

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

Wednesday, May 24, 2006, 9:03 a.m.

Hilo County Council Room, 25 Aupuni Street, Room 201

Hilo, HI 96720

**COMMISSIONERS**

**PRESENT:**

Carolyn Witcher  
Sam Kawamura  
Suzanne Mayhew  
Diana Miller  
Arnold Okamura  
Bill Sanborn  
Sam Sumner

**ALSO**

**PRESENT:**

Skip Bethea  
Steve Cassulo  
Jon Olson

**EXCUSED:**

Marjorie Erway

**STAFF:**

Dora Beck, TSS Chief  
Michael Dworsky, SWD Chief  
Sharron Henry, Secretary  
Nelson Ho, Deputy Director  
Bobby Jean Leithead-Todd, Corp Counsel

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Commission Vice Chair Witcher, in the absence of Commission Chair Erway, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. She welcomed Suzanne Mayhew, new Commissioner from District 5 and each Commission member introduced themselves. Witcher also announced there are two tours following today's meeting: (1) Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant and (2) South Hilo Landfill, recycling areas and bottle bill redemption area.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2006 MEETING:**  
**Arnold Okamura made a motion to approve the March 15, 2006 minutes. Bill Sanborn seconded the motion. Motion passed with 6 members voting to approve and Mayhew abstaining.**
3. **APPROVAL OF ADDENDUM AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA:** None
4. **STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ITEMS LISTED ON AGENDA:**  
Jon Olson gave a short summary of the "Talking Trash" recycling conference he attended on Saturday and spoke against incineration for disposal of the County's waste.
5. **CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS/DISCUSSION:**

**Solid Waste Division Chief's Report** (attached to original minutes)

**STUDIES:**

- Mountain Edge Environmental is preparing a study identifying/defining the limits of the old Waimea Landfill in order to extend the transfer station. As part of this study, they will develop a Fire Management Plan for the landfill.
- Townscape, Inc. is preparing a feasibility study for Waikoloa curbside recycling and trash pick-up program. This program would be a pilot project for possible future use in rural areas around the island. Rates for curbside pick-up can be added to the Waikoloa Association fees.
- We have received an EPA grant to identify and study Brownfields areas, exclusive

of County sites, like old sugar mills and dumps that are possibly hazardous but might be reclaimed for economic benefit or some subdivision or residential use for the land. There will be community meetings and an inventory of sites will be compiled.

#### WEST HAWAII COMPOSTING FACILITY:

- On the first vote by Council on the Mayor's amended budgets, the funds to build the infrastructure were eliminated from the CIP budget.
- Dworsky said after reviewing the files, he found nothing wrong with the RFP process and contract.
- Sanborn suggested, and the other commission members agreed, that appropriate Administrative personnel meet with Council members to continue to educate them about this facility. A power point presentation to Council and residents was another suggestion. Dworsky agreed.
- Processing of biodiesel will be built into the composting program in the future.
- Also in the future, there will be FOG/cooking oil containers in Hilo and Kona.

#### TRANSFER STATIONS:

- Commissioners requested copies of the Transfer Station Repair and Enhancement Plan. **Henry will distribute copies prior to the next meeting.**
- Commission member Miller thanked Dworsky for the chute covers installed at Keaau.

#### STAFFING:

- Hilo Landfill supervisor position is now in the budget.

#### EQUIPMENT:

- Working with Waste Management to rent a compactor until ours is fixed.

#### RECYCLING:

- Boxboard can be recycled at the recycling areas at Hilo and Kona Transfer Stations.
- Some private companies, like Wal-Mart and Safeway, are accepting plastic bags.

#### Abandoned Vehicle Program Report (attached to original minutes)

- James Isa was not present. Witcher reminded Dworsky that the commission requested Isa's attendance at all commission meetings.
- Sanborn requested an update on steps taken to improve the system between the Police Department and Solid Waste Division. Henry reported that Director Bell wrote a memo to the Police Department to follow-up on proper procedures.
- As a member of the Abandoned Vehicle Task Force, Jon Olson reported that at the last meeting, there was a discussion regarding the department pursuing a \$50 bounty program for removal of cars to appropriate disposal sites before they become abandoned.

#### Wastewater Division Chief's Report (attached to original minutes)

##### OPERATIONS:

- The names of the Queen Emma and King Kamehameha pump stations have been changed. Queen Emma is now Keopu Sewer Pump Station and King Kamehameha is Lanihau Sewer Pump Station.
- Okamura asked why there was a \$700,000 change in the amended sewer fund budget. **Ho will check with Business Services and report back to the**

### **Commission.**

- Kealahou Wastewater Treatment plant lagoon samples were analyzed for Total Phosphorous and Total Nitrogen levels and it was determined there were no problems with the nitrate levels and as of now, treatment is not necessary.

### **Technical Services Section Report** (attached to original minutes)

#### **EAST HAWAII REGIONAL SORT STATION:**

- Revised plans, reflecting the lower cost alternatives agreed to by County Council, are expected from the consultant by May 30, 2006.
- Anticipating the Notice to Proceed to be sent to contractor in mid July.

#### **NORTH KONA IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT PROJECT:**

- The first of 4 informational public meetings will be held June 6<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Kealahou High School Cafeteria.
- The draft Sewer Master Plan will be available on the County website.

#### **LARGE CAPACITY CESSPOOLS:**

- Department of Health has responsibility for individual cesspools.
- EPA requires owners of large capacity cesspool to report them to EPA. Unless there are deed assignments, the individual home owners are responsible for the cost of replacement and replacing their large capacity cesspools with individual cesspools.

### **Director's Report** (attached to original minutes)

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Approximately 70 people attended the Mauna Lani Recycling conference on Saturday, May 20, 2006.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Council deleted approval to fund the West Hawai'i Composting Facility from the CIP Budget. The May 24<sup>th</sup> West Hawai'i Today article relating to this funding was discussed.
- Green waste tip fees do make up for the increased cost to compost.
- There's a two-year payback for the infrastructure.

#### **OTHER:**

- Ho feels that the 3 waste-to-energy proposals that were short listed for Stage 2 of the Waste Reduction Technology Request for Proposal (RFP) will be very controversial. He said that the Director wants the commissioners to weigh in on and be educated on the issues to help direct the discussions that happen in the public.
- There was a discussion regarding the County's waste-to-energy procurement: Is it a bad option? Can the island's waste stream support it? Will the County lose money? Leithead-Todd discussed the decisions made in the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, alternatives to a new landfill in East Hawai'i and the expense of the alternatives.

#### **POSSIBLE LEGISLATION/RULES FOR THE FUTURE:**

- The ordinances and resolutions listed on the second page of the Director's report represent many long term projects.
- Ho requested the commission to take one or more of these items and help the department devise a public relations campaign, or key points, that the department

wants the public to understand so they can help the department lobby and educate the Council through the process.

- Sanborn asked about the tires, batteries and other household hazard waste items that are being left at transfer stations. The Transfer Station Enhancement Plan is trying to address additional drop off areas and this will require modifying the Department of Health transfer station permits which don't allow those items to be taken at the transfer stations currently.
- Aside from the bi-annual County household hazardous waste disposal days, there are private companies that take commercially generated or household hazardous items if they can't be held.

#### 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

##### STATUS REPORT – AUDIT, RESOLUTION NO. 168

- Report has not been completed.

##### REPORT ON MAUI TRASH TOUR – COMMISSION MEMBER OKAMURA

- Okamura reported on the participants, the sites visited and distributed the Hawai'i Island Journal article written by Alan McNarie who attended.

##### UPDATE ON WATER COMMISSION COMMUNICATION – COMMISSION MEMBER SANBORN

- Previous County Councils have refused to approve water shut-off for non payment of bill. Board of Water Supply, when approached in the past, has been unwilling to be involved in joint water-sewer bills or interested in water shut-off.
- **Okamura moved that the Department draft an ordinance, to be sent to the County Council, allowing the Department to terminate sewer services to any very delinquent user, to include thresholds, account size, discretion of the Director, a notification process, subsequent enforcement and appeals process, for non payment of bill. Mayhew seconded and it passed unanimously. Ho will work with Leithead-Todd to draft this ordinance and have it at the next Commission meeting for discussion and decision making.**
- Termination of sewer service would be via installation of a shut-off valve in the sewer line.
- **Sanborn made a motion that the Director implement possible changes in future projects that meet a certain threshold by requiring shut-off valve in the installation process, as opposed to having to come back and re-fit it. Sumner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.** Leithead-Todd will have a draft ordinance for discussion and decision making next meeting.

#### 7. NEWS BUSINESS (Taken out of order)

##### DISCUSSION: WATER SHUT-OFF OR OTHER MEASURES FOR NON PAYMENT OF SEWER FEES:

- See 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS, Update on Water Commission Communication - Commission Member Sanborn above.

##### DISCUSSION AND DECISION MAKING: CONTINUANCE OF DERELICT VEHICLE AMNESTY PROGRAM FOR FY 06-07

- **Sanborn made a motion to recommend extending the program. Mayhew seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

DISCUSSION: COST OF GOVERNMENT COMMISSION QUESTIONS

- **Okamura made a motion to endorse the recommendations made by the Director and to add the following to Question 1:**
  - **Provide work program for foreign engineers**
  - **Recruit hard to fill positions by way of private employment contracts.****Kawamura seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**
- **Henry will draft letter to be reviewed and finalized by Commission Chair and Vice Chair.**

8. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** None

9. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS

- July 26, 2006, Waimea, Community Center (Park) Building, 65-1260 Kawaihae Road, Kamuela, HI 96743
- September 27 ,2006, Kona, Mayor's Office Conference Room, 75-5706 Kuakini Highway, Suite 103, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
- November 22, 2006, Hilo, County Council Room ,25 Aupuni Street, Room 201, Hilo, HI 96720

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Kawamura moved to adjourn. Mayhew seconded and motion was carried unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 11:25 p.m.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:

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SHARRON HENRY  
Environmental Management Secretary

FORMAT NOTE: ACTION ITEMS ARE IN **BOLD** PRINT (MOTIONS AND ITEMS REQUIRING ACTION TO BE TAKEN FOR FUTURE MEETINGS).