

Moloka‘i Regional Plan Update
Subject Matter Meeting #3
Water / Economic Development

January 14, 2010
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Malia Akutagara, Fred Aki, Richard Negrillo Sr., Joseph Souza, Carla Hanchett, Lori Buchanan, Corene Helm, James Boswell, Mahealani Davis, Victoria Kapuni, Harriet Fukuoda, Viola Mundrick, Ochie Bush, Sybil Lopez, Kammy Purdy, Lynn DeCosta, Adolph Helm, Ken Helm, Frank Keoho

Staff: Robert Hall, Kaleo Manuel

Commissioner: Henry Tancayo

Consultants: PBR HAWAII – Scott Abrigo, Malia Cox

Welcoming: Kaleo Manuel introduced the DHHL staff and consulting team and requested the meeting be opened in prayer.

Opening Pule: The opening prayer was given by Mr. Wade Lee.

Meeting Introduction: Mr. Manuel welcomed the group, provided a brief introduction to the purpose of the meeting and turned the floor over to Mr. Robert Hall, Executive Assistant to the Chairman.

Water Issues Update: Mr. Hall provided an update on one of the worst series of water failures on the island of Moloka‘i. He provided information regarding the DHHL and County potable water system failures, and the steps being taken to get the DHHL system back on line. Mr. Hall also expressed the Department’s appreciation for everyone’s patience and for working together to make the necessary repairs.

Current Well Status

1. Well #1 has been repaired. It cost approximately \$300,000 to fix the well. This included the installation of a new pump.
2. Well #2 is still non-operational. The repairs necessary to bring it back online should be completed around the end of March 2010. This will include the installation of a new pump.

Improvements to the System

Several water projects were put temporarily on hold to address the immediate need to ensure the potable water system is capable of providing water to meet the needs of the beneficiaries. Once the new pumps are installed and other pumps are operational, focus will be returned to improving the system. Mr. Hall indicated that approximately one million dollars will be spent to improve the Moloka‘i potable water system.

1. A 200,000 gallon per day (gpd) leak was identified and patched.

2. SCADA (*supervisory control and data acquisition*): This computer system is designed to gather and analyze real-time data, to improve efficiency, track down leaks, etc. of the DHHL potable water system. This was a priority project in 2007. Funding has been allocated, and the project will begin moving forward again once the critical well repairs are completed.
3. Generator: The need for a diesel generator was identified as a priority project in 2007. Funding has been allocated, and the project will begin moving forward again once the critical well repairs are completed.

Issues/Concerns raised during Water Issues Update

Mr. Manuel informed the audience that Mr. Hall would be leaving the meeting early.

The floor was opened for attendees to pose their issues/concerns regarding the water system to Mr. Hall while he was available. Following is a list of questions/concerns posed by the attendees (shown in italics) and the responses provided (by the DHHL team) during this portion of the open forum:

1. *Was a verification test conducted? Was a report prepared? What were the results? According to the USGS, pH and salinity of water indicate wells are compromised.*
DHHL Response: The main priority at this time is to get the potable water system back online. The chloride levels were high when all wells were operational. Levels have since dropped down.
2. *DHHL needs another well. Will the systems be integrated?*
DHHL Response: Although the county and DHHL have been working together to solve both systems potable water issues, discussions regarding integration has been tabled.
3. *Is the county well affecting the DHHL wells? Attendee would like to see validation report.*
4. *Has DHHL considers capturing surface water (Waianau)? Does DHHL have holding capacity for adequate potable water supply? Is there a backup water service plan?*
DHHL Response: DHHL has had adequate holding capacity for the necessary potable water supply. During the 2009 well failure, the issue was pump failures not adequate storage capability. Since the County and DHHL failures in 2009, the two systems are connected, and capable of transferring water between the systems during upset conditions.
5. *Is the USGS/DHHL monitoring well operational?*
DHHL Response: Yes, the monitoring occurs approximately every 2-3 months.
6. *Are the reservoirs (2) at Ho 'olehua filled?*
DHHL Response: Yes. Both reservoirs are full. They are also easier to keep full since the 200,000 gpd leak was discovered and repaired.
7. *What will happen to the county well when they find a new well site? Can DHHL take over the well as a back up?*

DHHL Response: It is unknown if operation of the county well can be assumed by DHHL.

8. *Water pressure in portions in Kalama'ula is very poor. This needs to be fixed.*
9. *Water lines in Ho'olehua are in need of repair. Is the repair on DHHL's schedule?*

10. *Is DHHL subject to water commission?*

DHHL Response: Yes

11. *Use of surface water affects the groundwater resource. A water resource management plan needs to be developed to address the entire resource.*

DHHL Response: DHHL is currently focused on the wells. However, it is necessary to look at the bigger picture and how various actions affect the resource.

12. *How long has DHHL been managing the system?*

DHHL Response: approximately 50+ years

13. *Does DHHL manage water on all of its lands?*

DHHL Response: No. DHHL manages only 3 waters systems. The systems are located here on Moloka'i and also at Anahola, Kaua'i and Kawaihae, Hawai'i.

14. *Water pressure is currently low, but the area is growing with at least 10 new homes in the last few years. Water pressure will continue to degrade.*

15. *Not all lots (that are actively engaged in farming) have access to agriculture water.*

16. *Potable water needs to be the focus*

Review of Planning Mechanism and Regional Plan Update

Mr. Manuel and described the regional planning process utilized to provide direction for DHHL.

Review of DHHL Planning System, a Three Tiered System:

1. Tier 1, General Plan - 20 year planning document: provide overarching directive for the department as a whole.
2. Tier 2, Island Plan- 10 year planning document for island wide land uses setting the goals for homesteading (both agriculture and residential) and commercial uses.
3. Tier 3, Regional Plan - 1-3 year planning document setting goals pertaining to a particular subject matter.
3. Tier 3, Regional Plan - 1-3 year planning document designed to be utilized as a tool to designate community priorities and implement projects.

Review of DHHL Land Use Designation Process:

DHHL is not subject to county zoning. Being exempt from county zoning provides the department with the opportunity as well as the responsibility to ensure that the land designations are appropriate based on the needs of the department as well as protecting key environmental and cultural resources of the land. DHHL lands are categorized into ten different land use designations, or zones. Four of the designations, Residential, Subsistence Agriculture, Supplemental Agriculture, and Pastoral, are for homesteading. The remaining six designations are General Agriculture, Special District, Community Use, Conservation, Commercial and Industrial. While DHHL is not subject to county zoning, it is subject to other State and Federal regulations including requirements imposed on water purveyors by the Water Commission.

2009 Regional Planning Process

The regional plan is typically updated in three steps, a key leadership meeting, community meeting and a final meeting to vote on priority project list. Due to the complex nature of the issues on Moloka'i, and the fact that so many priority projects have been completed, the process will take longer. Mr. Abrigo and Mr. Manuel described the process that DHHL is following to update the Moloka'i Regional Plan. Based on the numerous and varied issues brought to DHHL's attention during the leadership meeting, a schedule was developed to include several subject specific meetings. The focus of the January 14, 2010 meeting was water. It was the third subject matter meeting.

Priority Project Selection

Mr. Abrigo and Mr. Manuel explained that at the end of each subject matter meeting, attendees will be (or have been) provided an opportunity to show his or her support for several projects. Once all subject matter meetings have been held, a master project list will be developed and the community will have an opportunity to decide by consensus on the top five projects. These five projects will be elevated to priority project status. The project details (cost, phasing, potential partnerships, etc.) will be flushed out by DHHL, their consulting team, and key stakeholders. The community will then have an opportunity to review and comment on the priority projects before they regional plan is submitted to the Commission for approval.

Questions Regarding Regional Planning Process

Several community members had questions and raised concerns regarding the regional plan process and how regional issues are addressed. Following is a list of questions/concerns posed by the attendees (shown in italics) and the responses provided (by the DHHL team).

1. *Can a new land use designation be created if a particular parcel does not fit into any of the existing zones? For example Kalaupapa. Can there be a 'traditional' land use designation?*
DHHL Response: There are 10 land use designations that are used for the parcels. Unique parcels like Kalaupapa are generally placed under the designation "Special District." While the designations are island wide, the question will be posed to DHHL planning staff for a new designation for "traditional land uses"
2. *Does Moloka'i have an island plan or only a regional plan?*
DHHL Response: Moloka'i has both an island plan and regional plan. Copies of the current plans can be found on the DHHL website on the "Library" link (<http://hawaii.gov/dhhl/publications>)
3. *Is DHHL subject to other jurisdiction/authorities?*
DHHL Response: subject other State and Federal regulation including

requirements imposed on water purveyors by the Water Commission. DHHL is only exempted from State and County zoning, not other regulatory requirements.

4. *DHHL needs to collect information on its water rights and act upon those rights*
5. *DHHL should be the advocate for projects, not the community. If a project becomes a priority, then DHHL should find a way to fund. The projects need to be detailed with cost, phasing, etc. Providing only \$250,000 is not enough.*

DHHL Response: A commission approved regional plan has been an effective tool in the past to create partnerships and acquire CIP funding. To develop the plan DHHL goes through these brainstorming sessions with the community to create a list of opportunities/projects. Once the list is narrowed down to the priority project, the short and long term requirements to accomplish project tasks are detailed.

Subject Matter

Mr. Abrigo explained that water issues could be divided into three categories, Water Resource/Source issues, Irrigation/MIS issues, and Potable Water/DHHL system issues. He provided a status update for water priority projects in the current regional plan and described water issues raised during previous regional planning meetings.

Water Resource – Source

1. Moloka'i Water Resource Study– Collaboration with DHHL, Army, USGS and County on study. This project was elevated to priority project status during the 2007 update. The study is on-going.

Irrigation – MIS

1. Analyze the MIS and its relationship with DHHL Agriculture users, and upgrading the system to provide increased water service. This water issue was raised during previous regional planning meetings.
2. Maintain MIS reservoir levels. This water issue was raised during previous regional planning meetings.

Potable Water – DHHL Water System

1. Implement Recommendations outlined in Akinaka & Associates Study. This project was elevated to priority project status during the 2007 update. Status for the sub-projects is listed below.
 - a. Water Verification Test - Completed
 - b. Water Loss Study - Completed
 - c. Install SCADA System – Out to Bid
 - d. Purchase Diesel Generator – Procuring funding
2. Upgrade Existing DHHL Kualapu'u water system. This water issue was raised during previous regional planning meetings.
3. Develop equivalent pricing for beneficiaries not on the DHHL water system. This water issue was raised during previous regional planning meetings.
4. Improve potable water system reliability. This water issue was raised during

previous regional planning meetings.

Discussion

The floor was opened up to discuss and brainstorm ideas/concerns/potential projects. The community developed a list of projects/issues during the discussion. After a lively discussion of issues, the meeting attendees were able to focus the issues to generate a list of projects. Attendees were provided an opportunity to show his/her support for up to 5 projects/issues that were discussed during the evening.

Water Issues and Project List

Support	Project/Issue Description	Category
19	Develop a schedule and repair water lines in Ho'olehua	Potable
17	Initiate injunctive/legal action regarding inappropriate use of the resource. - Pumping water from well 17 without a permit - Water Transmission (EIS)	Resource
13	Support the transfer of management of MIS to DHHL.	Irrigation
11	Repair water delivery system in Kalama'ula to improve water pressure. Resolve discrepancy in water rates.	Potable
4	Provide homesteaders (particularly those without irrigation water) with access to MIS system.	Irrigation
4	Ensure adequate representation on MIS board. Land for Agriculture Park traded for development of MIS system. DHHL was given 2/3 right to MIS in trade. Two-thirds of the MIS board should DHHL/Homesteaders to match 2/3 water rights.	Irrigation
2	Conduct verification testing.	Resource
1	Integrate water system- County/ranch/DHHL.	Potable
1	Address county well impact on DHHL wells.	Potable
1	Develop Back up water service plan.	Potable
1	Support the creation of a new land designation - "Traditional Land Use".	Non-water issue
1	Fix and maintain the MIS system as per the recommendations of the Audit.	Irrigation
1	Conduct a feasibility study and assessment before taking over MIS system that has approximately \$10-\$12 million dollars of needed repairs.	Irrigation
0	Capture surface water for back-up at Waiānau.	Resource
0	Follow up on USGS monitoring well, is it operational.	Resource
0	Provide status update on reservoirs in Ho'olehua.	Potable

Support	Project/Issue Description	Category
0	Determine final disposition of county well after relocation. Will it be properly sealed, or can DHHL take over operation as a back up?	Potable
0	Is DHHL subject to water commission?	Resource
0	Develop a water management plan.	Resource
0	How long has DHHL Managed Potable water system?	Potable
0	Does DHHL manage non-potable water systems?	Irrigation
0	Potable water is being used for agriculture.	Irrigation
0	Provide more information on DHHL jurisdiction regarding State and County rules/regulations.	Non-water issue
0	Provide more information on DHHL water rights. Preserve and protect water rights.	Resource
0	Advocate for proper fund appropriation to the MIS. Ensure funding is used properly.	Irrigation
0	Create a water use development plan with county. The plan needs to be all encompassing, looking at ground and surface waters.	Resource
0	Prioritize potable water issues above non-potable water issues.	Potable and Irrigation
0	Food security is a concern, so lands need to be made productive by ensuring agriculture water is available for those wishing to engage in food production.	Irrigation
0	Determine the number of beneficiaries that are not able to farm due to a lack of water meters. Meters need to be made available.	Irrigation

Schedule

The next meeting was scheduled for February 11, 2010. This meeting will be a review of all of the projects/issues raised during the previous regional planning meetings. By consensus, attendees will choose their top five projects/issues for inclusion in the 2010 Regional Plan as Priority Projects.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned around 8:30 pm.