

## SWAC Meeting Notes – August 25, 2008

---

Meeting started at 11:10am

Break 12:35pm to 12:50pm

Resume meeting 12:50pm

Meeting ended 2:00pm

**Present:** Barbara Bell, Christine Dochin, Angela Friley (for Paul Buklarewicz), Alex Leonard, Steve Okoji, Shon Pahio, Russell Ruderman, Nimr Tamimi, Ted Vorfeld, DOH  
Rep: Lane Otsu

**Absent:** Jes Foster, Mike Kaha, Mike Gleason, Paul Buklarewicz

**Staff Present:** Bobby Jean Leithead-Todd, Nelson Ho, Mike Dworsky, Linda Peters, Terin Gloor, Suzanne Andrade

**Consultants:** Dan Pitzler, Marc Dexter

### Agenda

In accordance with the agenda, this meeting included the following topics:

- Introductory remarks
- Approval of minutes from June 16, 2008 meeting
- New Business
  - CH2M HILL presentation on draft Waste Stream Assessment Chapter and Waste Composition Study
  - Solid Waste Advisory Committee comments on draft Waste Composition Study
  - Solid Waste Advisory Committee comments on draft Waste Stream Assessment Chapter
  - Summary of July public meetings (Kona, Waimea, Hilo)
  - Waste Reduction and Public Education Chapters – further discussion
- Statements from the public on agenda items
- Announcements
- Adjournment

### Discussion

#### Waste Stream Assessment Section and Waste Composition Study

- Some SWAC members felt that the use of the term “Recycling” when referring to transfer stations was confusing. Dan explained that was part of a name change for the facilities that the Department is making. Clarify tables in the report to be sure reader understands what’s being discussed.

- 
- The 2004-2005 increase in generation was also a result of increased building and development and resulting C&D waste, not just storms: storms hit this region frequently.
  - Change color of disposal in line graphs so that they print better in black and white.
  - The lower glass percentage in waste stream compared to US may be in part the result of glass collection at transfer stations; the County may be closer to the average glass percentage of bottle bill states.
  - Concern was expressed about category “clean lumber”. There is very little untreated lumber in Hawai`i e.g., all wood construction materials must be treated. It was noted that the newer lumber treatments (boric acid) are not as toxic as older treatments, but it’s still not appropriate for composting (high salinity). Dan agreed to modify report so that it doesn’t imply that there is much lumber that could be composted.
  - Note that green waste (which includes leaves and grass, prunings, and stumps) is still a large proportion of the waste stream.
  - Why does recycling increase and disposal not drop?
  - Are differences in percent of glass in waste stream in East Hawai`i vs. West Hawai`i significant? Dan looked at the detailed results and concluded that the difference was not significant statistically.
  - Note in report that “self-haul” is really “landfill self-haul” (not to be confused with self-hauling to transfer stations).
  - In the past, journalists and the public take EPA data on per-capita generation and berate the county for being so wasteful. It’s difficult to get people to understand reasons for differences in numbers being in part from differences in what’s being measured and how. Report should try to make this more clear.
  - How much of the big jump in recycling in 2006-2008 from increased metals recycling? Dan later confirmed that metals recycling (driven largely by historically high prices) accounted for the vast majority of the increase in recycling in the past two years.
  - It was noted that the recycling numbers are conservative because of recycling by some businesses that is unaccounted for.
  - Maui appears to recycle more material than Hawai`i County, but this is in part because they record more information from the private sector and have staff who gather this info. What is the County using the numbers for and how well are they accounting for it? Other jurisdictions account for numbers differently (e.g., SF at 70%), thus people expect the County to achieve unrealistic % recycling. Most other jurisdictions have a driver (like legislation) to account for as much recycling as possible. There’s so many variables involved with recycling statistics that it’s very difficult to compare numbers, yet the EPA average is easy to get and use in a news story.
  - What value or reward is the County getting for spending money on recycling.

- 
- The more you can get incentives for private businesses to improve recycling at no cost to the County.

### **Comments About Public Meeting Summary Comments**

- Private sector collection of garbage will result in a lawsuit by the UPW.
- Was there a consensus that we should pay more for waste management programs? No.
- Presenting waste stream data to public would be worthwhile.
- Other ways to advertise would include Janet's article and a specific advertisement targeted to public regarding the topics discussed at meetings.

### **Source Reduction Option Discussion**

- What are your top 5 preferred options? SWAC members were polled. Results will be disseminated back to SWAC.
- Housekeeping: change tourism/tourist to "visitor" industry.
- Important to get transfer stations upgraded to accept commercial recyclables and/or waste. If you allowed commercial customers to dispose for a fee, it also would help reduce illegal dumping. Could have some larger regional transfer stations with scales at locations like Ka`u, Waimea, Honoka`a.
- Should recommendations be what we want or what is palatable to public? Ultimately looking for recommendations as part of a consensus-based plan that will be approved by Council.
- County source reduction means improving source reduction throughout all County departments.
- Schools: DOE considered commercial – contracts to pick up waste, not recyclables. Pacific Waste provides bins for schools and is willing to haul material, but schools don't have resources or mandate to pay for hauling to a recycling facility.
- County should mandate that all haulers offer recycling options. Requirements can be on haulers, businesses, or both.
- Mike Allen is baling cardboard and hauling to recycling facilities in Hilo. Pacific Waste will send cardboard it collects to him.
- PAYT at Transfer Stations: Cost to have staffed transfer stations, illegal dumping would increase, County has no current enforcement ability.
- Recycle bins for cardboard that are free would improve commercial recycling of cardboard.

### **Recycling Options**

SWAC members also discussed recycling options for further consideration.

- Green waste at transfer stations

- 
- Home composting at condos is not practical – no one likes worms in their home. Group composting bins might be possible. Pig farmers will accept compost, but many have gone out of business. Recycle Hawai`i is finding ongoing interest in home composting at residences: classes provide info on how to safely and effectively compost all food (including meat/dairy).
  - Some discussion about food waste/green waste to digestors.
  - Commercial food waste composting.

### **Other Issues**

- Zero Waste Implementation Study: Public meetings will be held in Kona and elsewhere on island. Zero Waste conference is on Sept 11, 12, 13 at Mauna Lani. Need to incorporate zero waste study recommendations into ISWMP Update and distill it all into practical recommendations.
- Currently a push by Mayor and some on Council for a new conversion technology RFP that would allow for plasma arc technology.
- County hopes that zero waste study will put teeth into zero waste resolution.
- Consider developing C&D landfills.