

TOWNSCAPE, INC.

Environmental and Community Planning

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Ka`u to South Kona Water Master Plan

MEMORANDUM NO. 01

To: Project Team
From: Bruce Tsuchida
Date: July 1, 2003

NOTES FROM COMMUNITY MEETING NO. 1 – JUNE 26, 2003

Participants were: Andy Levin and Wendell Hatada, Mayor's Office
Glenn Ahuna, Dept. of Water Supply
Esther Imamura, Planning Dept.
Pete Hendricks, Deputy Managing Director
Daryl Oliveira, Fire Chief
Bob Jacobson, County Councilman
Russell Kokubun, State Senator
Bob Herkes, State Representative
Bruce Tsuchida and Hilarie Keehne, Townscape, Inc.
50+ people from the region (see attached attendance list)

PURPOSE of the meeting was to present the scope and schedule for the Water Master Plan, summarize progress to date and discuss water supply and related issues with the community.

Wendell Hatada opened the meeting and introduced the consultants. Bruce Tsuchida went over the agenda. Hilarie Keehne presented a slideshow that included study objectives, scope, schedule, progress to date and a summary of water supply and related issues. Following is a summary of the 1+ hour question and answer period that followed.

1. Your population projections are too conservative. In 2000 Ocean View had about 3,000 people. The population is now around 4,000. By 2010 there will probably be around 8,000 people here.
2. Have you looked at building permit data? Ans: We have not done that yet. These data may not include all homes being built. However, we will look at these numbers.
3. Probably 1/3 of the people living in this area are not included in the 2000 census.
4. Why is the project area so large? Government funding won't be able to pay for water supply systems for such a large area. Ans: We will have to look at many funding sources: federal, state, county, private.
5. Do you have cost estimates for this water system? Ans: Not yet, but we will have cost numbers at our next community meeting.
6. What's happening with the USGS test well? Is the schedule slipping? Can you do something to get this test well going? Ans: Townscape has no clout with USGS, but maybe the County can expedite this test drilling project.
7. Will your plan address water distribution systems for individual homes? Ans: No, not included.
8. Shouldn't the plan address water distribution systems for homes? Ans: We can't run detailed cost estimates, but maybe we can develop some typical ballpark cost numbers for distribution systems.
9. Are you coordinating with the Ocean View Road Corporation? Ans: We have talked with them and will talk with them further as the study progresses.

10. Are you going to look at the potential of man-made lakes? Lakes are used on the US mainland for major water supply systems. Ans: We could take a look at impoundments. However, the use of surface water for public water supply is complicated by water quality issues and water treatment requirements.
11. What's your study timeline? How long will it be before you will be applying for grants? Ans: The Plan will take about a year. We will be submitting grant applications early next year.
12. What kind of treatment is provided for current County groundwater withdrawals? Ans: Chlorination.
13. Who will be applying for grants? Ans: The County, and possibly one or more community associations, depending on the type and source of grant monies.
14. More homes will mean more toxic materials including termiticides. People will end up poisoning the groundwater.
15. What about springs – can't they be used for water supply? Ans: Not dependable volume.
16. Your slideshow says people here want the area to stay rural. How are we going to do that? Don't you need to do overall planning before you do water planning? Ans: Ideally, we would do comprehensive planning for land use, transportation, water and other systems. However, the County does not have the resources to do this. So, we are doing the best we can. Right now, water is the priority need for this area.
17. Is there going to be a major pipeline tying wells together? Ans: Generally, yes – we will be looking at a major pipeline for the region.
18. Are you using prior studies and hydrological surveys? Ans: Our hydrogeologist is using available information, but there isn't much.
19. What will be the cost of a regional system vs cost just for Ocean View? Ans: We will be working on these costs in near future. The Plan will include phased implementation steps. If Ocean View is the highest priority for near-term funding, then that's what the Plan will say.
20. Grant applications should include estimate of cost impact to residents: i.e., public water supply will mean no water hauling costs and lower home insurance costs.
21. How much planning do we need? We need engineering and construction. Ans: We are spending the first few months with overall planning. The next step is to get into details of water source and alternative water system layouts and costs.
22. Funding water source development is the responsibility of the State. The communities can fund water storage tanks.
23. People who have public water supply don't appreciate what they have.
24. The County should manage the water. Private management of water supply will lead to abuses.
25. Catchment tanks have a lot of water quality problems.
26. Will your study address the volumes of water that will be needed? Ans: Yes.
27. I've been a taxpayer for over 20 years and I still don't have water! Ans: We understand your frustration. However, everybody needs to understand that public water systems in Hawaii are not funded by property tax revenues. The water systems are funded by water fees paid by customers.
28. There should be a waiting list for communities that need water. The County should work down the list so everybody should eventually have water.
29. We need to be the squeaky wheel!

30. The County could joint venture with Sandwich Isles Communications – put a water line in the same trench. Should also check with National Park Service and their expansion plans. Ans: We understand that the Sandwich Isles fiber optic project won't be implemented in this area for the foreseeable future.
31. The County needs to repair and upgrade the existing water supply system at Waiohinu.
32. People are going to move to Ocean View with or without water – this is one of the last areas of affordable housing on the island.
33. Can you provide us with monthly progress reports? Ans: We can put information on a regular basis on the County's web page.
34. To get word out on future community meetings, use the Hawaii Island Journal.
35. You should schedule a meeting in South Kona so that people there can be heard.
36. You are invited to the Ocean View 4th of July festivities!