

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI

REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

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 20, 2018.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lyons at 1:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members present: Anders Lyons, Chair
Shay Chan Hodges, Vice Chair
R. Raymond Cabebe
Dean Frampton
Norman Franco
Sylvia Ho
Zoltan Milaskey
Michael Nakashima

Members excused: Joseph Aquino

Staff present: Gladys Baisa, Acting Director
Shayne Agawa, P.E., Deputy Director
Wendy Taomoto, P.E., Engineering Program Manager
Jase Miyabuchi, P.E., CE VI
Eva Blumenstein, Water Resources & Planning Program
Manager
Alex DeRoode, Planner VI
Edward S. Kushi, Jr., First Deputy Corporation Counsel
Gaye Hayashida, Commission Support Clerk

Chair Lyons changed the order of the agenda items and requested staff to talk about issuing temporary water meters. At this time Mr. Miyabuchi came forward to speak to the board about this matter.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion regarding Issuing Temporary Meters from Fire Hydrants

Chair Lyons asked staff to explain the department's policy on issuing temporary (construction) meters.

Mr. Miyabuchi explained that these temporary meters are connected to fire hydrants because the contractor needs potable water to test new pipelines for various projects. On rare occasions, if a private well goes down the owner would request help. Then the department would determine what our system looks like or what the projections are for reliability of our system.

When a subdivision is being developed and constructed, the new pipeline that's being put into the ground needs to be tested. It needs to be cleaned, pressure tested and chlorinated and all of these require potable water.

According to Mr. Miyabuchi, around the year 2004, 2005 the department stopped issuing temporary construction meters for any type of use. Then a couple of years later they started allowing temporary meters with restrictions. He doesn't know the exact reason for the restrictions but it could be that it would have put a strain on the system at that time. The only uses allowed now are for cleaning, pressure testing and chlorinating the pipes. Anything else is not allowed for temporary construction meters.

Chair Lyons explained that this matter was placed on the agenda because he wanted clarification on why we have this policy and why we don't allow other types of uses. He told Mr. Miyabuchi and Ms. Taomoto that he understands that this is beyond their scope as they do not set the policy but he wanted to at least start the discussion on why we need to have this type of restriction on temporary meters.

Director Baisa added that she and her staff will be happy to follow up on this.

TESTIMONY FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no public testifiers.

Discussion with Darren Strand, General Manager, HC&S, regarding the future use of well water to meet the water needs of Maui Island

Mr. Strand noted that he has been in this role with A&B Diversified Ag since the middle of May. He would like report on the status of re-utilizing the sugarcane lands at this meeting.

Kulolio Ranch, an A&B diversified agricultural project, is a local grass-fed cattle operation at Hamakuapoko which is in partnership with Maui Cattle Company and their member ranches. It is one of A&B's largest projects to re-purpose old sugarcane lands and it is on approximately 5,000 acres of pasture land with currently 1,500 steer and heifers and their goal is to get around 3,000 to 3,500 cattle. Currently all of the pasture they utilize

are un-irrigated but they have done trials with sub-surface drip irrigation using surface water from East Maui.

Another project they have is the Central Maui Feedstocks, LLC. It was created to test and collect information on the processes necessary for biofuel production. The company did trials on sorghum, corn, corn silage, soybeans and various cover crops all with generally favorable results. There are 2 locations, Field 902, near the Humane Society, and Field 608 on the Hana side on the bottom of Haleakala Highway. Both fields together are about 400 acres and all are sub-surface drip irrigation.

They have a sweet potato tenant farmer who is on 200 acres and drip irrigation water is provided via the upper ditch system using East Maui surface water. A&B also provides water to the County of Maui at the Kamole Weir and at the Ag Park.

A&B Diversified Ag is in an ongoing search and vetting process for potential farmers and ranchers of all types and sizes. They are also in the discussion for the Ag Park expansion which is suitable for small to medium types of farmers. Finding the right place and the right conditions with reliable water sources and suitable infrastructure with a farming or ranching partner is not as simple as he thought. But they are in contact with a lot of people who look promising.

Their 36,000 acre property is managed in sections based on 3 water systems; surface water from East Maui, surface water from West Maui, and a brackish groundwater well network. But with the East Maui IIFS Decision and Order, they are reviewing and modeling what it's going to look like with the reduction in surface water that will be available for their operations. They don't know exactly how much water they will have from the East Maui system and what types of agriculture they will have on the former plantation lands.

His company is continuing to work towards a scenario where they can supply water on the former cane lands to maximize the agricultural potential for all 36,000 acres. He noted that 27,000 acres have been dedicated and will be for agricultural use in perpetuity. But without these wells or with diminished production of these wells, viability of agriculture on these 36,000 acres would be in question.

Right now they are not using any of the wells but they are reviewing each well and checking the controls. It is a slow process and this week will be the first series of test runs.

EMI still maintains a full staff of 13 - 15 employees even after the closure of sugar operations. Mr. Strand added that of all of their holdings, the EMI system is very well maintained. This was very evident when we had these 2 storms and they were able to react quickly.

Director Baisa added that the department just recently updated their agreement with EMI.

Mr. Kushi asked if HC&S would be interested in trading off some ditch water for water from Hamakuapoko Wells 1 & 2 for ag use. Mr. Strand replied that it is all tied into their drive to formalize our agreement and the amendments to the agreement have always included the wells. Paia might be a good place to farm a lot of different crops so in the future there might be a use for ag water there.

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

1. Department staff will look into the temporary construction meter policy and report back to the Board

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of August 16, 2018

Chair Lyons asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 16, 2018.

Motion: Member Cabebe moved to approve the minutes of August 16, 2018

Second: Member Milaskey

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried. The minutes of August 16, 2018 were approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action regarding the Maui Island Water Use and Development Plan

Chair Lyons announced that this Board has until January to provide feedback on this plan and the Board is required by ordinance to conduct public hearings in the districts the plan covered. A quorum of 5 members is required for each meeting.

Ms. Blumenstein explained that they broke the plan down by regions for the public process, i.e., Hana/East Side, Upcountry, Central and Lahaina. There is no guidance on what is a district and she believes it is up to interpretation and added that the aquifer sectors are not districts.

Mr. Kushi stated that the ordinance just says “by affected districts” but this plan has a lot of sub-areas. He suggested that the chair ask Ms. Blumenstein and Deputy Corporation Counsel Jennifer Oana submit a proposal on how many meetings should be held and

what we interpret as districts and the process as to how people will be notified. He also requested that the Water Resources and Planning staff notify the stakeholders, publish a notice in the newspaper and post it online on their website.

Chair Lyons suggested that staff “distill this into a bouillabaisse” so it has just the right amount of information that needs to go in a 10-minute presentation.

Vice Chair Chan Hodges reiterated that the Board’s role is to listen to the community and our decision will be partially based on what the community is telling us. Our job as a Board is to sit there and listen.

Mr. Kushi added that the process is to hold public hearings, get the information from the public, the board makes its comments pursuant to the public hearings which then goes back to the department. The department will look at the Board’s comments then sends the plan, with or without the Board’s comments or revisions, to the council.

The Water Resources and Planning staff can provide a hard copy of the plan as needed to the public if requested. Also an executive summary will be provided to the public at the first meeting.

Discussion and possible action regarding Water Rates Including Agriculture Water Rates

According to Director Baisa, we are still trying to get this matter scheduled. It is still in the Budget and Finance Committee.

DIVISION REPORTS

August Division Operational Reports

The director informed the Board that they are trying to get a budget amendment for the Kaupo Tank but she is not able to get it scheduled. A recent cost estimate for this is \$450,000 and we have the money but we just need this budget amendment to spend the money on this.

Deputy Director Agawa reported that due to the storm there was some damage out in Honokohau. Five hundred feet of above ground drisco line was damaged. Crews fixed the line but we’re going to need time to disinfect and test the system so we’re looking at about a week minimum before the residents in Honokohau will have access to potable water.

Director Baisa added that Honolua Ditch is plugged up so very little water is coming into the treatment plant. Maui Land & Pine maintains all the intakes and they need to clear the blockage.

Deputy Director Agawa also noted that because the ditch that feeds the Mahinahina Treatment Plant is at a fraction of its capacity, the department is adjusting to lower ditch flow by lowering the output and eventually a notice to conserve will have to be issued. The road to the ditch was washed out by the storm so access to do the repair is not available until it is fixed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the regular meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Prepared by:

Gaye Hayashida
Commission Support Clerk

Approved for distribution:

Gladys C. Baisa
Director