

MINUTES
FOR THE MEETING OF THE
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DATE: March 15, 2010
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Kalanimoku Building
DLNR Board Room 132
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Chair Laura Thielen called the meeting of the Commission on Water Resource Management to order at 9:02 a.m.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Ms. Laura Thielen, Dr. Chiyome Fukino, Dr. Lawrence Miike, Mr. Neal Fujiwara, Ms. Donna Kiyosaki, Mr. Sumner Erdman, Mr. William Balfour, Jr.

STAFF: Ken Kawahara, Roy Hardy, Robert Chong

COUNSEL: Julie China, Esq.

OTHERS: Mich Hirano (Morekiyo & Hiraga, Inc.); Mike Hunnemann (Kai Hawaii, Inc.)

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. February 17, 2010

MOTION: (Erdman/Balfour)
To approve the minutes.
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deputy Ken Kawahara announced that Commissioner Balfour was confirmed by the Senate last week. There were two Governor's messages sent down to the Senate; one is to finish the current interim term to June 30, 2010 and the second was for a four year term to June 30, 2014.

Budget: CWRM continue to receive quarterly allotments and right now the Legislature is considering our FY2011 budget. The House version crossed over to the Senate.

Furloughs: Deputy Kawahara said that staff is still on two days per month, and still have three vacancies (two in the Ground Water branch and one in the Stream Protection and Management branch).

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East Maui: Staff conducted a site visit with the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) staff and also held several meetings with DAR to further discuss the results of their Hawaiian Stream Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HSHEP) and identify priority streams based on hydrology, biology, and infrastructure. This was done in consultation with USGS on the hydrology and also east Maui Irrigation did take CWRM and DAR staff around to look at the infrastructure. Staff also held meetings with Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation (NHLC), Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar (HC&S), Maui Land and Pineapple (MLP), and the Maui Department of Water Supply (Maui DWS) to discuss the informational requirements as requested by the Commission at the December Commission meeting in Maui. A deadline for the submission of information to the CWRM staff is Friday, March 19.

Drought Conditions: Copies of the U.S. Drought Monitor for Hawaii and the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook were distributed. Deputy Kawahara said the precipitation amounts in January and February have been well below normal for most of the island chain. Drought conditions worsened throughout the State with Maui County and the Big Island having the most severe conditions, with D4 drought-exceptional in the northeastern portion of the Big Island. This is the first time since the inception of the US. Drought Monitor that Hawaii has experienced D4 conditions. The National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center continues their El Nino advisory at least through spring 2010. Again, during El Nino periods, Hawaii is most likely to receive below normal precipitation.

Because of that, Deputy Kawahara stated that they have asked Governor Lingle to issue a press release to increase drought awareness by asking residents to prevent wildfires and conserve water; and asking to distribute a memo to all state departments to remind them to conserve water especially outdoor uses and to repair water leaks. Deputy Kawahara mentioned that staff will be convening County drought committees over the next few months to discuss drought impacts and any response measures to be taken.

Detect a Leak Week: May 15-19, 2010 is EPA WaterSense Detect a Leak Week. The Commission is a WaterSense promotional partner and is advertising Detect a Leak Week on the Commission and Drought Monitor websites. We are also working with the Chairperson's office to issue a DLNR press release on Detect a Leak Week.

Deputy Kawahara said copies of the City and County of Honolulu Draft Watershed Management Plans for the Waianae and Koolaupoko regions were distributed. These are 2 of 8 regional plans that together will comprise the updated water use and development plan for the island of Oahu. They are also moving this Watershed Management Plans concurrently through the County ordinance adoption process.

C. STREAM PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

1. **Application for Stream Channel Alteration Permit (SCAP.2588.4) for Temporary By-Pass Road and Replacement of Kawela Bridge, Kawela Gulch, Kawela, Molokai, TMKs: (2) 5-4-001:023, 027 and 999**

Presentation by: Robert Chong

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission approve a Stream Channel Alteration Permit (SCAP.2588.4) for a temporary by-pass road and replacement of Kawela Bridge across Kawela Gulch, Kawela, Molokai, TMKs: (2) 5-4-001:023, 027 and 999, subject to the standard conditions in Exhibit 6.

Robert Chong added that he received comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and forwarded the comments to the consultants and the Department of Transportation (DOT). The Fish and Wildlife Service concerns are that: 1) the lined stream channel will accelerate storm flow and sediment into the reef and ocean, 2) there may be endangered water birds that may be nesting in the muliwai downstream from the bridge, and 3) there was no accommodation for the upstream migration of native aquatic species. Mr. Chong said the consultants conducted a hydraulic study that showed that there was some acceleration across the concrete lining under the bridge, but downstream past the bridge, the rubble riprap would slow down the flow of the stream back to the same flow rate as before the stream channel alteration. The consultants will meet with the Fish and Wildlife Service to address the concern about the nesting birds, and the consultants have agreed to install a low flow channel that would allow for the upstream migration of native aquatic species.

DOT is doing the bridge replacement and has obtained the property owners' permission.

MOTION: (Erdman/Miike)
To approve the submittal.
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

E. NEXT COMMISSION MEETINGS (TENTATIVE)

1. April 21, 2010
2. May 19, 2010

F. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

KATHLEEN OSHIRO
Secretary

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

KEN C. KAWAHARA
Deputy Director