

Notes from Fifth Dolphin-Human Interaction Meeting held on April 14, 2017 at the New Thought Center of Hawaii

Summary

This fifth meeting focused on the first draft of the reports from each of the three sub-groups in preparation for the initial draft of the ‘Irresistible Agreement’. Excellent work was presented with useful feedback being attained. It was also evident that the objective of creating a respectful and listening environment had been successful.

The meeting also resolved that two additional groups would be formed moving forward: (1) a Steering Committee of six members, and (2) focused Citizen’s Science group of three members.

The meeting also brain-stormed possible names for this initiative.

As always, all the information gathered at the meetings is made publically available. Please follow the following link to gain access to all the documents and recordings.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/766tsj8s8cc0ua2/AADuFG7VtQoc1NuubijwyAnUa?dl=0>

Stakeholders Identified and those Present in the Meeting

Stakeholder	Present at Oct 15, 2016	Present at Nov 30, 2016	Present at Jan 2, 2017	Present at Mar 10, 2017	Present at Apr 14, 2017
Total Present	52	37	38	17	27
NOAA	0	0	0	0	0
DLNR	0	0	0	0	0
“Dolphinville”	33	30	29 (+1 by proxy)	12	16
Boat/Commercial Operators	5	1	2 (+ 1 by proxy)	0	2
Those effected financially by the proposals	23	7?	6 (+1 by proxy)	5	8
Local Hawaiians	0 (represented by 1 proxy)	0 (represented by 3 proxy)	1 (+1 by proxy)	0 (+2 by proxy)	0
Chamber of Commerce	1	1	1	0	1
Captive Dolphin Group	0	0	0	0	0
Independent Scientists	2	4	4	0	4
Dolphins under care	1	1	1	0	1
Other	?	7	10	5	10

Re-engaging the Elders

Heather Reynolds and her mother provided a magnificent pre-meeting pupus spread and then opened the meeting with a beautiful centering meditation.

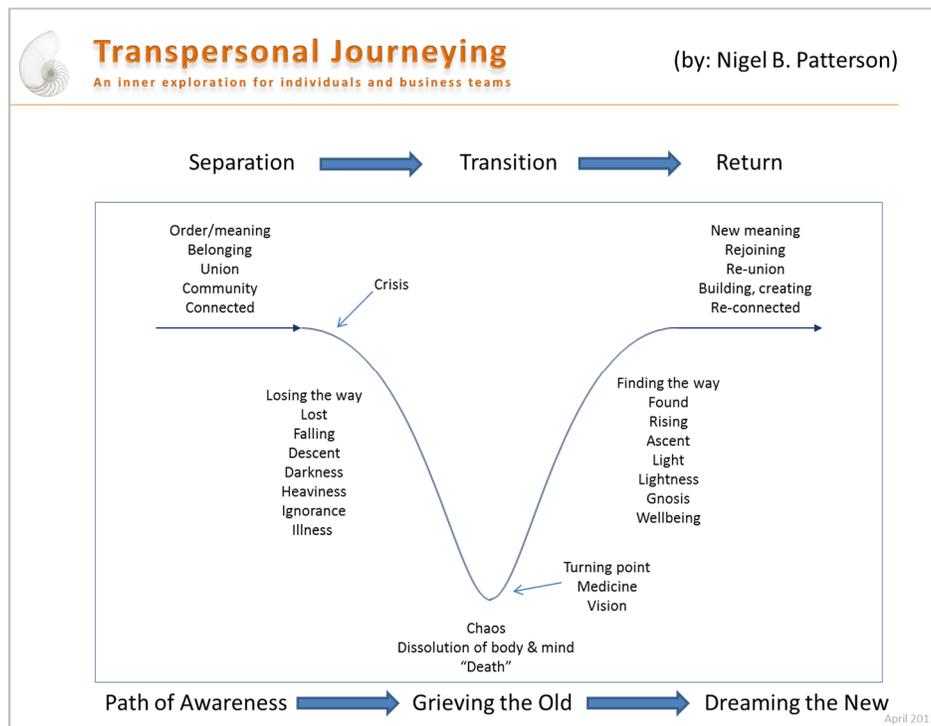
It was decided that as we now moved into a more action-orientated stage of the process it would be useful for the Elders to be once again engaged, mainly to hold the space of respect, love and energy. Dianna Tangen was asked to head a small focused group of Elders. Dianna unfortunately could not make the meeting and instead nominated Gonnie Heggen to be her proxy. The other Elders in the focused group included Kathy Carr, Doug Hackett and Trish Regan. In addition, the Elders from the original Elders group also were invited to support the energy.



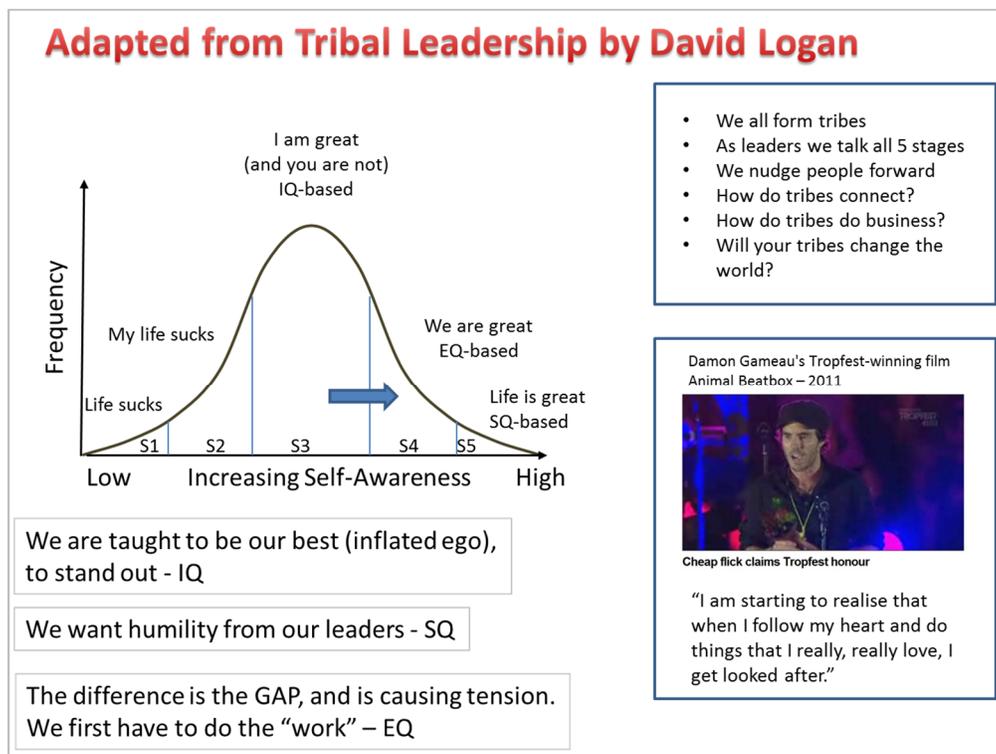
“Are we there yet?”

Nigel Patterson shared with the group where we are on our “journey” of bringing the community together so we may respond with one single and aligned voice to NOAA’s proposals. He used the concept behind Joseph Campbell’s “Hero’s Journey” to explain we are well on our way to the “Return” as per the diagram below (The “crisis” was precipitated by NOAA’s presentations of their proposal to the community in October 2016). This means we have made significant progress as a group in finding new meaning and becoming connected with one voice.

It still remains to engage the other stakeholders as identified in the table above so they too feel included.



In addition, Nigel also used David Logan’s Tribal Leadership model to explain that as a group we had moved from a place of feeling threatened and angry by NOAA’s proposals (“My life sucks!”) to one where the group is now operating from the space of “We are great!” This too needs to be further expanded to embrace other stakeholders who have not been a part of this process to date. They need to be invited to share in the collective agreement which is evolving.



The above two models clearly demonstrate the progress the group has made since October last year. It is gratifying to observe a fractious and at times angry group of people come together for the greater good of the group in the spirit of respect knowing that peace, and hence strength, will only be possible in an environment of compromise.

Sub-Group Reports



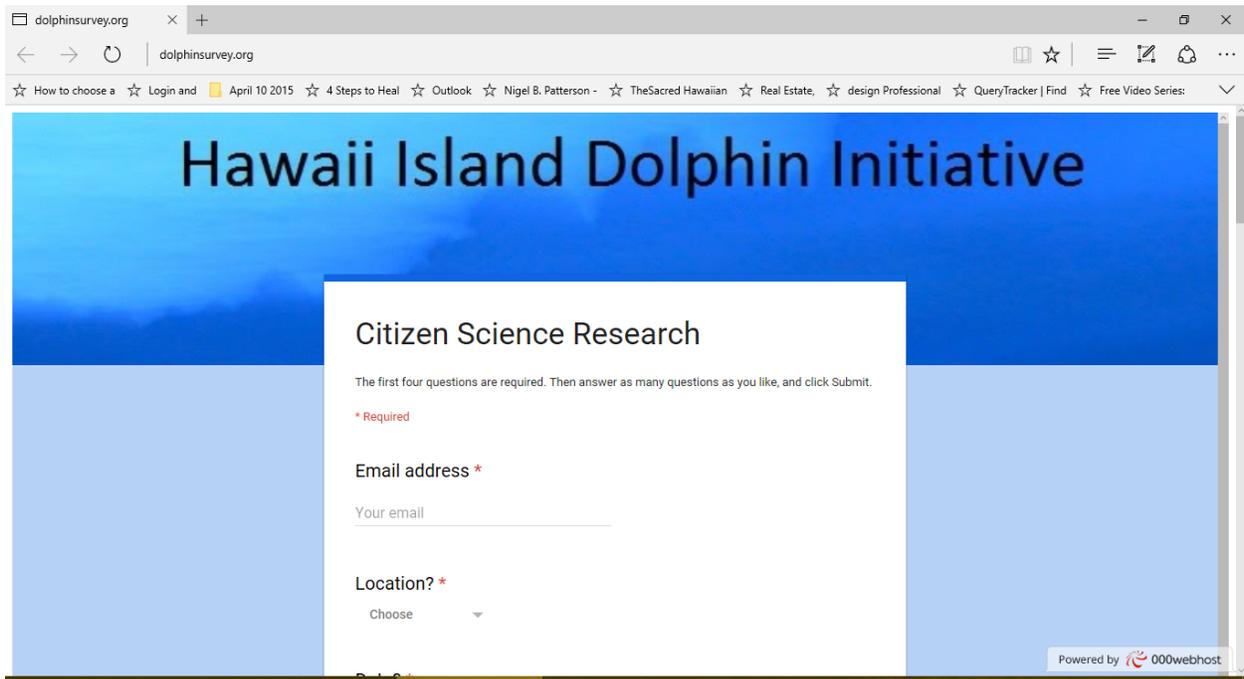
Each of the three sub-groups presented their latest reports. As anticipated, significant overlap between the groups’ efforts was starting to emerge as we steadily moved towards a single Irresistible Agreement.

The contents of the sub-groups’ reports is not included here as they are still in their final editing and review stages.

In addition, Michael Bailey of <http://planetviews.com/> provided feedback on progress on similar initiatives on the other Hawaiian Islands. The intention is to coalesce all input into one final Agreement.

Dr. Laura Moira also presented additional avenues which may be explored for engaging other stakeholders. These will be investigated further.

Take the Survey



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL dolphinsurvey.org. The page title is "Hawaii Island Dolphin Initiative". The main heading is "Citizen Science Research". Below the heading, there is a note: "The first four questions are required. Then answer as many questions as you like, and click Submit." There are two required fields: "Email address *" with a text input field labeled "Your email", and "Location? *" with a dropdown menu labeled "Choose". The page is powered by 000webhost.

A specific appeal was made by the Science Sub-Group that everyone spread the word about the online survey. It has been generally agreed that NOAA's above-the-water research is inadequate for the purposes of dolphin behavior decision-making. The purpose of our own survey was to provide meaningful and complete data so meaningful decisions may be made in the future. However, it absolutely relies on as many people as possible completing the survey.

The survey may be accessed here - <http://dolphinsurvey.org/>

A Name

As this initiative evolves further and becomes more professional with a broader reach and appeal, it was agreed we need to find a name which reflects the mission, vision and objectives of the initiative. The name needed to be meaningful to all stakeholders and not be limited to something which may resonate only with a single stakeholder group. Ideas included:

1. Hawaiian Dolphin Community Initiative
2. Hawaiian Dolphin Protection Initiative
3. Protect Our Dolphin Connection (PODC)
4. Hale Nai'a
5. Hawaiian Interspecies Communications Project (HICP)
6. International Dolphin Enrichment Association (IDEA)
7. Hawaiian Islands Dolphin Initiative (HIDI)
8. Human-Dolphin Collaborative Initiative
9. Hawaiian Podners

10. Hawaiian Dolphin Stewardship Program
11. In POD We Trust

No decision was made and group members are encouraged to explore the above list further. Please email any additional suggestions or comments to Nigel@NigelBPatterson.com

What Next?

Steering Committee

The group agreed we had reached a sufficient level of group-maturity that we were now ready to move into a more professional and sustainable way of addressing this issue.

A Steering Committee was proposed and agreed to, comprising:

- Nigel Patterson
- Heather Reynolds
- Lanny Sinkin
- Geneviève
- Harlan Miyoshi
- Hitomi

The Steering Committee will consider, but not be limited to:

- Vision
- Mission
- Purpose
- Strategy
 - Group Name
 - Funding needs and sources
 - Outreach
 - Website
 - Mail system (Mailchimp?)
 - Irresistible Agreement
 - Priorities

Nigel will reach out to the Steering Committee members to schedule a meeting within two weeks.

Citizen Science Focus

Dr. Laura Moira will convene a focused group to explore additional avenues for research. The Citizen Science mini-group will include:

- Dr. Laura Moira
- Michel Hyson
- David Jensen

Next Meeting Date

This will be set and announced once the two focused groups have met.