

Molokai Regional Plan Update  
Leadership Meeting  
August 18, 2009  
Meeting Minutes

**Attendance:** Ochie, Lynn DeCoito, Viola, Sybil, Gayla, Walter Ritte, Glen Teves, Collete Machado, Cammy Purdy

**Staff:** Robert Hall, Mona Kapaku, Darrell Yagodich, Kaleo Manuel, Julie-Ann Cachola

**Consultants:** PBR Hawaii – Scott Abrigo, Malia Cox

**Welcoming:** Darrell Yagodich introduced the DHHL staff and consulting team and requested the meeting be opened in prayer.

**Opening Pule:** The opening prayer was given by Aunty Ochie

**Meeting Introduction:** Robert Hall welcomed the group and provided a brief introduction to the purpose of the meeting. Hall stated that

1. This process should be viewed as a tool, a good way to come up with consensus planning rather than lots of individual plans
2. MKK group there is are a lot of challenges, but good opportunities too.

**Introduction of Regional Planning Process:** Scott Abrigo, PBR Hawaii, provided an introduction to the planning process:

1. The community leaders have been brought together to update the regional plan. The current plan was adopted a year and a half ago in December 2007.
2. Numerous priority projects listed in the have been adopted since 2007.
3. The regional planning process is a vehicle to communicate with other agencies.
  - a. It allows for the designation of a project as a "priority project" within the regional plan signals to the HHC that there is community support/vote. DHHL can utilize this information as it goes after grants and other funding sources.
  - b. Can be utilized as tool to leverage other funds—especially large off-site projects
  - c. Outlines all major infrastructure for legislature—provides a schedule and a cost backed with community support.

**Review of DHHL Planning System, a three tiered system:** Scott Abrigo described the overarching planning system that is utilized to provide direction at DHHL:

1. Tier 1, General Plan- 20 year planning document: provide overarching directive for the department as a whole.
2. Tier 2, Island Plan- 20 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 designed to be utilized as a tool to designate community priorities and implement projects.

**Detailed Review of Regional Planning Process:** Scott Abrigo provided an in-depth review of the regional planning process, its purpose, how DHHL and the community are involved. He also reviewed the current Regional Plan

1. Purpose: This is a beneficiary consultation process designed to bring everyone together, to collaborate, to determine appropriate partnerships and/or projects, reduce upfront costs, and to hold leadership accountable. The plan is continually evolving based on the needs of the community.
2. Why is DHHL involved? DHHL is connected to the homestead communities and organizations, and has resources available to engage other organizations, and county/state/federal agencies. DHHL is committed to making this process successful on Molokai and has dedicated a full-time facilitator Kaleo Manuel to this project.
3. Review of what is in a typical regional planning document and the existing Molokai Regional Plan
  - a. Leaders: elected and within the community
  - b. History and Demographics
  - c. Acreage within the regional planning area: On Molokai, DHHL owns 25,899 acres
  - d. Major landowners on Molokai: A review of trends, looking at what is happening, and identifying projects provides an opportunity to develop potential partnering of DHHL projects, and other organizations projects
    - i. Molokai Ranch to the west: 36%,
    - ii. State agencies (like DOA): 29%
    - iii. Pu'uhökū Ranch: 8%
    - iv. Kamehameha Schools: 3%
    - v. Federal Government: 1 %
  - e. Activities occurring within the regions:
  - f. A review of trends, looking at what is happening, and identifying projects provides an opportunity to develop potential partnering of DHHL projects, and other organizations projects
  - g. Identify projects and their locations in relation to DHHL

**Areas for Regional Planning:** Scott Abrigo provided information regarding the five areas that should be discussed/reviewed as part of the regional plan update, Water, Resource Management, Infrastructure, Agriculture and Community. The existing plan includes projects listed below. During the review of existing projects, members of the community and DHHL commented on the status of some of the projects.

1. Water
  - a. DHHL water system- Upgrade
  - b. Akinaka Water Study
  - c. Since the last update, a map of the major water systems was developed.
  - d. During the discussion of water projects in the current plan, a community member discussed the need to reserve adequate water and that this is something that needs to be added to the list.

2. Resource management
  - a. USGS Modeling
3. Infrastructure
  - a. Exploration of alternative energy
    - i. Wind
    - ii. Biomass
  - b. Road related infrastructure at Hoa‘iwa
4. Agriculture
  - a. Shared Equipment
  - b. MIS analysis and relationship with DHHL agriculture
  - c. Assistance/education for careers in agriculture
5. Community

### **Discussion:**

The floor was opened up to discuss and brainstorm ideas/concerns/potential projects as they related to Water, Resource Management, Infrastructure, Agriculture and Community. Due to the lively discussions primarily in the areas of water and agriculture there was not enough time to address all of the concerns during the meeting. A schedule to address all areas, Water, Resource Management, Infrastructure, Agriculture and Community was created to ensure all concerns/issues/potential projects are addressed

### **Water**

#### Water/Ag Issue #1 MIS

There were numerous concerns regarding governance including DOA accountability, lack of meters, capacity, delivery and increase in cost. Also, there is a lack of adequate representation on the board. According to a community member,

*This system is carrying the load the other 4 systems, but we are not getting the fairness of the water they are getting. Want DHHL to pressure DOA to provide adequate water—not use our money to provide water [elsewhere].*

Another member stated,

*It really doesn't make sense to collaborate to improve the system if over 75% of the water is going elsewhere. Don't mind if the water is going elsewhere while we don't need it, but when we're ready to use it, we need to be able to use it so community doesn't say why HHLs lessee getting it? We need a sign off agreement. The guys on the Board now is preventing Homesteaders from getting on the board, so why should be support DOA if they are trying to cut our throats? We need to take over the system.*

Following is a list of the concerns and potential projects generated as a result of Water/Ag Issue #1:

1. Governance
2. Capacity and Delivery
3. Cost
4. stimulus money
5. Management
6. Alternative Energy
7. Improving systems back to original service level
8. Water should be considered a component of rehabilitation on ag leases

9. Active farming not speculative
10. Projects potentially generated
  - DHHL takeover of MIS system
  - MIS assessment prior to transition
  - Reallocation of MIS Advisory committee seats: 2/3rds of seats to DHHL/Homestead to match water source ownership

Water/Ag Issue #2      Open Market Space

1. Create an area where homesteaders can sell products within the homestead
2. Possible Locations
  - Hikiola parcel across (DLNR) vacant ½ acre. Within Ho‘olehua
  - Credit Union Parcel
  - Holomua Junction
3. Projects potentially generated
  - Lands made available for open market

Water/Ag Issue #3      Shared Equipment

1. Need for facility to house machines
2. Develop organization/bylaws governing machine usages
3. Surplus Federal Equipment- Can DHHL acquire
4. Smaller tractor and implements have already been acquired
5. Project potentially generated
  - Acquisition of land/facility to house equipment

Water/Ag Issue #4      Existing Ag. Assistance Program

1. Continue program, expand
2. Collaborate w/ DHHL
3. New farmer grant targets 12 new farmers per year. Will include training and new equipment. Training only for new farmers, equipment can be use by old/new farmers
4. Project potentially generated
  - Creation of an equipment management entity

Water/Ag Issue #5      Slaughter House

1. Assist with funding
2. Overcome energy cost (alternative energy sources)
3. Provide additional Personnel
  - Provide training for current and new employees
  - Provide funding for position
4. USDA inspection capabilities
5. Project(s) potentially generated-
  - Energy development project
  - Training development
  - Secure funding to keep slaughterhouse open and
  - Improve USDA inspection capabilities on Molokai

**Community Issues**

### Community Issue #1 Pala'au Priority Project

The information currently included in the regional plan does not accurately describe this project nor its goals. Walter Ritte provided a handout regarding the changes they would like to see in the regional plan. The community would like to see the following:

1. Keep integrity of forest
2. The forest should be used to advance Hawaiian culture in general not just of Molokai
3. Forest should be utilized for training of next generation of cultural leaders
4. Forest Restoration project should aim to re-use non-natives that are removed as the area is re-vegetated with native plants
5. No partnership with the Park Service

### Community Issue #2 Kalaupapa

With the canonization of Father Damien, there is a concern that the DHHL lands will not be adequately protected. There was a request to have this be made a priority project. Walter Ritte provided a handout. Following is what community would like to see in the regional plan and concerns regarding Kalaupapa:

1. NPS is developing a general plan. How will the homestead input be incorporated? What will DHHL's stance be
2. The people of Molokai have little or no input; however, DHHL, as a landowner can have a meaningful dialogue.
3. A management plan should be developed that allows for gathering and also provides protection to the area
4. A special area plan should be developed for Kalaupapa/Pala'au
5. At the end of the first state contract in 2011, homestead community want to ensure that the DHHL lands are NOT attached to NPS
6. What happens when Kalaupapa lease ends in 2039?
7. Jobs at Kalaupapa: Homesteaders are supposed to be given priority, but the system is not working. Homesteaders are not getting the jobs
8. Free housing at Kalaupapa: State workers (DOH) get free housing, but homesteaders do not
9. Homesteads on Kalaupapa: Would like to see it turned back to DHHL for traditional agriculture like lo'i kalo.
10. Both economics and land use need to be looked at. There is no place like Kalaupapa in the world. While the patients wants NPS and wants to be remembered DHHL need to look closely at what will best serve to rehabilitate the Hawaiian population.
11. Provide a mechanism for homesteaders and community to get into decision making process of the park. Can DHHL help, insist on some kind of decision making mechanism to ensure beneficiaries have input.
12. DHHL weak link with NPS because of the revenue the park generates.
13. Need update to Ornellas's plan to identify viable concessions and economic viability, with a preference to native Hawaiian concessions
14. Waikolu Valley is critical in addressing return of natives

### Community Issue #3 Recreation area in Ho‘olehua

1. Develop gym at Lanikea. With 85 additional house lots, there are a lot of keiki that could utilize a gym.

### Schedule

1. 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.
2. A tentative schedule was devised
  - Meeting #2: Homestead Community Meeting
  - Meetings #3-5: focused topic area meetings. These meetings would address a few topic areas Water, Resource Management, Infrastructure, Agriculture and Community. Community members would be invited to attend all but would not be required to attend all.
  - Meeting # 6: Finalize project list and vote on top 5 projects
  - Meeting #7 Review Final Priority Projects
  - Submit Regional Plan to Commission for approval
  - Stakeholders meeting: A separate meeting would be held to gain and understanding of stakeholder feedback and potential project synergies. This would be held after meeting #2 but before finalizing the project list in Meeting #6.
3. Due to the complex nature of the issues on Molokai, and the fact that so many priority projects have been completed, this project will take longer. The group was asked discuss the proposed schedule and inform DHHL if they would like to see the process stretched out over the course of the year, or done under a more condensed timeline with meetings every 6 weeks.
4. The dates of each meeting will be sent out by mail to the community.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned around 5 pm.