

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI

REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF APRIL 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 Thursday, April 21, 2016.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Joslin at 9:03 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members present: Robert Joslin, Vice Chair
R. Raymond Cabebe
Shay Chan Hodges
Sylvia Ho
Cyrus Kodani
Anders Lyons
Michael Suzuki

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

Welcome New Board Members, Shay Chan Hodges and Antoinette Lucienne de Naie

Vice Chair Joslin introduced Ms. Chan Hodges as the newest member to the Board of Water Supply. Member Chan Hodges stated that she has lived on Maui since 1992 and is a grant writer for organizations such as Akaku, Maui Youth and Family Services, Malama Family Recovery, and Aloha House. She is the author of "Lean On And Lead, Mothering And Work in the 21st Century Economy". Member Chan Hodges previously served on the Commission on the Status of Women

(Note: Antoinette Lucienne de Naie resigned from her appointment to the Board of Water Supply.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of March 17, 2016

Vice Chair Joslin asked for a motion to approve the minutes of March 17, 2016 as submitted.

Motion: Member Lyons moved to approve the minutes of March 17, 2016 as submitted.

Second: Member Suzuki

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried. The minutes of March 17, 2016 were approved as submitted.

At this time Vice Chair Joslin asked that the agenda items be addressed out of order and that the Board now take up Division Reports while they wait for some technical issues to be resolved on the upcoming power point presentations.

DIVISION REPORTS

Monthly Update on the Upcountry Meter List

Director Taylor stated that the council passed a modification bill that gives a second chance to people who originally turned down offers for Upcountry meters. There are just under 50 of them and half of those, around 20, have been sent letters. These people have 60 days to respond to the department. Once those are processed then the department will do the next half and process those and then finally get back to going through the Upcountry List. Unfortunately, the department is very short on engineers. There is only one engineer handling all of West Maui, Upcountry and Molokai and they have 5 vacant engineering positions.

March Division Operational Reports

As for Division Reports, it is business as usual and the Upcountry reservoirs are uncharacteristically full due to a rainy spring. They are not usually full at this time of the year and we may be looking towards a summer drought.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Nominations and Election for Board of Water Supply Chair

Motion: Member Suzuki moved to nominate Anders Lyons for the position of Board of Water Supply Chair.

Second: Member Kodani

Discussion: There being no further nominations, Vice Chair Joslin closed the nominations for board chair.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried. Anders Lyons is the board chair.

Nominations and Election for Board of Water Supply Vice Chair

Motion: Members Lyons moved to nominate Member Joslin for the position of Board of Water Supply Vice Chair.

Second: Member Cabebe

Discussion: There being no further nominations, the nominations for vice chair was closed.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried. Robert Joslin is the vice chair.

(At this time Chair Lyons conducted the rest of the meeting.)

TESTIMONY FROM THE PUBLIC

There was no public testimony.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action regarding committee assignment to the Water Use and Development Plan

Director Taylor gave a brief overview of the County of Maui's Water Use and Development Plan.

The Water Use and Development Plan (WUDP) is part of the state-wide water plan and each county is required by state law to develop one. All the available water is in aquifers or in streams and about half of that is used by human beings and most of that is for agriculture. The department uses 30 to 35 million gallons a day which is a small part of the overall water usage.

The plan looks at the whole island: where the water is, who wants it, and for what purpose. It matches water availability to water demands from the county general plan. The plan, right now, is in the public comment phase.

Vice Chair Joslin stated that he is not opposed to forming a PIG (aka TIG) to keep the board abreast of the WUDP. Member Chan Hodges added that she was planning to attend this Saturday's Upcountry WUDP public meeting anyway.

Mr. Kushi explained that right now the department is getting public input and eventually their findings will be brought to this board and then to the council so he's not sure the need for this board to attend these meetings though the members could go as individuals. He reminded the board that the Sunshine Law comes into play when 2 or more members attend a meeting about board business and the WUDP is definitely board business.

Motion: Vice Chair Joslin moved to have the Board form a Permitted Interactive Group of no more than 3 board members to attend the Water Use and Develop Plan public meetings.

Second: None. Motion dies.

Chair Lyons told Member Chan Hodges that she is welcome to attend these meetings on her own if she so chooses.

Presentation by Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve

Pomaika'i Kaniau-Crozier, Preserve Manager for Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve, gave a power point presentation on his organization and what they have been doing.

At the summit of Hale Kahalewai, aka the West Maui Mountains, is Pu'u Kukui, the hill of enlightenment. It encompasses 8,600 acres and is one the most pristine habitat in the state and in the world. It is the second wettest spot in the world, averaging 400 inches of rain a year.

Their mission is to protect the fragile native biodiversity and water resources at Pu'u Kukui so that the community receives good potable water through the department's treatment plants. There are serious threats which are out of their control like climate change bringing less rainfall. All the forecasts point to 50% less rain and from January to today they received under 40 inches of rain. Before we can divvy up the water it has to be captured first and their job is to capture the water from the rain and the fog drip. They use the ahapua'a style of land management, from the mountain to the sea,

Presentation by Maui Invasive Species Committee

(At this time the smart board was not able to come back on so Ms. Penniman was able to give only an oral presentation.

Teya Penniman, Manager of the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) spoke about the committee's goals and objective.

MISC works on a host of invasive species but their focus for the Department of Water Supply is on invasive plants. The department has been pushing MISC to demonstrate more clearly the nexus between hydrological integrity and the work that they do with invasive plants and animals. For example, when miconia invaded the forests of Tahiti it became such a dominant mono-cultural crop which then overtook two-thirds of the native watershed.. Whereas a lush understory of moss and ferns will trap the water which then filters into the aquifers. With a miconia dominated forest you don't have that. Studies have shown that in the case of strawberry guava 25 to 50% more water goes off into the atmosphere but native plants capture the water and send it into the aquifer.

MISC's strategy for invasive plants is both ground and air based. Ground crews go in to areas that are relatively easy to get to and then they also rely on helicopters for some of those inaccessible areas.

The difference between the watershed partnerships and MISC is that the watershed partnerships are place based or site based and have defined boundaries that they work in. MISC is site based also but their site is the whole island and more species based. They focus in on which ones are the worst species that can be more successfully controlled by available techniques and resources wherever they are..

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

1. Report on the status of the FY2017 budget
2. Review of the department's ordinances
3. Discussion regarding how the department's renewable energy policy stacks up against the state's 2020 goal of renewable energy usage.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Prepared by:

Gaye Hayashida
Commission Support Clerk

Approved for distribution:

Dave Taylor
Director