

County Council Environmental Management Committee Meeting Notes – June 1, 2009

Agenda

In accordance with the agenda, this meeting included a presentation by Dan Pitzler, CH2M HILL and discussion on the following topics:

- Draft recommendations and implementation plan
- Plan approval process

Public Statements

- None made.

Council Member Comments

Pete Hoffmann – Suggested changing presentation of revenues and expenses to show what's needed from added tip fees or property taxes to show that the system pays for itself. Also, he would like to see a capital improvement program tied to a general obligation bonding for recycling and transfer stations.

Brenda Ford – How can we go beyond the projected 44% recycling rate? Dan responded that expanding into centralized food waste composting would be one approach. It's quite expensive and our recommendation is to do the broad set of programs first, then possibly move to this later.

She mentioned piggeries and the possibility of using them as part of an organics management strategy. Dan responded that this could fit in planned outreach with farmers for on-site solutions.

She expressed concern about the closed Kailua Kona landfill – it smelled bad last Friday, and the stench and smoking need to be fixed now. She's concerned about the time needed for "feasibility studies" – we need to fix it now. We should be applying for grants to fix this – superfund or Brownfields.

What did the SWAC recommend by consensus vs. unanimous? Dan responded that SWAC recommended unanimously pursuing expansion of the South Hilo Landfill and the Pay-as-You-Throw (PAYT) program. The specifics of the plan will be discussed tomorrow.

For the recycling and transfer station upgrades, there are stimulus dollars out there. Why don't we go get that money? Mike responded that the designs are not complete enough to get on the list for stimulus funds.

Kelly Greenwell – He has written letters to Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Agriculture requesting funding for cleaning up the old Kailua-Kona landfill, and expects to hear back from Environmental Protection Agency in a week. He's very

concerned about Hawaiian Homelands' proposal to build thousands of homes near that landfill. He will act to stop this until that landfill is cleaned up. He believes that this project is shovel ready.

He has concerns about Pay As You Throw. He believes that the illegal dumping that currently exists will only get worse. Pay As You Throw doesn't appear feasible to him.

He's concerned about recycling: what's being recycled? The economics of recycling don't work. Get rid of this silliness, and focus on bigger picture solutions.

Brenda Ford - Did we do a cost-benefit analysis of using private vs. County employees for recycling from recycling/transfer stations? Dan said, not explicitly, but currently the private sector is doing the transportation and processing of recyclables.

Did we look at the potential uses for recycled materials here locally? Dan said that we're proposing various market development issues including partnerships with other counties, but the facts are that it's very difficult to attract remanufacturing businesses to a small rural area. She mentioned enterprise zones that currently exist and maybe with State help they can make this happen. She discussed the hydrogen Hummer and said we should be looking to make residuals into marketable commodities.

Donald Ikeda - He wanted to be sure that this is an island-wide plan, and not just for East Hawai'i. He's concerned that Pay As You Throw will lead to trash on the roads and we'll need to do more cleanups. He mentioned a group in Washington D.C. that offered to take the County's garbage for free and pay the County. He asked about the compost proposal for West Hawai'i. Mike noted that it was \$20/ton more than mulching with no added tonnage, so it was deferred for now.

Fresh Onishi - He noted that the County has been having troubles collecting fees from haulers. Wouldn't a tipping fee increase make this problem worse? Mike said that money has been collected from customers, thus this was a collection problem not a problem of customers not able to pay. He asked about the payment to haulers for residential customers. Mike responded that this system would go away. He asked Mike to tell the Council when this is eliminated.

Kelly Greenwell - We should be going after federal funds.