

Committee Meetings

January 20, 2011

Board Present: Roy Oyama, Larry Dill, Leland Kahawai, Raymond McCormick, Randall Nishimura. *Absent and excused: Michael Dahilig*

Staff Present: David Craddick, William Eddy, Keith Aoki, Dustin Moises, Faith Shiramizu, Marites Yano, Edward Doi, Aaron Zambo, and Board's Deputy County Attorney Amy Esaki.

RULES COMMITTEE MEETING:

Rules Committee Vice Chair Randall Nishimura called the meeting to order at about 2:11 p.m. with one item of business.

Re: Manager's Report No. 11-24 – Committee Discussion and Possible Action on Part III Rule Amendments – Establishing Standards for Subdivision Water Systems

i. Attached Proposed Draft Bill No. 2380

As it appeared no comments had been received from the Planning Department on the attached Proposed Draft Bill, Mr. Dill moved to defer this item to the next meeting, seconded by Mr. McCormick; by a unanimous vote; motion was carried.

There being no further business, the Rules Committee was adjourned at about 2:12 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING:

Chair Oyama called the meeting to order at about 2:12 p.m. The committee had two items of business:

Re: Manager's Report No. 11-16 – Request Board approval for Grant Funding from the Department of Health Safe Drinking Water Branch to Develop and Initiate Implementation of a Wellhead Protection Program for the County of Kaua'i

Manager Craddick noted that at the last meeting, the Board had requested a copy of the Maui ordinance and this had been provided as a handout. It was last discussed on Maui in November 2002 so it does not seem to be moving through the Council. Ms. Shiramizu noted they will present it to the Council this year.

Mr. Nishimura moved to receive the Draft Wellhead Protection Ordinance from the County of Maui, seconded by Mr. Kahawai; by a unanimous vote; motion was carried.

DISCUSSION

Upon query from Mr. Nishimura if our proposed wellhead protection program will follow this format, Manager Craddick stated he would expect that it would not differ a lot from it. They have a certain radius around the well for security purposes and have zones A, B, C, D some of which go

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out to 10 years. There are restrictions on what you can do depending on how far out the source water is being protected. The geology is the same but Kauai has tighter formations so it could be a bigger area moving in the mauka direction. Manager Craddick stated the program develops the information that goes into this; we would be working with Rural Water and the University of Hawaii (UH) through the Department of Health (DOH) grant for this. There is a lot of work that needs to happen before you get to this point.

Mr. Dill thought a lot of the work has been done with the Source Water Assessment Program. Deputy Eddy stated that UH did some modeling to do some maps showing zones but it stopped there; this program is the next step to regulate activities in those areas.

Mr. Dill noted the identification of these contamination zones has happened by UH, so we can start drafting the ordinance as we have the data for that. Ms. Shiramizu reported that UH did the study and did the report and Erin from Rural Water is working to complete the plan. There is a meeting with her next week to see what she comes up with and she has worked with UH before.

Deputy Eddy stated the next step is developing and implementing the plan, and Mr. Dill reported the zones are delineated so the next step is the wellhead protection program, then you create the ordinance.

Upon query from Mr. Nishimura if the \$200k from the DOH is for one year or the length of the program, Ms. Shiramizu reported that the \$200k is what we can get at this point to contract someone to put the plan together and implement it. As far as seeing the plan through we could apply for additional money, whatever is available at the time, but she did not feel it would be enough for the whole plan.

Chair Oyama requested Ms. Shiramizu follow up with answers to these questions at the next meeting.

Mr. Kahawai stated that Maui has done the plan and come up with the ordinance, so we are in the process of doing the plan. Manager Craddick noted that Maui came up with the ordinance to implement their plan. The ordinance is the final product. He does not know what they have been doing since 2002 to now, other than to get this sample ordinance. Upon query from Mr. Nishimura if Manager Craddick knew the cost to get it to this point, he reported that the EPA did the whole thing along with UH; the lady was from the EPA not from DOH and she worked until it was done and she was there for at least four years working on it. Ms. Shiramizu was requested to try to get that information from Maui.

Mr. Dill asked if to develop and initiate the wellhead protection program we plan to hire a consultant or is the RWA going to do it? Manager Craddick thinks we need to hire someone to take what Rural Water is doing and what UH did and get it into the form of a plan. Ms. Shiramizu noted that we are just seeking approval to apply for this grant. Mr. Dill asked if we seem to be comfortable taking the step to apply for the grant, why don't we just apply for it. Mr. Nishimura's concern is if we get to the end of the \$200k and do not have a plan in place, where do we go from there. He is concerned about the impact to existing users, the cost to our rate holders and those in the immediate areas if we run out of money, do we make a commitment that we will continue to fund this program from our rate holders if we cannot get additional monies. Mr. Dill felt that to

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address that could we get a preliminary quote from the consultant to prepare this. Manager Craddick stated that we do not have a consultant. Upon query from Mr. Nishimura, Manager Craddick confirmed that the \$200k, in addition to staff, would also include the consultant.

Mr. Nishimura moved to defer this item to the next Committee of the Whole meeting, seconded by Mr. McCormick; by a unanimous vote; motion was carried.

Re: Manager's Report No. 11-17 – Request Board Approval of the Proposed Revised Organizational Chart to organize for future operations.

Manager Craddick reported that some things have come up since this document was provided. Around October, we will be moving to monthly billing which will double the amount of bills coming in to open and deposit so we might have to make some changes in that area. Also, in the area of Operations, DPS is not really providing what we are asking for and therefore thinks this is not ready to come to the Board.

Mr. Kahawai asked whose decision it was to move to monthly billing and if it would involve extra personnel. Manager Craddick noted it could be possible unless we can make a deal with the banks to have a lock box. Mr. Nishimura asked if the decision to move to monthly billing had been forced upon us by the Honolulu Board of Water Supply. Manager Craddick stated that we could probably keep the billing to every other month, but as the bills get bigger we are getting more and more delinquencies so it may be helpful to get it to monthly so we may get fewer delinquencies. It would also help with cash flow.

In terms of extra staff, Ms. Yano thought Mr. Yamase would prefer someone who could do field collections, shutting meters. Mr. Nishimura asked if the meter readers could perform the AMR system and Manager Craddick noted they currently do, so the meter readers would do twice as many readings also. Manager Craddick felt if we initially get bills down, there may be fewer problems with the collections.

Mr. Kahawai moved to defer this item to the next meeting; seconded by Mr. McCormick; by a unanimous vote; motion was carried.

There being no further business, the Committee of the Whole was adjourned at about 2:31 p.m.

There being no further business, the Committee meetings were duly adjourned at about 2:31 p.m.

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