

**SWRAC Meeting Summary Notes  
September 6, 2007**

Members present:

Darlene Endrina, Debra Kelly, Greg Apa, Kuhea Paracuelles, Mauricio Avila, Councilmember Mike Victorino, Robert Hoonan, Steve Perkins, Victor Reyes.

Members not present:

Councilmember Bill Medeiros, Eve Clute, Rick Woodford, Stuart Funke d'Egnuff, Susie Thieman, Terryl Vencl, Jack Freitas

Non-members present:

Chace Anderson, David Galazin, Diane Petropulos, George Correia, Gregg Kresge, Hana Steel, Kim Compoc, Lane Otsu, Lisa Skumatz, Patience Gaia, Sherri Morrison, Stacia Bobikevich, Tracy Takamine.

**I. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order 15 minutes late (1:15 pm) due to members arriving late.

Hana Steel welcomed the SWRAC and explained that next time the topic is Alternative Disposals, so please read Section 4, re: Waste to Energy and Alternative energy. Landfill capacity will also be discussed, but there is no required reading on that topic.

Request to have two topics discussed next time: capacity / density, and dirt-to-trash ratio.

Hana informed SWRAC that the presentation would be taped by Akaku.

Hana welcomed Lisa Skumatz and informed the committee that she has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from both the National Recycling Congress and the Solid Waste Association of North America.

Diane shared an article from the *Maui News* regarding "Burned timber as energy source."

**Public Introduction**

Members of the public introduced themselves: Lane Otsu, DOH, Solid Waste Division; Sherri Morrison, Managing Director for the County; Mike Kehano, Engineer For Solid Waste, Tracy Takamine and Patience Gaia

**Approval Of Minutes**

Corrections were noted on the present/not present list. Other corrections included: p. 5 reprocessing plant, and p. 10, "huge amounts of leachate."

**County Update Regarding GBB Recommendations**

Hana explained they have taken no action but all recommend under serious consideration. We are reviewing the recommendations and will make a decision later.

Tracy explained informed the committee that as of Tuesday we discontinued use of the receiving area for green waste and placed the operation of green waste on the Phase 5 area and everything goes through the main entrance of the landfill. This provides the operation with a lot more space, increasing safety, less chance for fire, should run better as a whole

Question regarding how the recommendations will be made, will it include more data? Might include more data on C&D waste. Hana says they have not yet discussed that yet. The C&D Landfill owner is operating on his own, and they need to find out his plans. He submits an annual report each year, which is sent to DOH. However the report is considered confidential b/c it is a private business.

Question re: green waste and food waste. Will there be more on this topic? Chace, alternative discussion on organics will be discussed next time. Request to have Maui info available for that discussion.

Gregg got the check list and the building permit. Basically nothing in place that governs C&D disposal. Nothing the document mandates recycling. The focus is only on what can and cannot be built. With Ritz and Renaissance, their decisions re: C&D and recycling were part of the negotiation process they had with the County. According to the planning department, they were not regulated to do that.

#### **Consensus Point Alternative**

Kim opened up a discussion regarding an alternative just in case consensus cannot be reached. Group unanimously chose ranking favorites as the alternative.

#### **Process Flow Chart, Consensus Point Schedule, ISWMP: Substantial or Revised**

Hana explained that changes to the schedule (i.e. moving dates) are not possible. On Thursday November 7 there will be a brief presentation on zero waste.

Chace Anderson presented a flow chart (which had been reviewed by Corp Counsel and State Regulators beforehand) that showed the stages of the Solid Waste Integrated Plan before it is finalized and approved by both the State and Maui County Council.

We are in Step 1. Once SWRAC has the full plan presented, then there is a 120 day trigger before it goes to the state. Lane Otsu, from DOH, will be reviewing the drafts informally before that time and providing comments. If this becomes a substantial revision, the plan will be placed for public comment for a period of 60 days. Then it goes back to SWRAC for review/revise, then to the State. After this process is completed, it goes to the Executive Branch, and then to the County Council where it will be voted upon.

Question regarding 90 day window, is it statutory? Lane says they are comfortable with that; it is not technically 90 days. B/c public works committee of the council concerned about the amount of time it takes.

Chace said the Oct 4 and 18th meetings will be the time to decide on recommendations. A week before each meeting SWRAC members will get a list of all the recommendations that have been provided in the presentations. Members must go through them and give consensus advice on each of those recommendations. GBB will also provide recommendations to staff. GBB will take this info and build 5 scenarios based on recommendations of Solid Waste Division and the SWRAC. This will have financial, capital, operational going out for 20 years. That's when the big picture of these recommendations will become clear. Also, SWRAC can choose a hybrid in the final version.

Question regarding the attendance at those two meetings b/c important to get the maximum participation possible. Diane asked the group about their own attendance: one member will be absent on Oct 4 – so 8 total of the people here today will be present One member will be absent on Oct 18 – so 8 total of the people here today will be present

When 5 people missing or more, it might throw things off quite a bit. Chace will put out an email to check if the other 7 intend to come.

Can the questionnaire go out ahead of time? Can people vote via email? David from Corp Counsel will have to think about it.

Can a SWRAC member be a proxy for another SWRAC member? Corp Counsel said no.

Chace explained that re: Universal Collection – Consultant was tasked to find out if everyone on the island should be collected at the curb or look at some other form of universal collection. Joe Mehaffey and Frank Bernheisel recommended that universal collection be for all residents on streets and roads that meet county standards. The consultant also recommended that there be a standard of service involving once per week refuse collection and once every-other week single stream of recyclables collected. Universal collection was not interpreted as a revenue type program but simply as a collection policy.

**Introduced the presenter: Lisa Skumatz**

Lisa Skumatz will be presenting on how we can generate some revenue through the Pay As You Throw (PAYT), similar to California's program which has been in place for many years. When Robert Haley discussed the San Francisco's PAYT, he said no person better as far as her prominence and expertise.

*[Please refer to the PowerPoint Handout on PAYT]*

### **Group Discussion: What is important for Maui?**

On the one hand, the island has limited space for landfills. On the other, there is a culture of being able to dump for free. People do not accept a change from free to cost easily. Some may actually litter their trash rather than pay for the disposal/collection.

There is local central landfill however there are commercially operating MRFs that are handling the island's recyclables now.

Must create a rate system that is equitable to the consume but also on par with the rates currently being paid by businesses.

There were concerns expressed regarding the viability of recycling on an island with transportation cost so high and local processing facility so lacking.

A discussion of pay as you throw and illegal dumping on Lanai occurred. Education was considered half the battle. Lanai is majority Filipino immigrants. If someone understands the problem, it can work out. Also the presenter's slide should say Maui County, not Maui.

We need a program that will fund the needed environmental education and enforcement.

If we look at Maui as a whole, we find a merging of agricultural and urban waste. A system that utilizes both is best for Maui.

On Molokai, illegal dumping occurs. We should recycle and reuse as much as we can on the islands.

What's important is conserving space and landfill, closing the loop on island and creating a sustainable situation. .

### **Power point continues.**

#### **Group Discussion - Negatives Outcomes and concerns?**

Many of the examples shown in the presentation are in places with only residential programs, but not for the commercial sector. A lot of time they leave commercial unregulated.

Lisa: PAYT concerns residential; however, some communities do take some responsibility or exercise some authority over the commercial sector. Seattle and Aspen are examples.

How many of the examples are doing it through franchise or private collection, or collection by the jurisdiction/municipality? The reason is mostly it's a county based collection rather than on the tour they are using mostly franchise. Implementation might be an issue for us.

Lisa: Seattle does its own collection; SF has a franchised hauler. Boulder is not franchised – it is competitive with multiple haulers able to serve households.

What percentage collection by public, what percentage does franchise?

Lisa: I don't have statistics; however, my impression based on our data is that in most western states the public does not pick up the commercial, it is competitive hauling.

The institutional structure has a big influence, this must be noted. Look at SF and others, they have a strong hand on what happens.

Lisa: SF is very unusual place because if you want to change hauler, it must be by a vote of the people.

**Powerpoint Continues.  
Discussion by the group**

Website for EPA peer match?

Lisa: Do a search for PAYT on Google. Go to communities button, there's a map and a form. You can email Lisa (Skumatz@serainc.com) if there's a problem.

Carbon emissions: an SUV puts out about 10,000 tons of carbon per year, when you look at these numbers, you can see the impact. The companies have been putting out systems since the Clean Air Act where there is cleaner pollution trading. Are there any cities that have tried that, if you go below a certain base you can get some kind of credit, credit for C&D, by setting a limit or rewards if you go below that?

Lisa: On several of our projects, we are trying to get this system in place in a couple of cities.

The compaction capacity of landfill is not constant. When you get to LF it all gets compacted to the same rate.

Lisa: the compaction of residential and commercial differs, and then it goes to a landfill and is further compacted.

Landfill works on LF volume not weight.

Lisa: goal for recycling is usually based on tons. Landfill lifetime depends on volume, toxicity, tons, etc., and all matter and no one factor will capture lifetime perfectly. Tons matter and cubic yards matter. It's not easy to measure or estimate the residential yardage quickly at the curb during collection, and we demonstrated that weight is easier and that it can be measured accurately and quickly.

The obstacles to implementation? Is it sometimes that people are attached to the infrastructure?

Lisa – yes, I need to know the goal. PAYT can be part of it, depending.

I am for PAYT It will be hard to implement because the residents, as a whole, pay a much cheaper rate than if you were a commercial business.

Lisa: If you put in PAYT, what will happen to rate levels? The data imply that if no other changes occur, costs (and thus rates) will not need to increase, or will not increase much. However, if you elect to put in PAYT the same year you invest in significant infrastructure (that is invisible to households) that increases costs – or try to remedy any subsidies between commercial and residential rates - then PAYT rates will increase, PAYT will be (unfairly) blamed, and you may undermine the PAYT program. PAYT gets blamed for problems it didn't create. You must implement PAYT when the system is level, otherwise you will undermine that program. And one way to help increase the acceptance of the PAYT rates may be to make the change at the same time as new, convenient services are introduced for households. Also if communities have been embedding all the costs in taxes, it can be helpful to put the charge for garbage as a line item on the tax bill so that people will see it comes out of your tax bill.

When the adoption of variable rates, the section on riders, and rising cost was an early driver, I am wondering are we doing this based on a nearly driver b/c LF costs going up and LF space running out, or do we look at this and we are beyond that early stage and looking at recycling goals?

Lisa: LF costs a major issue for many communities.

We talked about C&D last time. Can this system be applicable to C&D as well?

Lisa: C&D gets charged already. It is already getting a volume-based incentive. Different picture. For C&D diversion a C&D deposit system like San Jose has been very effective, but importantly, you need options for recycling the C&D

The driving force is driven by statute. Goal for state is 50% diversion. Other driving force is we have a bag ordinance out there, trying to get rid of bags, may be seen as contradictory if that is implemented.

How do you charge for the weight-based system and how do you quantify a bill for this system? Do you turn collectors into accountants?

Lisa – For weight-based systems, when the can goes close to the truck, the RF tag goes close to the antenna and the weight and household code number gets downloaded to computer system. The billing calculations are very straightforward.

Chace – some private haulers that use programs that use volume measurement. One cart, side bags, a picture is taken and it goes into the accountants' software, and it goes on the bill with date and time of collection.

Low income system, how do they set that up in a Pay as you throw system?

Lisa: The most difficult part is certification; many programs piggy-back on other certifications, allowing people to mail in their certification for welfare or other similar programs. A key component in the adoption of PAYT is political will, that boils down to the people we elect, not necessary the SWRAC. However, based on what I've seen elsewhere, committees like the SWRAC can have a strong influence.

Apparently pressure from elsewhere on rates, how do you get people to take a stand, take risk politically?

They have to realize what needs to be done.

Gregg – Our cost recovery is this, and constituents say we can't afford an increase. When an increase is not supported, we have to find money elsewhere to fund it. The councilmember is making that decision that the money will be subsidized. We must do direct cost recovery somewhere.

Two different ways to do it, put a defacto rate at the LF, hit the commercial, then it will take care of the residential. We have to raise our rates. The residents don't pay anything and the commercial will get jacked up. No is vote is being taken during that. The businesses can't say, no I voted against that.

Lisa: if it's by statute that Maui is obliged to reach a 50% goal, then this committee can come up with a mix of programs to get to that goal. PAYT is comprehensive b/c 17% is a big hit for the residential sector. Getting recommendations to Public Works Director is one thing that will help get that political will. Once they know it has been analyzed by different stakeholders, that has weight. You all represent different groups that can put political will behind it as well. With PAYT the rates have to go up – this idea is a myth. Not necessarily true. In 2/3 of cities the cost went down or stayed same. People pay bills, not rates, an individual house will typically not go up. A bill will represent the behavior according to each house, a base "rate" per can, but the bill will be a specialized. Degree of responsibility for their bill, which they did not have in the past.

Tracy – Staff places residential rates where they should be, which means higher than they are now, but when it gets to the administration it is weighed among a plethora of political and financial factors that can easily stop an increase from taking place. Whereas the tip fee at the landfill does not seem to be weighed as severely as residential rates. The tip fee has gone up in each of the last 2 years whereas the residential rate has not

What is your experience with strategies to implement pay as you throw?

Lisa: I've seen many responses. One council adopted a PAYT but let the next council adopt the actual rates. We've seen other places where we watched one mayor who was not in favor of an increase of rates, then did public comments and people saw more costs

ok b/c recycling important. The political will can come from many directions, but it needs to be sustained.

Hana: could this group be the champions?

Lisa: yes, in my experience citizens committee were very strongly listened to. I'm guessing you have some heft in this community.

Will there be a series of hearings to have questions, etc? Is that a reasonable strategy?

Hana: during the public hearing process that's when it's a good idea for members to be there. To explain anything about recommendations. Good to have educational sessions. Part of the requirements of bring in this group you are in the community talking every month. This group is extremely important in moving solid waste into new directions. Pivotal group here.

Will there be some form of rate study to go along with the recommendations? If PAYT is recommended, a parallel rate study, so we can make our decisions, some basis for our decisions.

Chace – at some point that will have to be.

Can pay as you throw incorporate cost of enforcement?

Lisa: very often. Many programs have staff do periodic inspections to make sure people are not cheating on subscription levels. This is often staff and not law enforcement. For enforcing illegal dumping, sometimes law enforcement is behind that. A cop knocking on the door is a serious disincentive.

Gregg: the department of Environmental Management is working with other departments on the abandoned vehicles problem, which is huge. Part has to do with enforcement, inspection, having somebody out there from solid waste performing that duty. It may fall into that function. Will always involve police department. We need them to do a report, and have that in the county system.

Any cities taking this system to the extreme, where they are subsidizing something else with it?

Lisa: usually the rates cover recycling costs, and base fee involves an environmental fee which may, for instance, cover household hazardous waste or similar programs / responsibilities.

Good to inject some money into law enforcement, which is understaffed, they could get overworked.

Gregg: very little enforcement to do date b/c criminal littering, in order to go forward a police report is key, then an investigation, then prosecution. Prosecutor's office has to see merit in the action and actually go forward. There is a chain of events. Whether we inspect, or we fine, we need the police dept to do that report first.

Lisa: depends on the penalty.

Hana: what is to enforce with PAYT? If we say no recyclables in the trash, solid waste inspectors can do that, what is the connection?

Lisa: it is not a big issue at all. If the main issue is enforcing can limits, it can be a code official who says you're putting out extra, and need to pay more.

Hana: I don't think there is a job description regarding illegal dumping, solid waste division does not deal with littering or illegal dumping – yet. Maybe we need to go into that and put this into the context of the county structure so that somewhere it is deal with. Lane: we have provisions under our statute that deal with illegal dumping, but also it goes back to the context which is true at the state also, there are many issues there.

Regardless, the public perception is that the county is responsible. The department of Environment Management is the closest match for that. If we have an opportunity to do something a bout that, I think we should incorporate that. We talked about the cost being a great worry if we implement something that would have to address that 50% diversion goal, since we are talking about Waste to Energy next time, and b/c SWRAC now stands for resource, might be some way to mitigate the costs by looking at the revenue that would help answer some of those additional costs that might come about.

I don't pay for any trash pick up b/c I take my own. I wouldn't mind PAYT but I would still have to bring my own. I would like to pay less than others, b/c on Molokai and Lanai we have to haul our own. I don't want to pay the same as the county coming to my house. Also, I have met with other community people and found out we had a bag bill. One of the markets they are concerned. One small store, they don't use plastic bags, they just don't have any. That is key. The other retailers large, family business, they are concerned. Overall they kind of agree, they know why it is being proposed. They are concerned about meat. There are fears about E-coli. They have concerned about non composting types. It breaks down in smaller pieces. Regarding the ordinance, I'd like to see a copy of that.

Tracy: bill has not been presented yet. It drafted by mike Molina's office. It might have gone out, but it's not at committee yet.

Hana: this is exactly why this committee is important. You can bring the issue from your community. Bag bill refers to single use grocery bags. We want the meat to be wrapped and sanitary. If grocery stores are concerned, we want to address those questions. It's a work in progress. Education is important. We have a couple thousand reusable bags to send to Molokai. You can go back with bags that no one has to buy.

Gregg: regarding recommendations for enforcement, if that is a key component, that will need to be reviewed within your decision making, and know where that is within the county structure.

**Public comment**

None.

Next Meeting:

September 20