

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI

REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

The regular meeting of the Maui County Board of Water Supply was held at the Department of Planning Conference Room, 250 South High Street, Wailuku, Maui, on Thursday, September 18, 2014.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Joslin at 9:04 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members present: Robert Joslin
R. Raymond Cabebe
Sylvia Ho
Cyrus Kodani
Anders Lyons
Michael Suzuki
Thomas Watanabe

Excused: William Kamai
James Rust

Staff present: Paul J. Meyer, Deputy Director
Michael Hopper, Deputy Corporation Counsel
Gaye Hayashida, Commission Support Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of August 21, 2014

Chair Joslin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 21, 2014 as submitted.

Motion: Member Lyons moved to accept the minutes of August 21, 2014 as submitted.

Second: Member Kodani

Discussion: None.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried. The minutes of August 21, 2014 were approved as submitted.

TESTIMONY FROM THE PUBLIC

There was no public testimony.

OTHER BUSINESS

Permitted Interactive Group Committee Report on the Department's Long Term Management and Fiscal Plans

Member Cabebe reported that they met with Director Taylor 2 days ago to talk about how the director came up with the rate and fee schedule for the budget, how it was structured, and the disparity of the ag water rate to the actual cost of the water. A future bill coming up deals with different levels of ag water rates. The director wants to increase the meters by \$2,000 every year in non-election years until the 5/8th inch meter costs about \$18,000.

Member Watanabe said that he feels asking for increases should all wait until the elections are over.

Chair Joslin added that the committee and the director discussed the possibility of staggering the ag water rates to better reflect the types of users such as large, middle and borderline ag users. They also looked at requiring \$1,000 of annual sales. And they discussed staggering the meter fees. He explained that there are approximately 1,100 ag meters of different sizes but yet there is only one ag water rate. Another subject they looked at was possibly a sliding scale for meters that better reflects the costs the department has to deal with.

Receipt of Board Member request for agenda items to be placed on future agendas

1. Review and discussion on the committee's points with the future rates and fees. Vice Chair Joslin will draft the points of discussion for the board to review.

DIVISION REPORTS

Operational Division Reports

Deputy Director Meyer reported that:

1. A number of issues are before the County Council and foremost among them is the meter fee. The department would like to see an increase in order to fund capital projects and to repay debt related to capital projects.
2. The department renovated the Hamakuapoko Wells, put in a pre-treatment process at Piiholo, continuing with the Waikamoi Flume project, installed new high-lift pumps at the Kamole Treatment Plant.

3. The council reduced the ag rate from \$1.15 to \$1.00 per thousand gallons and they also are looking at exemptions to the income requirement for as long as 9 years. This is a concern to the department because it could potentially open up substantial additional water usage.
4. The department has proposed modifications to the drought controls so that they can ramp up additional costs to encourage conservation for people who don't conserve during drought conditions though this is still an open issue with the Council's Water Resources Committee.
5. The county council took \$12.6 million out of the general fund and gave it to the Water Department for the purpose of mainline improvements but did not specify where those funds should be spent.
6. Due to the low water levels at the Upcountry raw water storage and at the Wailoa Ditch the department is preparing a request for a voluntary 10% cutback for Upcountry users. Olinda Treatment Plant will probably be closed due to low water levels at the Waikamoi reservoirs. Water will be pumped up from the Kamole Treatment Plant and therefore the disinfection will change from chloramines to chlorine.
7. Pookela Well is online and is running fine. The 2 Hamakuapoko wells are ready to go.
8. The Wailuku 1 Well is just about finished and the department is trying to conclude a well development agreement with the developer for Wailuku 2 Well.
9. Currently the department is in negotiations with the Honolulu Board of Water Supply on a new billing contract which extends the existing contract for another 10 years, though they are also looking at alternative billing systems with the help of the County's MIS Division and Gartner, Inc.
10. The department is finalizing the terms of a new 2 million gallon tank with Maui Lani. This will be a new concrete tank right next to the existing Kahului tank at the top of Sandhill. They are also evaluating the possibility of 2 new wells on the Westside and 3 or 4 new wells in the Waikapu area.
11. There are a number of smaller projects they are doing such as evaluating the liners and liner covers at the Mahinahina Treatment Plant.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the regular meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Prepared by:

Gaye Hayashida
Commission Support Clerk

Approved for distribution:

Paul J. Meyer
Deputy Director