

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, March 28, 2007, 9:06 a.m.

Liquor Control Conference Room, 75-5722 Hanama Place, Suite 1107, Kailua-Kona, HI

COMMISSIONERS
PRESENT:

Carolyn Witcher
Marjorie Erway
Suzanne Mayhew
Diana Miller
Arnold Okamura
Paulette Pavao
Bill Sanborn
Sam Sumner

ALSO
PRESENT:

Sue Aronson
Lil Beaufriere
Steve Cassulo
Jon Olson
Riley Smith

EXCUSED:

Bobby Cooper

STAFF:

Barbara Bell, Director
Dora Beck, TSS Chief
Michael Dworsky, SWD Chief
Keith Harris, West HI AV Coordinator
Sharron Henry, Secretary
Lyle Hirota, TSS Engr.
Nelson Ho, Deputy Director
Paul Ochi, WWD Supervisor
Bobby Jean Leithead-Todd, Corp Counsel

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Commission Chair Witcher called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2007 MEETING:**
Commissioner Okamura moved to approve the January 24, 2007 minutes as written.
Commissioner Pavao seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **APPROVAL OF ADDENDUM AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA:** None
4. **STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON AGENDA:** None
5. **CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS/DISCUSSION:**

Abandoned Vehicle Program Report (attached to original minutes) – Taken out of order.

- Commission member Sanborn stated his appreciation for the fast response to removing vehicles in Waimea.
- Director Bell introduced Lil Beaufriere, the Abandoned Vehicle Task Force chair.
- Keith Harris is working with the community in locating abandoned vehicles.

Wastewater Division Report (attached to original minutes) – Taken out of order.

- Director Bell introduced Paul Ochi, Acting WWD Supervisor.

KEALAKEHE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

- The WWD is currently awaiting the written report from from the DOH February 22, 2007 inspection. The WWD was given a verbal okay.
- Dewatering should be processed by private companies. The County's DOH permit does not allow us to perform this process. Biosolids should then be taken to the landfill.

HILO WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

- Committee member Okamura commended Lyle Hirota on the detailed Bypass analysis report provided to the Commission.
- A back-up plan is being implemented if equipment fails in the future.

Solid Waste Division Report (attached to original minutes)

- Commission member Sanborn had questions about the recycled oil program. Recycle Hawai'i operates this program and they should be contacted directly with any concerns.

HILO LANDFILL

- The Division is in the process of responding to additional questions from DOH on the permit modification application relating to seismic analyses.

TRANSFER STATIONS

- Commission member Sanborn thanked the Division for cleaning and organizing the Waimea transfer station.
- Council Chair Hoffmann provided additional funds for fencing at the Waimea transfer station.

Technical Services Section Report (attached to original minutes)

HONOKAA LARGE CAPACITY CESSPOOL REPLACEMENT

- There will be a public meeting on April 17, 2007 to provide status of the project.

QUEEN LILIU`OKULANI VILLAGE LARGE CAPACITY CESSPOOL REPLACEMENT

- Currently looking for alignment so that County sewer can be made available for the Village.
- The next step is to request a temporary sewer easement from the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) and Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation.
- Another option would be an easement along Palani Road through DHHL and State lands.

NORTH KONA SEWER & EFFLUENT REUSE UPGRADE

- Council approved \$40M for this upgrade infrastructure and \$7.75M for Phase I.

PERSONNEL

- Interviews were held for the Engineering Support Technician and reference follow-up is being conducted on one applicant.

Director's Report (attached to original minutes)

FULL COUNCIL AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES UPDATE

- Council approved:
 - 1.75M for West Hawai'i composting facility
 - Resolution requiring mandatory recycling at County facilities
 - Resolution calling for DEM to draft a bill for mandatory glass recycling at bars and restaurants
 - Bill for an ordinance to tighten up illegal dumping enforcement
 - \$2M for reload facility construction
 - \$40M for North Kona Sewer & Effluent Reuse Upgrade infrastructure
 - \$7.75M for Phase I of the North Kona Sewer & Effluent Reuse Upgrade.
 - Resolution authorizing Mayor to sign contract for 2 years for collection and hauling of recyclables at transfer stations passed first reading.
- In Process: Resolution authorizing waiver of County Fuel tax for biodiesel.

WASTE REDUCTION TECHNOLOGY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

- The next council presentation will be April 3, 2007 in West Hawai'i at the Council Environmental Management Committee.
- A number of public community organization meetings will be held in early April.
- The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Public Notice is accessible on the Department website.
- Proposals are due April 16, 2007.

OCEAN VIEW TRANSFER STATION PROJECT

- The EIS process that will begin in April on a potential site located adjacent to the highway near mile marker 76, will be publicly noticed and discussed at public meetings.
- The County plans to do highway improvement if this site is selected.

INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- The update for this plan has been included in the department FY 07-08 budget request.
- The revised 5-Year Solid Waste Management Plan Outline was distributed (attached to the original minutes).
- There is flow control case (haulers vs. municipalities) currently in the US Supreme Court that could affect bale and barge, relating to the requirement of disposal in municipalities where it is collected or where the municipality directs.
- Council member Yagong is planning to introduce a resolution to consider a new East Hawai'i landfill. A modification to the plan would be necessary.
- A Honolulu Advertiser article entitled "*Landfill closure costs rise to \$17M*" dated March 17, 2007 was distributed (attached to the original minutes).

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

7. NEW BUSINESS

DEPARTMENT RESPONSE TO KONA-KOHALA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION SUBMITTAL

- Sue Aronson and Riley Smith, Chamber representatives, were introduced to the Commission.
- Instead of offering questions as reported in the January 24, 2007 minutes, Ms. Aronson gave a presentation that included her background and experience, a discussion of R-1 water relating to its constraints, possibilities, use and treatment. A summary of her presentation and possible next steps to continue dialogue will be provided by Ms. Aronson, distributed to Commission members and appropriate department staff (attached to the original minutes).
- Dora Beck provided (attached to original minutes):
 - Summary of the March 1st phone meeting between the department, Aronson and Smith
 - Kealakehe Wastewater Treatment Plant fact sheet including background information
 - Estimated future flows information
 - Project data sheets
 - Details for sewer and effluent reuse
 - Sewer maps
- **Beck will have the fact sheet and other pertinent documents added on the department website.**
- Aronson requested a copy of the DOH results of the department's request for NPDES permit modifications. Hirota explained that this application was for the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant, not Kealakehe.
- Aronson distributed a draft letter from Dr. Richard H. Bennett (attached to original minutes) and requested the department respond.

- Aronson requested the department check into the possibilities of decentralization versus laying lines along Queen Ka`ahumanu Highway. Deputy Director Ho offered to dialogue with Aronson.

DISCUSSION: FY 07-09 DEPARTMENT BUDGET (attached to original minutes)

- Director Bell identified department funds: Sewer, Vehicle Disposal and Solid Waste.
- New positions and major equipment requests were noted.
- Accounts Receivable delinquencies were discussed.
 - Department has no hammer to enforce payment of delinquent bills. The County does not have sewer hook-up fees and the Council is reluctant to increase the sewer fees.
 - Commission members will assist the department in communicating with the Water Board relating to combining water/sewer bills and shutting off water for delinquencies.
 - After doing a rate study, the department will request a wastewater fee increase this year.
- Landfill tipping fee will increase to \$85/ton in FY 07-08.
- A supplemental \$350,000 will be requested in the May budget.
- **Sanborn will prepare a letter to Council identifying the department's 3 priorities.**
- Department's major Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) are composting facility infrastructure, reload facility and transfer station upgrades.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Waste Reduction Technology Vision Statement for Council
- Wastewater Division Statement
- Trash Tour

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS

- May 23, 2007, Liquor Control Conference Room, First Floor, 101 Aupuni Street, Hilo, HI 96720
- July 25, 2007, Waimea Community Center (Park) Building, 65-1260 Kawaihae Road, Kamuela, Hawai'i 96743
- September 26, 2007, Kona Council Office, 75-5706 Hanama Place, Suite 109, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
- November 21, 2007, Liquor Control Conference Room, First Floor, 101 Aupuni Street, Hilo, HI 96720

10. ADJOURNMENT

Mayhew moved to adjourn. Erway seconded and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

SHARRON HENRY
Environmental Management Secretary