

ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
STATE OFFICE TOWER BUILDING, ROOM 1500
235 S. BERETANIA STREET, HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813
March 21, 2013, 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Members Present: Charles Prentiss, John Richards, David Atkin,
Koa Kaulukukui, Mark Ambler, Azita Quon,
Scott Glenn (Acting Chair in Chair Steiner's
excused absence), Gary Gill (Acting Director).

Members Absent: Mary Steiner, Malia Akutagawa, Iris Terashima,
Marjorie Ziegler, Paul Chang.

Counsel Present: Edward Bohlen, Department of the Attorney
General.

Staff Present: Norma Polendey, and Leslie Segundo

1. Call to Order: With a quorum of 8 members, Vice Chair Scott Glenn, acting in the absence of Chair Steiner, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. He apologized to the council about the confusion on the start time of the meeting noting that he believed the Council intended to meet at its usual time of 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
2. Introductions/Attendance: All present introduced themselves.
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes: The January 17, 2013, Minutes were distributed to all. In response to a request by Ms. Kaulukukui, Mr. Glenn asked OEQC to email Minutes of Meeting a couple of days prior to a scheduled meeting and moved that the council approve the minutes. The council unanimously approved the January 17, 2013, Minutes by acclamation and without objection.
4. Chair's Report: Mr. Glenn informed the Council that Mr. Paul Chang's appointment as member of the Council is still in process.

5. Director's Report: Acting Director Gary Gill reported that the office operations of OEQC, despite the absence of a full time Director and a full time Secretary, is stable and moving forward with the periodic Bulletin being published in a timely manner as required by law.
- Mr. Gill also reported on two projects that the OEQC Staff is working on: "Standard Operating Procedures of the Office of Environmental Quality Control" and an update to "A Guidebook to the Implementation and Practice of the Hawai'i Environmental Policy Act", which will be out soon.

Mr. Gill reported on the following office projects and updates:

- The 1970's-version telephones at OEQC have been replaced with more modern equipment;
- Modern state-of-the-art desktop computers have been acquired for the staff;
- The issue involving the temporary assignment of secretaries is close to being resolved with the recruitment of a full time permanent Secretary II position.
- The OEQC database or the *e-library* is moving forward. With the *e-library*, electronic submittals will be able to be made to the OEQC and also be automatically entered into a searchable library. Once the database is up and running, the public can search the database by use keywords to more easily find documents.

On the Legislative front, Mr. Gill reported that the following measures remain alive:

- The OEQC Fee Bill;
- The Electronic Waste Recycling Bill; and
- The Water Pollution Control Bill.

Finally, Mr. Gill reported that the new OEQC Director is not known, saying that the Governor's Office had conducted interviews and that the Governor has yet to announce the new Director.

6. Standing Committee Reports:

a. Exemption Committee: Mr. Atkin reported that since no exemption applications were received no Committee meeting was held.

b. Rules Committee: Mr. Glenn reported that the Rules Committee met on Tuesday, March 19, 2013.

Mr. Glenn noted that he is hoping for a Director that would support and direct the council on the rules, but Mary Steiner, Acting Director Gill as well as Attorney General's Office representative Ted Bohlen acknowledged that regardless of who the new Director will be, there will likely be no change in the direction of the Council.

Mr. Glenn reported that the Committee received about 270 comments on the Draft document.

Mr. Glenn said that the Rules Committee will be meeting bi-weekly to discuss the comments received and invited the Council members to attend.

c. Annual Report Committee: Ms. Quon reported that the Annual Report is almost done and the Report will be ready by the April meeting.

d. Legislative Committee: Mr. Glenn reported that save for the OEQC Bill, the Legislature appears to be leaving the Council Office alone. He also discussed the training for board and commission members held at the UH Law School under the sponsorship of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

e. Information/Outreach Committee: Mr. Ambler reported that the Committee had not met. He reported that they plan to hold a meeting next month.

Mr. Ambler asked if there is anybody on the Council who has had knowledge of, or experience on the issue of genetically modified organisms. Mr. John Richards responded in the affirmative noting that he would gladly assist the Council and the Committees in the matter.

Mr. Gill then requested that the Council, (particularly its Information/Outreach Committee) consider playing a non-partisan role in the GMO debate through such activities as conducting research and investigating the factual basis of

GMO, or possibly providing a venue for educational information meetings on the issues of GMO, food sustainability, food justice, and pesticide-use. A long discussion ensued. Mr. Glenn told Mr. Gill that as Acting Director he could request that the council consider this or any other environmental matter to be written up in its annual report which would then be passed on to the Legislature.

Motion: Mr. Gill moved, and Mr. Prentiss seconded that the Environmental Council, particularly the Information/Outreach Committee considers taking a more proactive role in the GMO issue. The Council unanimously approved the motion (8-0).

Mr. John Richards left after the vote at 2:45 to catch his 4:00 p.m. flight.

7. Environmental Center Report: Mr. David Penn reported that the Environmental Center has been engaged in a lot of activity on GMO; he offered assistance to the Council on the issue.

Mr. Penn also reported the following:

- a. The Center's completed reviews under Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes as well as on-going reviews of different projects;
- b. The different upcoming projects and activities of the Center;
- c. The Center's Testimony supporting the OEQC Fee Bill and testimony for the Water Pollution Control bill;
- d. The retirement of the name of the Environmental Center and its new name "Environmental Assessment and Protection Division", with its functions the same; and,
- e. The different Grants for the Center.

A Question and Answer session followed Mr. Penn's report.

8. Public Testimony: None

9. Correspondence Received:

1. Letter from PBR Hawaii requesting the Council's participation on the State Hawaii Office of Planning Coastal Zone Management Stormwater Cumulative and

Secondary Impact Assessment Guidance and Training Focus Group. Mr. Glenn asked if anybody is interested in doing this. Mr. David Atkin said he is interested. Mr. Glenn directed Mr. Atkin to follow-up with PBR.

2. Letter from Mike Lyons of North Shore Neighborhood Board No. 27, addressed to Mr. George Atta, Department of Planning and Permitting, City and County of Honolulu and Ms. Mary Steiner, expressing their desire to preserve the North Shore as rural and agricultural area. Mr. Glenn noted that since it is not the Council's place to approve or disapprove an EA or EISPN, the Council would not take any action on this letter.

10. New Business: None

11. Adjournment: Mr. Glenn briefly recapitulated the disposition of issues that were discussed:

1. The Information and Outreach Committee will take up the GMO issue.
2. Mr. Atkin would report back to the Council on the Coastal Zone Management Stormwater Cumulative and Secondary Impact Assessment Guidance and Training Focus Group of the Office of Planning with PBR Hawaii.
3. The Rules Committee will meet on April 9, 2013.

Mr. Glenn thanked everybody and he adjourned the meeting at 03:20 p.m.