a separate meeting to plan a public information campaign to document the removal process and highlight the interagency cooperation. The next meeting is tentatively schedule for the second week of April, 2021.

No other discussions occurred and the meeting was adjourned.

An audio recording of the meeting was done and can be provide upon request. Once we receive your approval, copies of the meeting minutes, all attachments and the audio recording will be posted to the Guam EPA website, as required by the EO.

Thank you for your favorable consideration to this request. Should you have any concerns regarding this matter, please free to contact me at walter.leonguerrero@epa.guam.gov or at (671) 300-4751/52,

Dangkolu na si Yu'us ma'ase'.



WALTER S. LEON GUERRERO
Administrator

Attachments

