

**Department of Environmental Management  
Maui Wastewater Community Working Group Meeting  
Thursday, December 3, 2009  
Kahului Community Center**

**Meeting Notes  
Reviewed by the CWG on January 7, 2009**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Facilitator Leland Chang opened the meeting. Community Working Group (CWG) members introduced themselves. Two new members, Tanya Lee-Greig and Jacob Mau were introduced. Roland Asakura is no longer a member as he was not representing State Department of Health (DOH), and this CWG seat will be filled with a DOH official. Howard Hanzawa (in the audience) explained that the West Maui Developer's Group representative to the CWG was still being sought. Tui Anderson introduced himself from Department of Water.

**II. Review Agenda: Reminder re: Ground Rules: Housekeeping**

Leland covered the following:

- Reminder that CWG members represent affiliations and constituencies and the hope is that CWG members will network with their constituents.
- The main agenda item will be Steve Parabolicoli's water recycling presentation.
- Ground rules: Leland reminded the group of the need for mutual respect on an ongoing basis; other guidelines are summarized in the last meeting's notes.
- The CWG website is up and the group has an email address. Website location: go to County of Maui site; Department of Environmental Management; Wastewater Reclamation Division
- Roster handout: members are asked to check their information and provide any changes; this version is for CWG use only. Membership, affiliation and email address will be posted on the website for public access unless members elect not to have contact information shown.
- Re. members wanting to distribute materials: there will be a CWG resource table area at each meeting to receive handouts. CWG Members should bring materials (25 copies) for members and the team. The public can also bring material (25 copies) to share with the CWG.

### **III. CWG 1 Meeting Summary**

Leland asked if any changes needed to be made. No changes to the Meeting Summary were made.

### **IV. CWG Wastewater Information Interest Survey**

There were 18 responses to the survey. Top interest areas included:

- Recycled water systems
- Levels of treated water an allowable uses
- Financing of wastewater projects, operations, maintenance, and repairs
- Permitting process and operating procedures for injection wells
- Private systems and facilities
- Legal and compliance requirements for new facilities
- Environmentally and financially sustainable approaches
- Environmental issues
- What others are doing
- Possible risks or impacts of increased treatment

Steve's presentation will touch on most of these areas of interest

There is interest in touring a wastewater facility, and this is being actively worked on. This would be good after Dave's presentation at the last meeting. Next meeting might be at Kihei, and we are in the process of securing a meeting space. Leslie Wilkins indicated that meeting space was available at MEDB.

### **V. Guiding Principles-Discussion of Draft**

Mission: There was discussion regarding the use of "enlightened". Leland explained that this was a statement of aspiration.

It was recommended that the scope of the CWG's work be broadened to include recommendations to all levels of county government, rather than only to the Department.

Suggestion was made that the CWG should also be looking for practical and feasible recommendations.

It was suggested that "making significant strides" be deleted in reference to the goal of 100% recycling.

Comment: Don't know if it is practically possible to achieve 100%. There is no time element.

Comment: should be “measurable strides” because we will be looking at benchmarking. Leland mentioned that “measurable” can be included as a criteria.

Paragraph A: Comment: “Sustainability” needs to be defined so that the group understands what is meant, e.g., access to water resources, equity issues, environmental. Recognized framework is social, environmental, and economic. This is a good goal to strive for.

Comment: How tied to other water issues do we want this to be even though there is an offset (recycled water to displace use of potable water). Is this what we want to do? If how water is managed is tied to other sources, this can become complex and we may not get anywhere. Recycled may have nothing to do with other water resources; so even if it doesn’t offset other water use, it will still be a good outcome.

Comment: We are speaking in terms of ecology (not just environment) when we say that how we manage wastewater is tied to other water resources. Let’s not lose sight of that.

Robin will send Leland a definition of “ecological”. Alex will send in a definition of “sustainability” as a guiding principle.”

Suggest using “increasing the percentage of water used that is recycled” instead of increasing use of recycle water.

Availability is a key issue; not just use.

Comment: “wise use of water resources” instead of sustainability. In Some places solution may be to displace potable water by using recycled water.

Comment: “wise” is subjective and should be defined if to be used. Leland explained that guiding principles are values, so not everything has to be defined or measured. Its role is to indicate intent and direction.

Comment: ensure conservation of water resource.

Paragraph B: Comment: Beneficial is subjective; “efficient or equal access” is better. Beneficial use is a legal term that appears in statutory language. What is a non-beneficial use? What we are doing with it now (disposing through injection wells).

Comment: Need to look at how we are going to educate the community.

Paragraph C: This is okay. “Similar systems” explained by Dave. Achieves same goal but isn’t exactly the same type of plant.

Paragraph D: “Within a reasonable time” is ambiguous and lacks a sense of urgency. Suggest use of “as soon as feasible”.

Suggestion to use “phasing out injection wells...” in place of “reducing reliance on”

Paragraph E: This reflects Dave’s presentation re. system reliability.

Paragraph F: Should be sensitive to low income rate payers, but not sure about across the board. It’s important to find other ways to fund. Need to talk about broader than property taxes, federal sources, other funding sources.

Comment: can’t say here’s what we want to do without knowing how we are going to finance. We have to figure out financing as a guiding principle.

Leland mentioned that consideration was for everyone who is on the system. Costly projects impact all rate payers, not just persons with low income.

Comment: make general language for creative financing opportunities and not just singling out rate payers; language is too narrow in scope.

Comment: Agree with emphasis on other financing; but concept of impact on community and customers should be retained in this principle. Dave’s presentation showed impact of CIP on community in terms of cost.

Comment: Emphasize pursuing other funding sources to lessen impact on ratepayers.

Facilitator: What about sensitivity to people’s ability to pay (social justice?)  
comment by CWG member.

Question: rate payers; what costs are we talking about? What about users of recycled water and cost associated with that. Are we envisioning that rate payers are paying for that. Financial implications of recycled on whole system from treatment to final user needs to be addressed. Need broader consideration of cost and cost containment. There are more than rate payers involved. Overall cost impacts on everyone need to be considered. Dave: most expenses are paid from sewer fees and recycled water does not pay 100%. Leland will capture concept of “alternative sources of financing” in the guiding principles;

Comment: there’s a real need to be careful when saying ratepayers -- from consumer to producer rate payers.

Comment: mention long term avoided cost of not producing recycled water; what’s it going to cost up front; what’s the financial burden of the initial construction; what are the environmental impacts going to cost if we don’t produce; have some sort of value in that. Dave and Steve will work with Leland on language.

Paragraph G: Public education re. how this can save in the long run. Cost analysis of doing nothing and environmental costs, and cost of new systems amortized over time.

We will probably be upgrading treatment even if we don't recycle. The doing nothing cost may be more.

Wastewater plans should tie into Maui General Plan and Maui Island Plan projections.

What are we trying to accomplish in principles? Leland: They are expressions of community values and will serve as a form of guidance. So when the CWG comes up with proposals, they will need to be consistent with the principles.

Include “efforts and support” Education has costs associated with it. Support can come from different sources. Leland clarified with “adequately resourced efforts....”

Suggested a new guiding principle H on sustainability. Alex will send Leland a proposed definition.

Focus is on both 100% reuse and disposal through injection wells. Island may not be able to use of all the recycled water (e.g., during the winter), but there may be other means of disposal that might be better than injection wells. Need to be open to looking at other disposal means.

Concern about reuse, what's the overload coming from the land. Steve Parabolicoli to cover this in his presentation.

What do we understand by “use” -- injection well is use. Constructed wetlands are considered a use and are ecologically responsible. Do we mean end users or are we looking at use in other terms.

Are we assuming that injection wells are bad? This can answered in one guiding principle: our management practices should be in keeping with water quality management and planning; this should be the envelope we work in. Injection loads are not inherently bad; if it is okay with water quality, it might be acceptable. Management planning under the Clean Water Act requires looking at social and ecological.

Mission talks about all water to be recycled; and we're not saying that stopping injection is due to environmental impact.

Re. near shore reef environment -- injection wells should be prevented from coming up.

At the Lahaina permit hearing, the Mayor announced the goal of stopping injection, and recycling wasn't really part of it. The question is what to do with it -- as a resource.

By saying stop injecting, is this saying that it is the lesser of two evils? What if we cannot inject and the alternative is something better or worse?

Leland will attempt to integrate the group's comments into the next draft.

## **VI. Wastewater Recycling - Presentation by Steve Parabolicoli**

One-half billion gallons of water are saved a year by our recycled water.

Kihei slide questions: Is South Maui Verification Study to expand that line?  
Where's the north end of the line?

Regarding ordinance, concern with cross connections. DOH and DEM don't have capability of checking cross connections. Commercial includes ag, parks, condos.

Is what goes in injection wells at Kihei disinfected? Yes.

Any requirement by DOH to disinfect what goes down well? No; injected water does not require that; but what is injected is still good quality in terms of SS and BOD—it is treated, but not the high level of reuse quality.

What about Central Maui? Everything is injected, it is R3.

Central Maui slides:

- Where does water from industrial use go?
- How many injection wells? 8 are all on line. 100% back up is required by DOH; either need injection wells or massive storage.
- Concern re. Central Maui due to sea level rise, possible relocation -- some CWG members expressed interest in talking about this.
- Constructed wetlands might be pursued; water can be evaporated; wetlands are used extensively in other areas and can be a source of community pride. Steve: There are questions of maintenance and operations. Much more volume to deal with, so need a lot of area. Dave: Constructed wetlands need to be very big. Lanai's treatment plant is as big as the town -- this gives the scope of size.

Recycled water rate slides:

- How do these rates compare to cost of delivery of potable water? Rates around \$1 for potable water. Sewer users are heavily subsidizing.
- DOH approve for laundry? Are hotels looking at this? Hotels are one of the bigger users.

**VII. Next Steps**

- Redraft Guiding Principles (Robin and Alex: To submit guiding principles language to submit to Leland)
- Kihei Facility Tour
- Continue discussion on recycling.
- Brainstorm session
- Finance Director: February

**IX. Next Meeting: Thursday, January 7, 2009**

**IX. Public Comments:**

This discussion was informative. When the (West Maui Developers Group) met with various members of the community from condos and hotels, there was great interest. If word can get out, there was a lot of information here that would be of interest.

There was a request that a news release be issued for each meeting. This will be looked into.

Re. the community working group that met several years ago, should the CWG get a presentation on their recommendations and findings. Response: Brown and Caldwell did write a report; and working group looked at one scenario and the recommendation was not really followed. That group looked at how rates should be spread, which was a different purpose.

Question: Do you have map of the private systems and to what extent they are using reclaimed water? Response: Austin Tsutsumi did a study of Maalaea but the County does not have anything for private system locations. It is generally known that Pukalani, Maalaea, Makena is where most systems are.