

County of Maui Water
Supply

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI
RECONVENING OF REGULAR MEETING OF
MARCH 9, 2000 ON MARCH 15, 2000

The Board of Water Supply's meeting of March 9, 2000 recessed and reconvened on March 15, 2000 at 12:30 p.m. in the Planning Department Hearing Room located on the first floor of the Kalana Pukui Building, 250 South High Street, Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii.

Board Members in attendance were Chairman Robert Takitani, Clark Hashimoto, Michael Nobriga, Peter Rice, Elmer Cravalho, and Jonathan Starr.

The following is a transcription of the recording of the discussion held during the reconvening of the meeting:

MR. TAKITANI: I'd like to reconvene the Board of Water Supply meeting. It's 12:31 p.m., March 15, 2000. We're meeting in the Planning Conference Room. We have Board Members present, Clark Hashimoto, Mike Nobriga, Peter Rice, Elmer Cravalho, Jonathan Starr, and myself, Bob Takitani. We have the Director David Craddick, Board Secretary Fran Nago, Executive Assistant Jacky Carroll, and in the audience Deputy Director George Tengan, Mike Quinn, Paul Seitz, Herb Chang, and Herb Kogasaka. Fran, do you want to list the others?

MS. NAGO: We have Harry Eagar from Maui News, Sherri Morrison from Charmaine Tavares' office, we have Mark Vaught and Garret Hew from EMI, Warren Watanabe, and Elliott Krash.

MR. TAKITANI: We go again to Roman numeral seven, other business, discussion and possible action regarding the Upcountry water situation. Mr. Craddick, would you give us the latest information.

MR. CRADDICK: We passed out a sheet here, Upcountry water system conditions as of March 15th, and that's as of this morning. Wailoa Ditch is at 20.4 million. I believe that's up a little bit, .4 million from yesterday. Kamole Treatment Facility is producing at 6.9 million for the previous 24 hours and actually has been at that level for a number of weeks except for the day before yesterday on the 14th - it was at 5 million. Piiholo Reservoir is at 20.2 million or 40% of capacity. And we have been pumping back to that facility since February 17th, and - what's the date on here - on February 21st it was 22 million. And you can see by pumping up, we kept that from dropping, but not really increasing any. The Waikamoi Reservoirs are empty. Kahakapao is about 53 million. Olinda Treatment Facility is running at 1.6 million. The total demand yesterday was 8.4 million, and that's about the range that it's been in between 8 and 9 million gallons a day for about the last week and a half. And based on those conditions there and looking at the fact that Piiholo would have been much emptier had we not been pumping up, I feel we are in a low water, drought emergency situation.

MR. TAKITANI: Mr. Nobriga.

MR. NOBRIGA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to enter a motion on the table at this time for discussion by the Board that the Board authorize a drought emergency declaration to allow the Department to utilize any and all sources of water within its purview for the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens exempting all ag users but instituting a mandatory 10% reduction measure for residents.

MR. CRAVALHO: Mr. Chairman, second the motion.

MR. TAKITANI: Mr. Cravalho.

MR. CRAVALHO: Mr. Chairman, if I can proceed. It is my understanding that your motion would include the enforcement of the mandatory cutback of 10% in residential areas. Because the passing of an emergency, Mr. Chairman, without any enforcement is meaningless.

MR. STARR: Mr. Chair? As a point of order, I would like to allow the public if they wish to express some opinion to be able to come before us today and say what is on their mind. I see some people out there. Maybe they're desirous of saying something.

MR. TAKITANI: Well, we have a time constraint of 1:00. If we're able to do that and still meet the 1:00 time...

MR. STARR: Can I request that we allow that but we ask for real brevity to just a few minutes ...INAUDIBLE...

MR. CRAVALHO: Mr. Chairman, point of information, the opinions would be relative to the pending motion?

MR. STARR: Yes.

MR. TAKITANI: I see no disagreement. Is there any member of the public that wishes to express testimony? Brevity.

MR. SMITH: Brevity. My name is Jim Smith. I'm a resident of Haiku. I have lived on Maui since 1978 in Haiku, and I am well aware of the drought circumstances. There is a problem I have. I've reviewed and participated in planning, and I've been amazed at how wonderful the plans have always been. In 1981, the Haiku Plan was wonderful. We've had wonderful plans. The problem has always been execution. Now, if you're going to have a drought emergency and not execute the terms of that emergency, then what I fear is losing is public confidence and a shifting to despair as it may be over time and withdrawal from involvement at all with government. In time, I noted that the word customer appeared in every single document that the Board and the Department produce regarding me - I'm a citizen. My trust is in you, other citizens. If you're going to execute a drought, please put in to specific terms how that will occur. Thank you very much.

MR. TAKITANI: Thank you, Mr. Smith. Is there any other testimony from the public?

MR. CRAVALHO: Mr. Chairman, ask for the question.

MR. STARR: I don't want to talk. I'd like to listen. I'd just like to know what steps will be implemented if we proceed. I'd like to ask the Director what he intends to do.

MR. CRAVALHO: Well that's part of the motion there.

MR. TAKITANI: But he's specifically asking what kind of action would occur to ensure compliance.

MR. STARR: And also, I want to be sure that maximum effort will be used to keep pumping water uphill.

MR. CRADDICK: Well, maximum effort will be used to pump water uphill. As far as enforcement, what we normally do is we go back and we look at the average over the previous two years, the consumption. And that is what we use as a base for the 10% requested reduction. And the reason - any ways, that's what we ask.

MR. TAKITANI: Mr. Nobriga?

MR. NOBRIGA: Can I ask that the topic of the enforcement be placed on the next earliest agenda that we have on our regular board meeting so that we can discuss that in more detail and hopefully come up with a more dignified solution.

MR. TAKITANI: I think meter readers that are possibly maybe displaced because of the automated meter reading, et cetera, that are now on leak detection may be able to be used for such policing action.

MR. CRADDICK: No, we use all available people to do the policing, but I'm talking about the basis of what we're asking for the 10% from. Because what's happened in the past is when - this particular case, we're not going through the warning stages that we used to have, so there may not be the same problem where people jump the consumption up the previous month. But that's what

we've been doing since 1991. It's a procedure everybody's familiar with, and we know it works.

MR. TAKITANI: Any other discussion? If not, it's been moved and seconded that the Board of Water Supply declare a drought emergency utilizing all available resources - groundwater, etc. - to insure the health, safety, and welfare of Upcountry residents and agriculture, and exempting agriculture from any restrictions, and imposing a mandatory 10% on all residential meters.

MR. CRAVALHO: With the enforcement of same.

MR. TAKITANI: With the enforcement of same. Thank you, sir. All those in favor, signify by saying aye. Opposed, nay. The ayes have it.

MR. STARR: Mr. Chair, I'd like some other information that's relevant but not directly pertaining. I'd like the status of the Kulamalu Well, and also an update on the status of the ???

MR. CRADDICK: First the Kulamalu Well, we started yesterday putting a generator up there. I know they're having a problem with the pressure relief valve there. We need a pressure sustaining valve in there, and some parts have to be changed so that may take one or two days to get those parts. And we will need permission from HC&S to dump whatever water isn't pumped into the system into the ditch when that pressure relief system goes open to relieve the pressure. Well actually, we probably don't need permission. We could dump it down the stream, but it would kind of be a waste of water. I prefer getting it into the system where it could be put to some use.

MR. STARR: When that's operational, where will that water be going and what effect will it have?

MR. CRADDICK: It will be going into the Haiku system. We would expect somewhere in the order of around half a million gallons a day demand would be relieved from

the Wailoa Ditch by doing that. The balance of that water should be pumped up. The Hamakuapoko Wells produce about a million and a half gallons per day. That water will also be able to be pumped up to Piiholo.

MR. STARR: Is the flume functional?

MR. CRADDICK: The flume was finished yesterday. They're still working on the railings on the side, but all the intakes are opened up, and I believe some water did come in last night.

MR. STARR: I think the Board should compliment the staff on getting the flume back in, back in order. I know it was a difficult task, and I really appreciate the staff efforts. They did a good job.

MR. CRAVALHO: Just as a matter of informational clarification, whatever the case may be. It has been my understanding that whatever water is put into Wailoa Ditch from H'poko Wells or wherever, would not be utilized to reduce the withdrawal amount from the ditch system. This will supplement, not reduce. Is that not correct?

MR. CRADDICK: That's correct.

MR. CRAVALHO: So if we again, if we place matters in proper perspective, we look at what is available - we say 20 mil, we have the right of 7 point some odd, 20 million gallons from the ditch. We have the right to 7 point some odd. The capacity of the treatment plant is up to 8.2 which is relatively close to the consumption at the present time where there are absolutely no restrictions. So when the amount from the H'poko Wells goes into the system, as a condition of 1.5, so we're up to 21.5 or 22. Twenty right now on the ditch flow plus H'poko is 1.5. And if we get the Dowling Wells into operation as of yesterday rather than next week. That's another half a mil or 600,000. So we're talking about 22 mil with the full capacity of the treatment plant of 8.2. We are not yet in a tremendously dangerous situation. The supply that is coming as of this day should be able

to meet the demands and the needs there with the prescribed enforcement of 10% reduction for domestic use and other use other than the farmers. So I think we need to keep this in proper perspective. Mr. Chairman, if I may, I think there is a far more serious problem which I think Mr. Starr has alluded to in the past, and that deals with the overall drought situation which is true not only for this island or other portions of this state, but it seems to be national and in many cases international in nature. So when we look at the need for water conservation, that need and that conservation should not be limited only to the Upcountry area. There should be a program initiated and put into effect for all parties and all areas to get into a conservation program. And we develop as we go along an educational program because if this problem is going to be on our hands for a period of time, then I think we got to go and get everybody's help and everybody's cooperation. And I think we'll be all right.

MR. TAKITANI: Thank you, Mr. Cravalho. Any other discussion?

MR. STARR: Mr. Chair? With those positive remarks, I move for adjournment.

MR. CRAVALHO: I second the motion.

MR. TAKITANI: Moved by Mr. Starr, seconded by Mr. Cravalho. All those in favor of adjournment, signify by saying aye. Opposed nay. Ayes have it - we're adjourned.

(THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.)

Submitted by:
Frances L. Nago
Secretary for the Board of Water Supply

"By Water All Things Find Life"

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[\[Back\]](#)