

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI

REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2016

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, January 21, 2016.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Joslin at 9:08 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members present: Robert Joslin, Vice Chair
R. Raymond Cabebe
Anders Lyons
Michael Suzuki
Loren Tilley
Thomas Watanabe

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of December 17, 2015

Vice Chair Joslin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of December 17, 2015 as submitted.

Motion: Member Tilley moved to approve the minutes of December 17, 2015 as submitted.

Second: Member Lyons

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried. The minutes of December 17, 2015 were approved as submitted.

TESTIMONY FROM THE PUBLIC

There was no public testimony.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action regarding the Board's draft letter supporting the proposed agriculture water rates ordinance

Three versions of the draft letter were submitted by Vice Chair Joslin, Member Cabebe and Member Lyons. Vice Chair Joslin and Member Lyons retracted their proposed drafts.

Motion: Member Suzuki moved to accept the letter as drafted by Member Cabebe

Second: Member Lyons

Discussion: None.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried. Member Cabebe's draft letter will be finalized, signed by Chair Kamai and sent to the Budget and Finance Committee via Mayor Arakawa.

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

None at this time.

DIVISION REPORTS

The department is doing standard maintenance and the reservoirs are mostly full. They are using this time to catch up on maintenance and operational projects so they will be ready if a drought occurs.

Upcountry's water comes from the EMI ditch that runs from Hana to the central isthmus and the Kamole Treatment Plant takes about 6 million gallons a day from it. At present, the department is not expecting any disruptions in the water supply as EMI has informed them that they do not intend to stop the operations of the ditch or the supply of water.

The County was in the middle of a contested case hearing with a number of other parties regarding the East Maui in-stream flows. Unfortunately, the hearing officer's recommendations happened around the same time as HC&S announced the closure of sugar operations. Because the hearing was based on sugar, now there are questions about the contested case itself. Should they rule on it as if HC&S's announcement never happened? Are they going to go back and re-open testimony because things have changed? There was also another court case regarding using water running through state lands that go into the ditch system and the County has been a party to this. Exactly what is going to happen, they don't know. There are just a lot of uncertainties.

At the next Council Water Resources Committee meeting, the department will present an update on the Water Use and Development Plan.

The department has a contract with EMI to do maintenance at some of the department's facilities and also for the delivery of water to some of the plants. The average production ability of the plant is 6 million gallons a day, though they could ramp it up for short periods of time.

We are pumping about 10 million gallons a day out of the Kahului aquifer. What's going to happen when this water that is coming from East Maui, moving around to HC&S's fields and filtered down into the ground is stopped? How will it affect the groundwater hydrology in Central Maui? No one knows.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Prepared by:

Gaye Hayashida
Commission Support Clerk

Approved for distribution:

Dave Taylor
Director