

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI

REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2015

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 Wednesday, November 19, 2015.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE

Members present: William Kamai, Chair
R. Raymond Cabebe
Cyrus Kodani
Anders Lyons
Michael Suzuki
Loren Tilley
Thomas Watanabe

Staff present: Paul Meyer, Deputy Director
Edward S. Kushi, Jr., First Deputy Corporation Counsel
Gaye Hayashida, Commission Support Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of October 21, 2015

Chair Kamai asked for a motion to approve the minutes of October 21, 2015 as submitted.

Motion: Member Cabebe moved to approve the minutes of October 21, 2015 as submitted.

Second: Member Kodani

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried. The minutes of October 21, 2015 were approved as submitted.

TESTIMONY FROM THE PUBLIC

There was no public testimony.

OTHER BUSINESS

Permitted Interactive Group Committee's Report and Update on the Council's Water Resources Committee Meetings

Although not part of the Board's permitted interactive group, Deputy Director Paul Meyer talked about the Council's Water Resources Committee meeting of November 18, 2015. At this meeting, the council members were given a presentation by the various heads of the watershed partnership groups on Maui.

Later in the meeting he offered to get a dvd of this presentation and give copies to the board members so they may view it at their leisure.

Member Lyons updated the board members on the Water Resources Committee meetings he attended. At one of the meetings the department staff gave a presentation on increasing water capacity by reducing usage through grey water legislations.

There was an updated presentation by department staff on wellhead protection. He thought that they had refined their presentation a fair amount since the board last saw it. It seemed like a well put together presentation.

There was a representative from the Honolulu Board of Water Supply doing a presentation on their rate structure, their distribution infrastructure, and their philosophy on how they move water around the island. The point that he took home was that Maui has comparatively low rates compared to the other islands.

Member Lyons noted that though he did not attend the last Water Resources meeting, 3 conservation agencies gave a presentation on watershed and invasive species conservation efforts for Maui County. He encouraged this board to request for a similar presentation from those agencies.

He said he wasn't sure where the legislation for the waiver of fire protection on Upcountry small lots is.

Deputy Director Meyer explained that the legislation in connection with the waiver of fire protection and road widening improvements for Upcountry's 2-lot subdivisions for those people whose numbers came up on the Upcountry meter waiting list after December 2013 has passed and is law.

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

1. Member Suzuki asked for a discussion regarding unaccounted water.

At this time, Deputy Director Meyer said that there is a fair amount of water that's unaccounted for and it's difficult to say exactly the proportions involved. There are a lot of old pipes, particularly in Wailuku and Kahului area in very sandy soil so pipes are leaking and they are very difficult to detect. Honolulu Board of Water Supply

acquired new technology and it is working out well for them. This department also has that system in place and staff is just about finished training on that.

Deputy Director Meyer doesn't think there is a serious water theft problem. It is mostly a leak problem and the department has a new crew and a new technology that allows the department to really look at those things and maybe narrow that gap of unaccounted for water.

When asked if a magnet could stop a meter from registering, the deputy director replied it is possible. But the customer service staff would call the customer if something looks suspicious because they have the ability to profile a meter.

Member Suzuki said there was no need to place this matter on a future agenda as the deputy director has sufficiently addressed the issue.

Deputy Director Meyer announced that they will "re-fleet" within the next 3 or 4 years most of the water meters as they are around 16 years old. The department is looking at 2 vendors who have the 3rd generation type meters. The meter sends a daily text message with consumption data to the department's computer system. This avoids manual and drive-by meter reading, which is the current practice. The new meters have a 20-year plus battery life and have low consumption of power.

Chair Kamai asked if legislation on grey water usage for irrigation at the state level has passed.

Member Suzuki stated that the grey water legislation is in the code books now, however it depends on the county and each county has their own amendments. He explained that reclaimed water is water from flushing toilets and grey water is water from showers and washing machines.

2. Member Lyons proposed for a future agenda, a presentation on the watershed protection efforts and the invasive species conservation efforts.

Deputy Director Meyer volunteered to get copies of the watershed partnerships' power point presentation at the Council's Water Resources Committee meeting for the board members to view at their leisure.

3. Member Suzuki will look into getting the power point on grey water for next year's agenda.
4. Draft letter supporting the agriculture water rates with a copy of the modified draft ordinance.

DIVISION REPORTS

Update on the Upcountry Meter List

Thirty-five letters have been sent out but the department staff must go back to review the “second chance” applicants so this may slow down the progress of the Upcountry Meter List for a few months

October Division Operational Reports

1. The department is moving forward with Wailuku 1 and 2 wells and is working to get them online.
2. The county council has passed on second reading the acquisition of land for the 'Iao Water Treatment Plant's expansion project. This will increase the available water by about 1.7 million gallons per day.
3. The department is looking at the possibility of new wells in the Waikapu area.
4. The staff at the Olinda treatment plant has finally resolved the noise coming from the tank that has been bothering the neighbors. The wrong size bolts were used and the result was oscillation and a wearing on the bearing which created the noise.
5. Staff is working hard on the next budget and the department is hopeful that they will be able to get some relief in terms of the meter fees and water rates.
6. The department is working on “hardening” the lines at the Piiholo Water Treatment Plant. Fallen trees surrounding the lines have caused breaks in the lines. The department wants to do some backwoods maintenance and get those threatening trees removed. They are also looking at the possibility of “hardening” the water intakes and water supply system at the Mahinahina Water Treatment Plant.

Member Lyons asked what is the status of the draft ordinance regarding agriculture water rates.

Deputy Director Meyer stated that the board's recommendation on the ag water rates was sent to the Council's Budget and Finance Committee but was it sent back to the department and ultimately to Corporation Counsel for some modifications to take into account the County Charter. The draft ordinance was sent back to the council with the modifications. The modifications didn't change the rates or how they go into effect or who they apply to. It was just wording it so that it would be legally correct and enforceable.

The deputy director said it would be great if the board could send a letter supporting that draft ordinance.

Motion: Member Lyons moved that the Board write a letter in support of the draft ordinance regarding agriculture rate qualifications..

Second: Member Suzuki

Discussion: Member Tilley stated that before he votes on this motion he wants to see the actual revision and wants this placed on the next agenda

At this time Member Lyons modified his motion.

Motion: Member Lyons moved that the board review the draft letter of support at the next meeting along with the revised draft ordinance

Second: Member Suzuki

Discussion: None.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried. A draft letter of support will be presented at the next meeting along with the revised draft ordinance.

Member Lyons retracted his original motion.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Prepared by:

Gaye Hayashida
Commission Support Clerk

Approved for distribution:

Paul Meyer
Deputy Director