

County of Maui Water
Supply

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

COUNTY OF MAUI

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Held at the Kahului Community Center Annex, Uhu
Street, Kahului, Maui, Hawaii, commencing at 9:00 a.m.
on November 13, 2001.

REPORTED BY: LYNANN NICELY, RPR/RMR/CSR #354

IWADO COURT REPORTERS, INC.

A P P E A R A N C E S

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Peter Rice, Chairman

Clark Hashimoto

Mike Nobriga

STAFF PRESENT:

George Tengan, Deputy Director

Herb Kogasaka, Chief Engineer

Herb Chang, Engineer

Howard Fukushima, Corporation Counsel

Fran Nago, Board Secretary

CHAIRMAN RICE: Let's call the meeting of the
finance committee to order, 9:10 a.m., November 13,
the Kahului Community Center Annex.

The only item on the agenda today is
communication from Sumner Erdman at Ulapalakua Ranch
regarding water service. Is there any testimony from
the public? Yes, sir.

MR. DURSO: Tony Durso, Ulapalakua Ranch.

Thank you, Mr. Chair; thank you, committee members.

Basically I stand on the testimony that was submitted
to the Committee of the Whole. However, I would like

to add just a couple of things because the understanding of the ranch regarding the situation has not changed but sort of been specified or improved in the last couple of weeks since that letter was submitted.

Really what we feel is that it comes down that the system that supplies the ranch and the upcountry area from the Kamole tank out is inadequate for two reasons: One, there's not enough water going through it; and two, it's unreliable. Basically we see water trucks coming out there every single week to fix something on that system. And the bottom line is that what that translates to on the ranch is that we can't with confidence move cattle into some of our holding paddocks because what will happen is we'll put them in there expecting that they are going to be on a three- or four-day grazing rotation and there is no water for them. And we put them in, the water looks like it's working, we leave, we don't check on them until three or four days hence, we go up there and all of a sudden there is no water. That puts a lot of stress

on the cattle. It's hard to quantify that specifically, but there are economic ramifications. That of course then adds labor costs because we're continually trying to move the herds to different places.

So primarily, one, we're concerned about unreliability of the system. And then two, we're very concerned about the fact that a number of our meters only run at 30 percent, another set of meters don't run at all. So we believe that the system is fundamentally inadequate to serve just our needs, let alone what we understand to be the needs of the community and the surrounding area. Like I said, that translates to negative economic effects on the ranch and also negative psychological effects because we're already dealing with a pretty tough situation.

Beyond that, there is a couple of ways it seems to address it and we've heard arguments on both sides. One is to bring in a 12-inch line and then we've also heard that if you bring in 12-inch line, there is actually not enough water to serve the 12-inch line and that it would suck the other side

dry. So we're sort of scratching our heads, how can you do it. And to address the reliability issue, what we think you could do is possibly bring the 12-inch line but choke it down to a 6, essentially only allow that amount of water in, but at least what we've got then is a reliable system we can count on.

The ranch, as we've said before, is willing to assist in the ways that it can, primarily although we're in economic hard times we do have labor, we do have equipment, and we can provide access. So it's really our sincere hope that, one, the situation is addressed and addressed fairly soon, and then two, that you understand that we're willing to cooperate in any ways that we really can. And that's pretty much it for our situation.

CHAIRMAN RICE: Questions? Yes, Clark.

MR. HASHIMOTO: Last time, I don't know if it was Pard or -- you said there is a lot of leaks in the system? You think there is a lot of leaks in the

system?

MR. DURSO: Yes, it was Pard who came down and spoke to the Committee of the Whole. And this is what I was referring to as the unreliability of the system. We get, whether it's on the laterals, whether it's on the main transmission line, we have to believe that there are leaks in there. We don't see the leaks necessarily, but in terms of we get meters that flow one day and they don't flow the next and they don't flow and then we'll see a county truck come up and the water will be restored.

Same thing, the people in Kanaio tend to call us and they say hey, are you guys draining the system, you're using all the water. No, we're not doing it. So we check the other meters in the area, we know who's got their gun sprinklers on and that sort of thing. And so that then suggests sort of by process of elimination that there has got to be leaks on that system. And that's consistent also with the information we get from the department itself. So it's just that it's an old system.

CHAIRMAN RICE: Questions? Mike? Anything else?

MR. NOBRIGA: No.

CHAIRMAN RICE: Okay, Tony, thanks.

MR. DURSO: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN RICE: So we have the project on the books in the CIP, right?

MR. KOGASAKA: Yeah, we have a study prepared to determine alternatives to determine what size would be -- the ramification different sizes of pipe would have on the entire system and that will be available when study is completed.

CHAIRMAN RICE: When do you think that study will be completed?

MR. KOGASAKA: We hope to get a contract by next December and probably take maybe six months or so to be completed.

MR. HASHIMOTO: Six months to complete or six months --

MR. KOGASAKA: To complete the study.

CHAIRMAN RICE: Mike?

MR. NOBRIGA: I recall either your department or some other -- your department or Mr. Craddick himself bringing before the CIP committee anywhere from three to five different proposals and I believe Chairman Nakamura's recommendation was to hire somebody to tell us the best approach because I know you guys have worked on proposals before. I don't believe a study is in order because I think we all know what's going on, so I don't know why we need to study it any more. But I know there was three to five -- I may be wrong about the five, there was three definite proposals.

MR. KOGASAKA: There is a cost estimate on what might be. But as far as the adequacy of what would be the level of adequacy, the ramifications of that is not very clear.

CHAIRMAN RICE: By that you mean what Tony was saying about the 12-inch line sucking the rest of the water out of the system, is that what you mean by the adequacy?

MR. KOGASAKA: That's right.

CHAIRMAN RICE: So in reality, we don't know what the right size line is; that's what you're saying?

MR. KOGASAKA: Yes.

CHAIRMAN RICE: And the answer to Mike's question is that we were dealing with estimates, not

real plans? Is that right?

MR. KOGASAKA: Yes.

MR. CHANG: Yes. It's all really general conceptual design -- nobody really sat down and looked at the numbers. It was kind of like yeah, because this is probably what it will take.

CHAIRMAN STARR: And who did that? Was that done by staff or --

MR. CHANG: Staff and the director. Both kind of looked like --

CHAIRMAN RICE: So you just ballparked it?

MR. CHANG: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN RICE: Well, I think that -- I don't know. The issue of all this water stuff upcountry has been going on way too long.

Who are we talking about getting to study --

oh, you're going to put out an RFP to see who wants to bid on doing the study?

MR. KOGASAKA: Under the new procurement guidelines, we would be selecting a consultant to perform the study.

CHAIRMAN RICE: And do we -- when we select a consultant, do we have a time frame? I mean, six months to do the study, it's kind of long, or no? Is that normal?

MR. CHANG: I think there is a couple items that would take time consuming. One of them is that we need to probably gather the data like how much water is going to be used, probably need to get Tony's help like if you had -- what's the ranch's goal, how much cattle do you want. From there we can set a base, that kind of stuff.

And then also like Herb was talking about

earlier, if we improve the Ulapalakua system, what's going to happen with the rest of the stuff? Because we got allied tank replacement coming up and major stuff is going to affect the transmission. So we need to piece everything together.

So the raw data gathering, that may be a little while. And then the guy is going to have to put it probably a hydraulic model which may take time because we've got to feed on elevation [inaudible] existing stuff. And then once they give it to us, we're going to have to review the hydraulic model and see if they accurately put everything together because that's so easy to put wrong numbers and then those models are not worth anything. So it takes a while to put everything together and come out with a correct model.

CHAIRMAN RICE: I want to do it right because if we're going to spend -- we're talking about a substantial amount of money, I believe, if your estimates are even close to correct. So we don't want to spend that kind of money and do it wrong. But can

we make it clear to the subcontractor that we want it to be moving along quickly?

MR. CHANG: Yes.

CHAIRMAN RICE: And the other thing is is there a temporary solution that's -- I mean, I don't know what -- you'd have to put a cost on it and we would have to weigh the value of it, but if there was a temporary solution to some of their problem that we could get together in the short term. Because if we're going to be realistic about this, Tony, and let's say that even if it takes four months to do the study, and then that's a study and then you have to have the new thing engineered and then we let a contract and get it done, we're not talking about this year or next year, right?

MR. CHANG: Big job.

CHAIRMAN RICE: It is a big job and we're

talking maybe a couple of years, so the need for a short term fix might help. And I'm just talking conceptually. You guys never thought about that?

MR. CHANG: I think the length of pipe is like three miles minimum. Just talking to Ulapalakua, I think it's just three miles from the Kamole tank. It's a big job and if you put in something that's going to be temporary but may cost us half a million bucks or more just for the material itself and then I don't know if anybody is going to be satisfied. You may still have to --

CHAIRMAN RICE: Okay. This lady wanted to say something earlier and I held her back.

MS. NARDIN: He's representing the ranch. I live beyond the ranch. Anything that benefits the ranch in terms of that 12-inch choking down to a 6-inch or whatever, that will help me. I have been waiting for a meter since 1987. It is on record. I think that I'm up for some kind of a temporary -- I

was told by Mr. Craddick that it was a mile and a half of line in fact that needed to be -- that really needed replacing. He told me at one time that if I replaced it, I could have a meter there. I have no financial wherewithal to do that. Ulapalakua Ranch can afford to do that. I lived out there 21 years, so I --

CHAIRMAN RICE: They're not saying they're replace something.

MS. NARDIN: No, no, no, they're saying they will help with the easements and so on, they'll make it -- they're not going to replace it, no. But I've been out there for 21 years, so I've watched this water -- I pretty much know where every meter is, who's using more water, where water is going and so on like that. And you know, I would love to see some kind of a fix that makes a person to be able to get water on to their property especially after as many years as I've waited for it.

CHAIRMAN RICE: That's what we're --

MR. DURSO: As far as -- you know, in our minds, you know, she has been here for what did you say 21 years. I mean, the ranch is -- the current management for 37. We've been dealing with this situation. It's been ongoing for quite some time. I think we're prepared in the same way that you've stated that what we really want is for it to be done right. And I think if we just -- it's one of those deals where if we get a firm commitment, if we really understand that this is going to happen, it's like we can hold on. But it's one of those situations where we seem to move in surges. Something is going to happen; oh, great, immediately we step back and we say all right, something is going to happen, and then nothing happens. It's one of those situations where if we can finally come to an understanding that this is in fact going to happen or a significant improvement that will bring that system up not only to adequacy but a concern of course would be future use

and that's what you're suggesting is that bring it up to current use and then what you've got to realize is that there are people waiting for meters on down the line that what's that going to do for future use and certainly there is a number of people out further past that once were supplied with water that might be scratching their heads and saying let's take the line further.

But certainly the way we've looked at it and the way we've understood the studies coming out of the department is that a short-term solution would be fairly expensive and actually not bring that much relief because what you're talking about is laying a 4-inch line or something like that and that would only actually wind up supplying one or two meters. So we sort of look at the temporary solution and say, you know, fine if you want to do it, but what we would rather see is the permanent solution expedited and really pushed as a priority. Meaning absolutely no offense to those people and leaving that up to the department to decide, but it's one of those things

where I think all of us are like well, we've been dealing with a difficult situation for so long and what we would rather have is assurances of a permanent solution, hopefully meaning that sometimes a temporary solution will get put in and then it gets left there.

CHAIRMAN RICE: Left there. And I think that's happened upcountry a lot, actually. Yeah, I agree. And I think that -- okay. So it is in terms of a priority, it's already a budgeted item in the CIP. And I think after today's meeting, you guys can try and expedite the contract and get the study done so that hopefully before next year we're talking about going to design. And we can share with these people what the results of the study were.

MS. NARDIN: Is there any possibility to receive any kind of temporary water meter or any kind of temporary relief?

CHAIRMAN RICE: No, I don't think so, not in light of what we're just hearing. They don't even

have water. I don't know how we would give out any more meters in regards to that. The people who have got meters can't get water out of them. So I don't know what --

MR. HASHIMOTO: That Ulapalakua Ranch is from the upper or lower line?

MR. CHANG: As far as like the upper transmission line or the one below?

MR. HASHIMOTO: Yeah. Upper Kula or Lower Kula?

MR. DURSO: Upper.

MR. HASHIMOTO: Because I know some farmers along that Upper Kula line, at times if there is a lot of heavy usage, they don't even get water either. So I don't know what's happening on the --

MR. CHANG: This is before Kamole tank?

MR. HASHIMOTO: Oh, way before it. Like Upper Kula like Nishiyama and Watanabe, that's Walker Road and Kulalani or -- I don't know. Because some of these -- they're taking showers sometime and there is -- and the water stops all of a sudden. So it's not up by Ulapalakua, so I don't know what --

MR. CHANG: It happens. We lose that Waiohuli tank and it's trying to fill but there is another draw somewhere else off the transmission line.

CHAIRMAN RICE: But clarify just for my own knowledge, we're talking about transmission issues here, not adequacy, water source issues, right?

MR. CHANG: Well, if we give Ulapalakua more water, they're going to obviously use more water because they have got so much water available so the peak demand is going to increase. By how much, I'm not sure.

CHAIRMAN RICE: And that's the purpose of your study?

MR. DURSO: I was going to say that I mean certainly one of the things that we're looking at is trying to use more water. Currently we estimate that our percentage use of our actual allotment -- allotment is in quotation marks, of course -- but we only use about 8 percent of what we should be able to draw on our system. And sometimes when the system goes down, we're only able to pull about 5. The number sometimes can get a little bit higher.

But if we just basically speaking -- Clark may be able to sort of echo this, but sort of a standard agricultural use, you sort of want to be able to pull 30 percent. And we can definitely use that. And our contention is that if we try to draw 30 percent, try to turn on all our meters and pull water out, it's going to suck everything dry. And we don't want to do that because that will affect the people on further and that's certainly not -- certainly not what we're trying to do.

CHAIRMAN RICE: What about the dual ag line?

MR. CHANG: Dual ag line will only be going up to like that Hawaiian Homes project. I think the master plan is just showing it ending above that. Doesn't go towards Ulapalakua, just stops.

CHAIRMAN RICE: How far is that?

MR. CHANG: Talking another couple miles.

MR. DURSO: Along the road it's six miles.

MR. CHANG: Yeah, I guess maybe another mile.

MR. DURSO: Across the top it would probably be maybe a mile, mile and a half, I would think.

CHAIRMAN RICE: We've got to try and think of different things here and if we've got an ag thing going and a lot of the water that's needed is ag and

we add a mile to that line --

MR. DURSO: The concern with that dual ag line is that in terms of the process, it's one of the things where the state and the fed seem to be playing a little bit of cat and mouse, in that, well, we'll put up the funds, you put up the funds and that sort of thing. And my understanding is that Phase I is in, but we're talking Phase II and III of the main pipeline still needs to be done and that's not even including the laterals. So if you want to talk about a solution that's way down the line or some type of main solution that will come in, that's years and years and years. And that's going to be tough.

I mean, one of the things that also should be mentioned is that one of the things that we do need to do, and this goes to future use, is as we hopefully will come out of this drought, we've got to bring our cow herd back up. And that means trying to do it.

And we're in a situation right now is that the water, even if the drought did end, we probably wouldn't be

able to bring the cow herd back up because of the unreliable and inadequate water supply.

I can also say that Paula Hegley at the winery, she has been looking to expand acreage. I mean, the winery has been an expanding business in the last couple of years. And she can't do it, they can't plant more acres because they don't have enough water. So there is current sort of negative impact on the economic situation as we speak and it's going to be -- you're right in that that dual ag line coming out might be something beneficial, but I've never seen anything that actually says the dual ag is going to make it all the way.

CHAIRMAN RICE: That may be true, but that doesn't mean we can't make it that way and we can't be thinking about the next year and the year after. This project is -- we're talking about this project taking several years. So for us to be thinking about extending the dual ag line I don't think is an unrealistic idea.

MR. CHANG: I guess we need to convince the state.

CHAIRMAN RICE: It may take two years to convince the state and the feds, but that still may be the best solution long term and we ought to do that.

MR. HASHIMOTO: So who will own the dual ag line? The state, right?

MR. CHANG: The state.

CHAIRMAN RICE: We ought to think about that as we negotiate with the state on whatever comes up. Leaks. Short-term fix, minimally ought to be some review of the line for leaks, huh, guys? I mean --

MR. CHANG: I think, yeah, we probably need to emphasize it more on the leaks. Like Tony said, they're probably aware of leaks, but to go hunting for them is difficult because I think it's areas like porous rock, there is no visual --

MR. DURSO: Unless you see the geyser, they're tough to see.

CHAIRMAN RICE: Well, I'm just trying to think of short-term stuff that we need to do -- that we can do. I mean, if that alleviates it without a lot of expense. I mean, would be some labor there, but we're not talking half a million bucks. And if we've got leaks, we're just pouring water into the ground.

MR. HASHIMOTO: Tony, do you see green patches of pasture at the lines? That's a way of detecting leaks.

MR. DURSO: There are parts of it. But I think what he's saying about the porous rock is that most of the time where that pipe is, that's lying on pretty bare country. So we're not seeing that. That's not how we've been able to detect them. I mean, like I said, the ones that we generally detect are the ones that we see water coming out shooting

into the air. But we're pretty sure that there is all along the way, you know.

CHAIRMAN RICE: This is about three miles of line we're talking about.

MR. CHANG: From Ulapalakua to Kamole tank.

CHAIRMAN RICE: It's just plastic laying on the ground?

MR. CHANG: Some of it PVC and I forget --. Not exposed, I don't think so.

MR. DURSO: Not the cast iron. But I mean, that line is old. I mean, that's 20 years.

MS. NARDIN: The diameter keeps shrinking. It's a metal pipe and it rusts, so there is very little water actually going through that line regardless of the outer dimension.

MR. DURSO: Might I suggest then that in terms of the study that would be done, I mean, it would make sense to say to include in part of that study the discussions regarding that dual ag line, how that can be incorporated, what the time frame is on that. It would certainly make sense for those consultants to take a look at that, not only just looking at system adequacy but looking at what is ultimately the best long-term solution and how those two things could be combined.

CHAIRMAN RICE: I agree.

MR. NOBRIGA: Drill his own well, too. That would work. From what I'm hearing, it appears that the only solution that we can pass forward from the finance committee at this time is to dedicate financial backing to leak detection in the area.

CHAIRMAN RICE: And move it into process.

MR. NOBRIGA: Because I don't know if we have such a thing, but we saw a bunch of stuff at the AWWA which is the waterworks association conference where they have like stethoscopes to detect leaks.

MR. CHANG: I believe we have some equipment.

CHAIRMAN RICE: We do? That's why I said it's three miles, you got to walk the line. But what I'm just saying is it appears to happen frequently enough. If it only happened once in a while, people wouldn't be coming down and saying there is leaks. It has to be happening a lot. So we ought to throw some resources at that issue, I think, and move the process along.

MR. NOBRIGA: If you stop the leaks, going to give you a lot more outgo at the other end because your pressure going to be better. I would like to recommend that the department provide us with an idea of what kind of financial commitment they need from us

to pursue with leak detection as a first step, and then the second step being to expedite this design study so that we can make a decision on the best CIP project to back for the future.

CHAIRMAN RICE: The two steps are together, though, not one before the other. Simultaneous.

MR. NOBRIGA: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN RICE: We don't need a motion for that. We'll just make that recommendation to the full board.

MR. HASHIMOTO: So the study is going to include the other -- besides Ulapalakua, Kanaio and the other residents of Ulapalakua?

CHAIRMAN RICE: Yeah, I think that's what they were saying the reason for the study is we need to know what all the future use is and so we size the line correctly, right?

MR. HASHIMOTO: Plus many people are waiting for meters, I would think.

MR. NOBRIGA: I would think the study would have to take into consideration not so much everything from Kamole tank east but also from Kamole tank back west. Because whatever you do from Kamole tank eastward is going to affect.

CHAIRMAN RICE: I think that's what they were saying. Yeah. Okay. That will be our recommendation. Anything else? Okay. Adjourn.

(WHEREUPON, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.)

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