

COUNTY OF HAWAII INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE
SWAC Meeting Notes – September 22, 2008

Meeting started at 11:08am
Recess 12:50pm to 12:56pm
Resume meeting 12:56pm
Meeting ended 2:00pm

Present: Barbara Bell, Paul Buklarewicz, Christine Dochin, Jes Foster, Mike Gleason, Mike Kaha, Alex Leonard, Steve Okoji, Shon Pahio, Russell Ruderman, Nimr Tamimi, Ted Vorfeld, DOH Rep: Lane Otsu

Absent: None

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

Consultants: Dan Pitzler, Ron Terry

Approval of August 25, 2008 Minutes:

Motion by Christine Dochin, seconded by Mike Gleason

Adjournment:

Motion by Christine Dochin, seconded by Russell Ruderman

Agenda

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

- Introductory remarks
- Statements from the public on agenda items
- Approval of minutes from August 25, 2008 meeting
- New Business
 - CH2M HILL presentation of the draft Recycling, Bioconversion, and Markets section of the ISWMP update
 - Observations from the Zero Waste Conference and public meetings for Zero Waste study
 - 2009 SWAC meeting schedule
 - Results of SWAC ranking of source reduction and reuse options
- Announcements
- Adjournment

Discussion

Public Testimony

- Public testimony was received from James Weatherford, Kea'au. Support was expressed for zero waste principles. Good ideas from communities in New Zealand. The zero waste conference and subsequent meetings were both positive and unprecedented. Is pleased that zero waste recommendations will be integrated with ISWMP. Some discussion about NZ collection methods – mix of collection and dropoff.

Discussion about Recycling, Bioconversion, and Markets Presentation

- Some discussion about curbside collection and whether this could be provided by private sector or would need to be provided by UPW workers. Some wondered if the County should test this issue in court. There was discussion about the history of the Konno decision and the opinions provided by this current state supreme court. If this were tested, it could provide a strict precedent against private sector provision of such services.
- One idea was to provide a financial subsidy to private haulers willing to provide curbside service.
- SWAC members were interested in cost comparisons between curbside collection versus the existing and/or upgraded transfer system. Dan explained that such comparisons would come later in the plan development process: collection and transfer is next month. It was noted that because the curbside service described in the chapter would only serve 70% of households, most transfer stations would need to remain open. Lane pointed out that even O`ahu has about 7 transfer stations. It would be difficult to close rural transfer stations.
- A question was raised about construction and demolition waste. It is not a separate element in the plan. It was requested that Dan contact the manufacturer of wood used in Hawai'i (treated with Boric Acid) to see if they have ideas for recycling or bioconversion.
- Grubbing during construction and demolition activities generate substantial green waste with rocks from rootballs and weeds that are not accepted by current mulch processors. We should look for a way to keep this material out of landfill.
- Farmers in each region are interested in accepting food waste. Food waste may also be possible at the University of Hawai'i Hilo farm where there's lots of room.
- Mike Gleason reported on what he heard at a resource recovery conference in California. Many good initiatives and he was impressed how much many communities are investing in infrastructure. Many C&D facilities and emphasis on producer responsibility programs.
- A comment was made that the most food was from commercial sector, and that sector is important to target for diversion.
- More information on cost was requested. Mike agreed to provide some information about quantities and costs to SWAC members.

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- SWAC members are interested in knowing what other members think about the proposed options. Dan agreed to prepare a “ballot” submitted by email to SWAC members. The results of SWAC member opinions would be discussed at the next SWAC meeting.

Observations from Zero Waste Conference and Public Meetings

- The conference was taped and various video productions will be made. The County will look into putting some of it onto the DEM website.
- Mike passed out a one page handout titled “Zero Waste Conference 2008, Draft Only Proposals” that included 5 key recommendations from the zero waste consultants. The draft zero waste plan should be submitted to County, with a presentation to County Council, in October or November.
- Mike agreed to send out links to EPR initiatives in California and Washington.
- Comments from SWAC members that attended the conference were positive.
- Public meetings had just a few participants to up to about 15. Response was very positive, seemed a bit like “preaching to the choir.”
- Actions are often tied to energy.
- Our government should work to be more green.
- Many good suggestions for personal lives and for businesses.
- Don’t pay to waste – materials going into landfills are resources. Could we truck “resources” across County (as opposed to the opposition to trucking “waste” from East to West Hawai`i)?
- Green jobs are important. We should consider separating materials here rather than in Portland Oregon. Consider resource recovery parks at Department of Environmental Management facilities.
- Deconstruction vs. wrecking ball is an important zero waste principle. Hotel renovations should be targeted. The cost of deconstruction was a question. It was suggested that deconstruction adds up to 10 days to demolition schedules.
- Zero waste consultants estimated that there was \$14 million of resources currently being buried in County landfills. But what is the cost to capture them?
- Get food and green waste out of landfills.
- The change to zero waste will be driven by bottom up rather than top down i.e., changes in behavior.
- Need to change planning rules to allow compost sales on agricultural lands.
- For Extended Producer Responsibility, the County should consider signing on to California standards.

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- The cost of fertilizer is going up dramatically on-island, thus we should use resources to make fertilizer when feasible. Anaerobic digesters can have fertilizer as an output.
 - Organics is the highest priority. Highest potential, but needs to be done carefully and minimize contamination. Green cones were suggested for households to keep food waste out of landfills.

SWAC Meeting Schedule for 2009

- Mike Dworsky noted that the schedule will not be final until the new Council has an opportunity to review the dates. At this time, no SWAC member expressed concern about proposed dates for 2009 meetings.

Prioritization of Source Reduction and Reuse Options

- There was pretty good consensus on the most preferred options: PAYT, business waste audits and reduction plans, expanded reuse facilities, mandatory recycling/landfill bans, and improving the source reduction practices of County government.
- Other options with a lot of support included expanding home composting, expanding public education, and establishing an opportunity to recycle ordinance (for new buildings).

Goals and Strategies

- Barbara Bell passed out copies of a draft document that outlined some goals, policy questions, and strategies for SWAC members to consider.