

County of Maui Water
Supply

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

COUNTY OF MAUI

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2006

9:00 A.M.

Planning Department Conference Room

First Floor, Kalana Pakui Building

250 South High Street

Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

I. Call to Order

Chair Michael Victorino called the August 24, 2006 Board of Water Supply meeting

to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. Attendance

Board Members Present:

Also Present:

Michael Howden

George Tengan, Director

Lee Aldridge

Edward Kushi, Jr., Deputy Corporation Counsel

Ginny Parsons

Holly Perdido

Kui Lester

Myles Fujinaka

Vice Chair Kenneth Okamura

Gaye Hayashida

Chair Michael Victorino

Member Carl Holmberg was excused.

III. Approval of Minutes

Motion: By Vice Chair Kenneth Okamura to approve the minutes of July 20, 2006.

Second: By Member Kui Lester

Vote: Ayes - Unanimous. Motion carried.

IV. Announcements

Chair Victorino stated that HWWA Conference is scheduled for October 11 - 13, 2006

and asked how many members will be attending. The department staff's reply was

three. Vice Chair Okamura stated that he wanted to see the schedule before he

decides. The department staff will contact Kauai to get a schedule of conference

events.

V. Unfinished Business

A. None.

VI. Communications

A. None.

VII. Director's Report

Vice Chair Okamura asked if it was appropriate to ask questions of the Director at

this time regarding the drought situation. Since this is not on the agenda he was

hoping to get an update today. Chair Victorino stated that it was appropriate and

if it was ok with the Director this subject would be placed under Division Reports.

VIII. Testimony from the Public

A. None.

IX. Other Business

A. Discussion/possible action regarding Jurisdiction Over Running Water Within the

State and the Costs for Using the Water.

Director Tengan stated that he wasn't aware that staff would be involved on this

item and asked for the Board's input as to what they want to discuss on this matter. At this time, the Chair asked Member Howden to clarify his question.

Member Howden stated that his concerns came about because of restrictions on Upcountry and East Maui water, and of the state Supreme Court's McBride-Robinson

decision, that the running waters of the state are held in trust by the state for

use by the community especially the kuleana land owners. That use seems to have

been usurped by large corporate entities on this island, primarily HC&S, to the

detriment of kuleana land owners and to the public as well. It is his understanding that our present water agreement with EMI and HC&S allows the county to draw up to 19 million gallons a day and yet we are now discussing restrictions and asking people to cutback. How much are we drawing from the EMI

system at present?

The Director stated that from the EMI system we are treating about 5 million gallons per day at the Kamole Treatment Plant. We have an agreement with EMI

and A&B whereby we could draw up to 12 million gallons per day.

Member Howden asked if there is any reason why we are not drawing more. The Director replied that it is because of the plant's capacity.

Member Howden also asked will that change when the dual line comes in? Director

Tengan stated no, the dual line has nothing to do with the Kamole Treatment Plant.

The source of the water for the dual line is at the Kahakapao Reservoir. The

water going into Kahakapao has nothing to do with the agreement with A&B and

does not travel through EMI ditches, however EMI does maintain the flumes and

intake systems and the county pays them for that service.

Member Howden asked would it not be rational to consider eventual county ownership

of the EMI system in terms of long range water usage planning. The Director

replied that this situation is similar to the situation in the West Maui Mountains,

where the Wailuku Water Company in-takes are concerned. The county is pursuing

the acquisition of the intakes.

Member Howden asked if we know how much water is used in West Maui. He believes

Wailuku Agribusiness (nka Wailuku Water Company) has not been forthcoming. Director

Tengan stated that as far as surface water is concerned, Wailuku Water Company has

been submitting reports to the department on its withdrawals from the streams.

Member Howden stated that it was his impression that when the Water Resources person,

Ellen Kraftsow, would make her report she complained of inadequate data. Wailuku

Water Company was not fully cooperating with their reporting requirements. The

Director stated that these reports have been coming into his office regularly

especially since the passing of the ordinance requiring these companies

to report

to the county. He has been forwarding them on to Ellen (Water Resources and Planning Division) and to the County Council.

Member Howden asked if the Director considers these reports to be thorough and

accurate. The Director stated that they could improve by getting good measuring

devices, though he doesn't know if the county has the authority to demand that

they install measuring devices. He believes that this would fall under the jurisdiction of the state water commission.

Member Howden stated that he is troubled that the County of Maui does not look

at long range planning of our water resources and that we are being held captive

to the goals of two large corporate entities, in this case EMI and Wailuku Agribusiness, and he urges the department and the administration to look at the

overall picture. We seem to be approving great numbers of development at the

same time our infrastructure and water resources seem somewhat limited. The total number of what is proposed for Maui as opposed to the inadequacies of what

we have on hand and our inability to provide water for kuleana agricultural projects needs to be addressed.

Chair Victorino thanked Member Howden for his points. The Chair also noted that

not only the director and the department but also the administration and the council have made some positive moves. Unless we have some definitive rules and

directions it is very difficult to plan for the future especially for our water use.

Director Tengan stated that the Planning Division is currently working on the water

use and development plan, and Member Howden's comments will be taken into account

in the development of this plan.

The Chair asked, didn't both Members Aldridge and Howden offer to assist in this

and have there been any communications with Ellen in this area?
Member Howden

stated that Ellen has given them some of the materials that they asked for. He

also stated that though they (Water Resources and Planning Division) have only

a third of the staff, she is deeply committed to this work, but you still need to

have the staff to be able to function.

Member Aldridge stated that he just wanted to second what Member Howden had said

and that Ellen did provide them with an outline of a water conservation plan

though not really a long term strategic planning document, which is what Member

Howden was referring to. What is our long range planning with respect to water

supply? Member Aldridge stated that he lives Upcountry and saw that there is

another drought situation, it does make him wonder, what are we doing in the long

term to alleviate this problem?

B. Discussion/possible action regarding Rate Increase In Terms of Agricultural

Rates And The Effect It Will Have on Maui's Agricultural Producers.

Member Howden stated that his primary concern is where do we stand, statewide,

in terms of our water rates? It is expensive to run a diversified agriculture

operation and even now with agricultural rates, it is one of the limiting factors

in agricultural production. We need to accommodate agricultural production,

not only on the corporate level but also for kuleana agricultural production.

Vice Chair Okamura stated that he was concerned about the last increase of 7 percent

in July. He didn't recall that there should have been a 7 percent increase in the

second year. His research showed that when originally presented to the Board by

the Water Rate Committee the second year rate increase (2007) was 2.5 percent.

There was a second report presented to the Board by the same consultants in August

which showed the second year rate increase at 7 percent. Originally the Water

Rate Committee and the Board approved rate increases for 2006 at 12%, 2007 - 2.5%,

2008 - 3.5%, 2009 - 3.5% and 2010 - 7%. The Water Rate Study was first presented

in February 2005 and the second was presented in August.

At this time Vice Chair Okamura handed out copies of the 2004 Water Rate Study

and Fiscal Year 2006 Water Rate Study. According to the August 2005 minutes,

the rate increase for 2007 of 7 percent will be brought up again when the Board

does the budget. But this issue was never brought up at that time.

Based on the assumption that the water rates are compounded, then the total rate

increase as approved by the Board was 27%. The Fiscal Year 2006 Water Rate

Study has a 34% increase. The rate change was never discussed. So what happened?

Director Tengan stated that because of the way we are now structured, the rates

need to be established and enacted upon by the County Council through the budget.

The rate study that was done was looking at the best available figures at that

time, and this past fiscal year, the costs of operations have gone up substantially.

Our fuel related costs have gone up very high. So when the budget was presented

to the Board it included an overall increase in revenues. This increase represented the 7 percent. It's not just

the farmers that were assessed this increase. It was a general increase in the

total rate base of the department.

Ms. Holly Perdido stated that for the board's information, electricity increased

over \$1.9 million from '05 to '06. For '07 the department is estimating another

\$1.9 million with hopefully the addition of Pookela Well and Kupaa coming on-line.

Ag rates increased from \$.80 to \$.85. For a typical farmer, for every additional

million gallons of water it would go up \$50 over 25,000 gallons that they pay

regular rates on. A review of the water bills has shown that it has gone up somewhere between the range of \$50 to \$200.

When the rate study was done, it was done based on estimated figures. The department had no idea that electricity would shoot up like it did. For next

year, the rate might not be 3.5%; it may be more, depending on what the projected expenses will be.

Member Parsons asked if Ms. Perdido feels, with the rate increase as it is, if

this will cover everything. Ms. Perdido replied definitely not because this past year the department was not able to transfer anything to CIP. Right now

the department is working on numbers for '08 and cannot give an exact figure,

but a past study that was done suggested \$8 million for CIP.

Member Parsons asked, with the income we have now how far can we cover? Ms. Perdido replied that right now we are covering our administrative expenses and

hopefully will have something to transfer to CIP. Right now the department is looking to get SRF loans.

Member Parsons asked, who counsels the department on establishing the budget.

Ms. Perdido replied that the department works with Lloyd Ginoza,

Budget Director

in preparing the budget and also with R. W. Beck, the department's consultants.

Member Parsons asked, if the department would need a bond. Director Tengan stated that the department would only use bonds for CIP not for operating expenses.

Regarding the statement by Ms. Perdido that revenues being insufficient to cover

CIP needs, the study done by Brown and Caldwell years ago suggested that the department put aside \$8 million a year for replacement projects but since that

time has not been able to do that. Eight million dollars represent 25% of the

department's current revenues at this time and to increase the rates by that much

in one year is totally unacceptable.

As far as bonds are concerned that would be something that the department needs to

discuss with the administration because this would impact the debt ceiling of the

county. Right now the department is working with the State Department of Health to

acquire \$10.9 million loan through its revolving fund for the Kamole Clear Well

project.

Member Howden asked, what is the percentage of overall use that goes to agriculture?

Ms. Perdido estimated that it was about 5%, but will have it verified.

Member Howden asked how much goes to the hotels. Ms. Perdido replied that the

department does not have it separated that way but they pay at the general rates.

Member Howden asked Member Okamura, can one run a viable agricultural operation

at present rates? Member Okamura replied that it would depend on the type of

operation. If the weather is dry and there are problems with insects and disease,

the water bill goes up. He agrees with Member Howden's earlier comments about

the need to provide inexpensive water to agriculture. The increased cost of water

adds to the burden of an agricultural operation.

Member Okamura asked where is the process that allows users to find out about

increases. After the first year of the water rate study, the committee and the

department said they will be looking at improving the conservation rates, but

nothing happened. He never heard about the 7 percent increase until it happened

in July.

Chair Victorino asked, was public notice given on this 7 percent increase? Ms.

Perdido replied that the department's budget goes to the council. They scrutinize it then it goes out to public hearing in January or February.

The County's budget, which includes this department's budget, goes through many

meetings. It was noticed in the newspaper when they were going over the revenues

that water and sewer were going to have a substantial increase.

Vice Chair Okamura asked Corporation Counsel, given that the charter states that

rate increases have to be approved by ordinance, would that mean just being a

part of the budget is sufficient? Deputy Corporation Counsel Edward Kushi replied yes.

Ms. Perdido stated that the rate study when the Board reviewed it was just what

they came up with at that time. They were not approving the increases for future years, but can only approve increases for the current year.

The County

Council cannot approve multi year increases.

Chair Victorino stated he was part of the rate study and the subject of multi-

users being broken down into various classifications was brought up at that time. Nothing was done but that is one of the areas he would like to see happen. We need to have multiple usages, ie. residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural.

Ms. Perdido stated that the department is continuing with the rate study and will be breaking it down between single family and multi family but the data to break it down in more detail is not available. The breakdown between single family and multi family will hopefully be presented to the Board with the budget.

Chair Victorino stated that is a start in the right direction, but there are other facets of our community that uses a lot of water, such as commercial,

industrial, agriculture. We have a lot of other users and they should bear the costs equally if not maybe a little bit more, though he wants agriculture (rates) to stay down, because without viable agriculture we would be in big trouble.

Member Aldridge stated that all this just points out the need for a good budget

workshop and asks for a follow up on the dates for the workshop. The department staff informed the Board that the Budget Workshop is scheduled for

October 16, and if needed November 1st here at the Planning Conference Room.

Member Aldridge stated that he noticed in the division reports that one of the

elements included in costs is depreciation and in some cases that's a very large

component of the overall operating costs. Does the department fund depreciation?

Ms. Perdido replied no. Member Aldridge further stated that it is unfortunate

that even though those are factored into operating costs, there is no revenue

that is collected to fund that.

Director Tengan informed the Board that the department's consultant is working

on the breakdown of the customer classes. Currently, the department's customer

database doesn't provide for an easy way of identifying the various customer classes. It is going to take time but it is being worked on.

C. Discussion/possible action regarding Charter Amendment 9 And 9A And The Merits Between The Two Amendments.

At this time Deputy Corporation Counsel Edward Kushi handed out copies of Charter Proposal 9 and 9A to the Board. Counsel Kushi explained that what he distributed are excerpts from the 2001 - 2002 Maui County Charter Commission Revised Final Report, which was completed the summer before 2002 elections.

The Charter Commission's Proposal 9 would have given the Board of Water Supply full autonomy versus what they had before. But Proposal 9 did not pass.

Alternative Proposal 9 (or Proposal 9A on the election ballots) which did pass is now an existing charter provision. Proposal 9A, initiated by the County Council and not by the Maui County Charter Commission, takes away the powers of the Board of Water Supply, from a semi-autonomous board to an advisory board. It vests complete control and management of the department to the administration.

The Maui County Council has control over the department in terms of budgetary

functions where previously the board controlled the department's budget. Rates

and fees which were part of the Board's rules are now a part of the county budget.

This board had the full authority to appoint and remove the director but now that

function rests with the administration subject to council approval.

Counsel Kushi stated that regarding this agenda item he is not sure what kind of

action the Board could take. You cannot change the charter by voting here. You

need to do an amendment (to the Charter) and it is too late for that.

Member Parsons stated that Mr. Kane made reference to the charter amendments in

that whether or not there was a public hearing to advise the public on the differences of the charter amendments. Was that something that should have been

done pursuant to the County Charter? If it wasn't done, does it have any reflection on the amendment itself? Mr. Kane seems to infer that this is a questionable issue.

Counsel Kushi stated that he does not know and his office would have to look at

it. He can only assume that the County Clerk would certify the ballot question

and in its certification would see that all the processes were completed. He is

not pointing fingers at anyone. This is a question that is new to him and therefore he cannot respond right now.

Member Parsons asked Counsel Kushi if he could look in to whether a public hearing

should have been held, because without rules the whole Water Department is in a

state of flux. Counsel Kushi stated that upon request he will look into the matter.

To comment on Member Parsons' comment on rules, Counsel Kushi stated that the

Board does have rules. The Department of Corporation Counsel has determined that

whatever is in this book (referring to Rules and Regulations of the Department of

Water Supply) and as long as it does not conflict with the charter provisions,

still exists. The Board has rules. The question is can the Board amend the rules?

Make new rules? Based on the charter provision the answer is no.

D. Discussion/possible action regarding Status Of The Board's Letter To Council

Chair Hokama Requesting The County Council Waive the Attorney-Client Privilege

On The Special Counsel's Findings.

At this time Deputy Corporation Counsel Edward Kushi distributed copies of the

following documents:

1. Memo from Chair Danny Mateo, Water Resources Committee, to Members of Water

Resources Committee, dated September 24, 2004, regarding Special Counsel that

the Maui County Council hired for water related matters.

This memo notified its members that they received a report from their special

counsel and that their special counsel has determined that the report is considered confidential attorney-client privilege.

2. Committee report from the Water Resources Committee dated October 15, 2004,

regarding receiving the report and the report is confidential and then proceeded

to go into executive session.

3. Memo from Michelle Anderson, Chair of the Water Resources Committee, to Brian

Moto, Corporation Counsel, dated July 25, 2005, questioning the status of that

report and why should it be attorney-client privilege.

4. Letter from G. Riki Hokama, Council Chair, to Michael Victorino, Board of Water Supply Chair, dated April 25, 2006, replying to Chair Victorino's letter

of April 10, 2006 that the report remains confidential.

5. Letter from Michael Victorino, Chair Board of Water Supply, to G. Riki Hokama as well as to Mayor Arakawa, dated April 10, 2006, requesting to have the report released to the Board of Water Supply.

6. Water Resources Committee agenda dated August 16, 2006 showing agenda item

WR-19, Special Counsel for Water-Related Matters. Chair Anderson of this committee is still pursuing the request to release that report. But because of scheduling that item was deferred.

Until the Council, who is the client, releases that report or waives its attorney-client privilege, it is not allowed to release anything. The Board

of Water Supply's suggestion to have the report released to them and redact or

cross out the sensitive matters, is not an alternative because there is a law

that states to the effect if you disclose partially you are deemed to disclose

entirely. Therefore, until the client discloses that report, this board cannot

receive it.

Member Parsons stated that special counsel was hired and paid for by funds, were those taxpayer funds? Counsel Kushi stated that he believes they were general funds.

Member Parsons asked how can this be their private attorney if the county taxpayers

are paying for the services? She recalls that there was a hearing where they

should hire an attorney on these issues and they should budget \$70,000.

It was

agreed to in front of the public. Counsel Kushi corrected by saying that it started at \$10,000 and ended up at \$70,000.

Member Parsons stated that if the public was aware that there was going to be

an attorney that the public was paying for, the public would expect the outcome

of that attorney's evaluation to be made public. Wouldn't it have been prudent

when asking for the money that the public be notified that they might never have heard the outcome of this attorney's opinion. No one was notified that there was a possibility that it would be a confidential matter. How could it be a confidential matter, it is a public issue?

Counsel Kushi stated that the report was produced by the council's special

attorney and paid for by county funds. No one knew of the substance of the report when the appointment was made. When the report came out, council's own attorney declared that this report should remain confidential.

Member Parsons stated that she doesn't know how it could be confidential. Counsel Kushi replied, because there could be issues of liability.

Member Howden stated it is shameful that when work has been done on issues that are of the public interest that we do not have access to that information regardless of so-called legal considerations.

Member Parsons asked Counsel Kushi if the Board can sue to get this information.

Counsel Kushi replied that the Board may have to hire special counsel to answer this question.

Chair Victorino stated that this is something that would need to be discussed and to answer Member Parsons' question, yes we could probably sue to obtain the information. That is part of our rights however; the Chair favors working with the system in getting that report.

Counsel Kushi stated the issue about the release of that report has not been concluded. Chair Anderson (Water Resources Committee) will be bringing this matter up in her committee. Counsel Kushi asks the Board's indulgence to let her get that report.

Chair Victorino stated that the Board will leave the matter at that and if any

member wanted to contact Ms. Anderson and put your support behind it that would

be their privilege to do so.

E. Discussion/possible action regarding Soliciting Donations Through The Water

Department's Bill Payment Program To Fund the East Maui Watershed Partnership.

Ms. Perdido stated that any donations the department receives would have to go to

council and there would have to be a resolution to accept it. It would be hard

to try to do this as a billing. Putting it as an insert would have many organizations wanting to do that. The department cannot add it on to the bill or

ask for a dollar donation as they do for presidential campaigns.

Chair Victorino stated that the thought behind this was as an insert, but once

you do for one who's to say the others cannot come forth and ask for the same

treatment. The Chair asked Counsel Kushi if it would be possible if limitations

were specified such as only for water matters, preserving and conserving. Counsel

Kushi stated that there might be an ethical problem using the County billing system to solicit private funds. His main concern was that the department should

not get involved in collections. The Chair clarified by stating the insert would

say if you want to help then send your assistance directly to the watershed program.

Counsel Kushi asked to defer his response until after he looks at the ethical

perspective of this. He agreed with Ms. Perdido, what is to stop other organizations

to ask for help too, and added that this department does fund this program through

grants.

Member Howden stated that to simplify the situation, perhaps part of the funds

received by department could be designated as watershed restoration funds, more

like an annuity so that these groups would know that they are supported and then

they could extend the scope of the necessary work they are doing.

Chair Victorino stated that this is a legislative matter and hopefully it would

be taken up in the near future.

Chair Victorino asked Counsel Kushi to follow up on the ethical issue of this

matter. Counsel Kushi replied that he would like the department to send him a

request and asked Ms. Perdido to frame the specific issue.

Member Parsons suggested that as long as the department is submitting this it

would be a good idea to get guidelines on size and weight. Chair Victorino

stated that before they get into that, they should look at the ethical part

and once we determine that then we can move on to the next part.

F. Verbal Update on Pookela Well.

At this time the Chair read a letter to Mayor Arakawa from Director Tengan, dated August 17, 2006, regarding the Status Report on Pookela Well Development

Project. Attached to this letter is a Status Report to Alva Nakamura, Chief Engineer, and George Tengan, Director, from Alan Murata, Engineering Division.

This report is a summary of the project's major areas of work, its status and

estimated completion schedule.

Well Pump, Motor, Electrical Controls - approximately 90% complete.

Discharge Piping, Sensors, Controls, Relays - approximately 80% complete.

Chlorination, Sensors, Controls, Relays - approximately 60% complete.

Logic Controls, SCADA - 10% complete.

Control Building, Sitework - 60% complete.

Allowing 8 weeks for analysis of water quality samples and DOH approval, the System

Test is projected to be performed in early November. The well may be fully operational by December 31, 2006.

Member Parsons requested a detail of all the testing that is done on this well

and asked if the department is testing for legionella as required by the new

EPA regulations. Director Tengan stated that he was not aware that this particular

test is a requirement at this time but he will check on it. As far as getting

the results of the water quality tests this is something that is sent to the certified lab and the department would like to get another analysis done. The

Director stated that if testing for legionella is required then they will test

for that.

Member Parsons asked for a copy of the testing when it comes out. Director Tengan replied yes.

G. List of Water Meters Issued for Upcountry.

Director Tengan stated that a report has been distributed to the board members

and stated there is one correction. It should read, "...these meters would account for approximately 2.0 million gallons per day."

This list basically shows when the applicant got on the list, the reference number - subdivision or meter request, the related tmk, the number of meters and the size of meters involved.

Chair Victorino stated that he assumes the total of 194 meters at the bottom (of this report) is the total that has been given out through August 21, 2006.

The Director added by stating that it also includes meters placed

on reservation.

Vice Chair Okamura asked how did the department arrive at the 2 million gallon

a day limit? The Director replied that it is just an estimate of what the department would feel comfortable with in issuing additional meters based on the Pookela Well coming on-line.

Vice Chair Okamura asked for figures as to how much is Pookela Well capable of producing? Director Tengan replied that the pump is rated at about 1.5 million gallons per day, 24 hours a day.

Vice Chair Okamura asked, how is that possible then that the amount of water issued by the department went beyond the capability of the well by half a million gallons per day? Director stated that the 1.2 is actually a decimal place error and the 2 million gallons is also a decimal place error. It should be 200,000 gallons rather than 2 million gallons a day.

Member Parsons asked how many hours a day does the department expect to be pumping. The Director replied that is a difficult question to answer specifically, but in order to produce the 200,000 gallons per day we would need to run the well 3 to 4 hours per day. The reason why it is difficult to

answer specifically is due to the composition of the Upcountry water system.

There are 3 water treatment plants; there are wells in the Haiku area - Kaupakalua and Haiku wells and also the Pookela Well coming on-line. The department will closely monitor the reservoir levels and based on these levels

the department will determine whether to run the pumps or not.

Member Parsons stated that in 2002 we had some prepaid meter reservations and

the money was returned in the early part of 2003 since we didn't have Pookela

Well on. Are the prepaid meter reservations on this list? Director Tengan stated he did not recollect that but does remember money being returned for the Central Maui system.

The Chair asked Ms. Perdido to look into that and bring it back to the next meeting and asked Member Parsons to be more specific in what she was referring

to. Member Parsons stated that at the end of 2002, when David Craddick and Mayor Apana opened up the well, they took meter reservations. The total amount of money that came in was about \$250,000. According to a letter she has, Director Tengan sent back the money to the owners. She just wanted to make sure that those people who came forward in 2002 were on this initial list to move forward.

Chair Victorino asked Member Parsons to forward a copy of that letter to him so

he may pass it on to the director. Director Tengan stated that if they were on

the list at the time to qualify for the making of a reservation, they would have

been taken in the order that they appeared on the list.

H. Receipt of Board Members requests for agenda items to be placed on future agendas.

1. Status of the 2002 Pre-Paid Water Meter Reservations.

2. Letter from Maui Invasive Species Committee requesting the Department's support

in controlling coqui frogs in the Maliko area.

3. Breakdown of rates and fees for different users. The Chair suggested this

item to be placed on the October meeting agenda.

4. Continue discussion on designation of watershed restoration fee. Some of the

monies that come into the department are designated for the support of the watershed.

5. Update on the status of the Kaupo system. The Chair recommended that this item

be brought up under Division Reports for the next meeting.

6. Update on where we stand with Wailuku Water Company and West Maui Water agreements.

7. Update on Hamakuapoko Well and discussion on its proposed discontinued use.

8. Discussion on Conservation Plan and Update by Members Lee Aldridge and Michael

Howden.

9. Discussion on missing wells from the 2005 Groundwater Contamination Maps for

the State of Hawai'i.

At this time Member Aldridge asked if there are members of this board who regularly

attend the Water Resources Committee meetings. The Chair replied the Member

Parsons does, and he tries to attend. Member Aldridge asked to be notified by

e-mail when and where this committee meets.

X. Division Reports

The board members were given a copy of a preliminary Upcountry Water Report.

Director Tengan stated that the department needs to verify the level at Waikamoi

but he believes we do not have any water at this time. The Wailoa Ditch is running at 49.9 mgd. The ditch has a capacity of 200 mgd so it is running at

about 25%. Storage capacity at Waikamoi is 13 - 15 million gallons but it is

empty at this time. At Kahakapao there are two 50 million gallon reservoirs,

holding a total of 39.2 million gallons which feeds the upper (Olinda) system.

At Piiholo there is a fifty million gallon reservoir which currently has 46.2

million gallons stored. The total from all available sources is 85.4 million

gallons.

Chair Victorino asked, on average, how many gallons a day is used for Upcountry,

including of East Maui? The Director replied that this report includes Haiku,

Kanaio, Pukalani, Makawao, Upper and Lower Kula. It doesn't include any communities beyond of Haiku, though Ulupalakua is included. He estimates the average to be about 6 to 7 million gallons per day, but he has seen it go as low as 4.5 mgd and as high as 10.5 mgd.

The Chair stated that what we are asking the public with that last notice was to

conserve whenever possible even though we have 85.4 million gallons available.

Director Tengan stated that is correct, to extend our storage supplies in the reservoirs.

Member Parsons stated that the department needs to inform the residents to conserve

water, i.e. no washing cars, no watering lawns, but yet continue to flush to get

the chlorination in their homes. The Director stated that to help with the flushing program where there are temporary meters for construction projects they

have allowed in certain instances the contractor to take the water from the portion of the system where the water is somewhat stagnant and needs to be flushed

for dust control rather than just letting it flow out into the streets. This

also benefits the department by generating revenue.

Vice Chair Okamura asked is there any program or plan to remind people that we

are on water conservation? Such as what to do in times like this, like a weekly

reminder. Director stated that the department will be doing

that periodically as

needed. The department will be reviewing this report to see if more reminders

are needed to conserve water.

Vice Chair Okamura stated that he remembers that during the last drought, the

department made an effort to fill the reservoirs with water before the restrictions

were in place. Is this strategy still being planned or in the works? Director

Tengan stated that he didn't know about filling up the reservoirs, though the

department does try to keep the reservoirs as full as possible. At Piiholo

plant the department tries to maintain the production at the plant to the amount

of water that is going into the reservoir. If 2 mgd is going into the reservoir

the department tries to cut back the production at the plant to 2 million gallons

and try to make it up with pumping from Kamole. This is where the Pookela Well

will be helping the department in meeting the demands. The department tries to

keep the reservoirs as full as possible especially when heading into drier periods.

All the water that is pumped into Piiholo Reservoir from Kamole will have to be

treated again. At least it helps to maintain that level in Piiholo.

Member Aldridge stated that being a resident of Haiku and having gone through more

than one of these droughts, there just seems to be a sense of inequity in terms

that every time there is a dry spell it is Upcountry that has suffer the consequences

of conserving water. It just points out the need for long term planning to boost

the long term supply for that area.

Chair Victorino stated that water conservation is Maui County's problem and all

of us should be conserving, wherever and whenever possible. The Chair pointed

out that water conservation ads on Oahu don't only specify a certain area but

to all of Oahu. We have to ask all residents to cut back when we have a shortage

of water.

Member Parsons stated that maybe it would be prudent to invite Chair Riki Hokama,

Michelle Anderson and Dr. Thomas to one of the Board's meetings to give a presentation on their proposal to the administration and to the water department.

Dr. Thomas who is with UH and they have drilled an 11,000 foot well on the Big

Island and hit artesian water. They feel they can do the same thing here on

Maui and the Council has allotted a budget for this. Maybe the board could help

to get it moved forward if we have more information. This could benefit the entire county if you could find the same kind of product that they found on the

Big Island.

The Chair stated that with the department staff's help he will put a

letter together

requesting that from Riki as well as from Michelle and see if we can get Dr. Thomas

here.

Director Tengan stated that the council did not provide the money through the

county's general fund. What they did was to take \$250,000 from the department's

county-wide projects and assigned it to this particular project. Chair Victorino

asked if county-wide projects meant CIP? The Director replied yes.

Member Parsons stated the \$250,000 is also going to a study for Upcountry as well.

There is another \$750,000 for CIP. It is her understanding that they took the

million dollars away from the Hamakuapoko project and moved it into some areas that

they felt were more viable. The Director stated that the point he wanted make

is that it is not coming from county funds it is coming from the Water Department

funds, taking money away from the department's CIP.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further discussion the August 24, 2006 Board of Water Supply meeting

was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Prepared and submitted by:

Gaye Hayashida

Commission Support Clerk

Approved on: _____

"By Water All Things Find Life"

Department of Water Supply
County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793-2155
Telephone (808) 270-7816
Fax (808) 270-7951

[\[Back\]](#)