

MINUTES

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF HAWAI'I
SPECIAL WATER BOARD MEETING**

September 13, 2017

West Hawai'i Civic Center, Council Chambers (Building A);
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Highway, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Craig Takamine, Chairperson
Mr. Russell Arikawa, Vice-Chairperson
Ms. Kanoë Wilson
Mr. William Boswell, Jr.
Mr. Nestorio Domingo
Mr. Leningrad Elarionoff
Ms. Brenda Iokepa-Moses
Mr. Eric Scicchitano
Mr. Keith K. Okamoto, Manager-Chief Engineer, Department of Water
Supply (ex-officio member)

ABSENT: Mr. Bryant Balog, Water Board Member
Director, Planning Department (ex-officio member)
Director, Department of Public Works (ex-officio member)

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Jessica Yeh, Deputy Corporation Counsel
Ms. Sue Aronson
Mr. Kelly Greenwell
Mr. John Moore
Mr. Bo Kahui
Mr. David Thomas
Ms. Sarah Kay
Mr. Bill Mundt
Mr. R. D. Fischer
Mr. Mark Powell
Mr. Dean Ouer
Mr. Roger Fontes
Ms. Jen Johanson
Mr. James Johansen
Mr. Bruce Pratt
Mr. William Case
Ms. Delma Case
Mr. Vince Orn
Mr. Duane Nitta
Ms. Sherry Bracken
Ms. Terese Nakama
Ms. Chantal Chung
Mr. Max Dible, 10:10 a.m.
Mr. Jeff Zimpher
Ms. Susan Kim

Department of Water Supply Staff

Mr. Kawika Uyehara, Deputy
Mr. Eric Takamoto, Operations Division

- 1) CALL TO ORDER – Chairperson Takamine called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He announced that this is a Special Water Board Meeting to discuss the establishment of a Permitted Interaction Group with regards to the North Kona Water Situation.
- 2) STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (verbatim) – Chairperson Takamine took statements from the public and announced that statements would be limited to three minutes; and for the Board’s information, they could not answer any questions during this period or engage in discussion.

1. Ms. Sue Aronson

S. Aronson: Good morning. My name is Sue Aronson. I am a realtor with Kona Coast Realty. I have been a realtor here for over 30 years in Kona, and I consider myself an environmentalist as well. For 20 years, I have been trying to work with the County on our Kealakehe Wastewater issue, which today is still not rectified. Our oceans have become polluted. And with regards to the Hawai‘i fresh water, I attended most of the Water Commission meetings regarding the Keauhou Aquifer. I am a solution-oriented person, and I’ve been going to the meetings about the reports of all the water wells and the pumps; but I would like to take another path and just make people aware of what opportunities we have to help rectify the situation of our fresh water security. Hawai‘i Community Foundation put out a Hawai‘i Fresh Water Initiative, A Blueprint for Hawai‘i’s Water Future 2015 to 2017. If you haven’t seen it, please look at it. I put out a call today to Kyle (indiscernible) of Ulupono Initiative, who (indiscernible) donated to Hawai‘i Community Foundation to see if we could initiate this within our Kona community. And there are three...in their summary, they say that conservation to improve the efficiency of our population’s total daily fresh groundwater use rate by 8% from our current 330 gallons per day to 305; and by 2030, this goal will provide 40 million gallons a day in increased water availability and in recharge, storm water capture, watershed reforestation, and then third, reuse--more than double the amount of wastewater currently being reused in the islands. At Kealakehe, it should have been an R-1 plant, and it is in bankruptcy right now on a previous repair bid. And we use 1.8 million gallons of water. It should be recaptured and used for irrigation and not use potable water for irrigation. I just recently took a course through the National Association of Realtors on being a green realtor, and I think we need something for Hawai‘i Island to teach realtors about the EPA Water Sense project where they replace plumbing, toilets, shower heads. There’s a lot of things we can do, and then also I live in Holualoa. I’d like to learn more about the water catchment systems for Hawai‘i and plan to install it for my home, and there’s a lot I’ve had to learn and that’s where I’m coming from.

2. Mr. Kelly Greenwell

K. Greenwell: Good morning and thank you for this opportunity. I think we’re all aware of what’s going on in the rest of the Country with the storms, the hurricanes in Texas and in Florida. I think we recognize that there’s going to be a tremendous expense to this

country to restore those areas and put them back into shape so that they are habitable. What that means, of course, is that there's going to have to be a whole new way of how we look at money and how we spend money nationally. What's going to happen is there's going to be probably a trillion or two trillion dollar infrastructure money going to be available across the country, and Hawai'i needs to be there with a high-profile project to get some of that money. Now this sounds not in accordance with what economists will tell you, but the fact of the matter is we're gonna have to reinitiate the same thing we did after the Second World War which was the Marshall Plan, and we're gonna have to look at economics in a different way. The money simply needs to be there, and we simply need to have our handout for projects to get it. This project has a profile now of tremendous proportion, and it's time we took advantage of that opportunity and start designing a system which will require approximately one billion dollars to rebuild the water system in West Hawai'i that can service everything from Kohala to Nā'ālehu and the money will be available, in my estimation, if we're gonna recover the economic situation that we're seeing nationally. We have to be a national player. Now, there's another speaker here today, Bo Kahui. He and I worked on getting the money for the Ana Keohokalole Highway. Basically, it was a matter of minutes to secure that money because we went through the Recovery Act and while the Recovery Act was there for us, no one in this State recognized that availability. We need to do the same thing again, and I strongly recommend that you form this committee of people who have outside concepts and ideas as to how to get the funding. Never mind the process. Let's get the funding. Now obviously, the funding won't come if we don't have a process, but we need to look at the bigger picture here. Thank you.

3. Mr. John Moore

J. Moore: Hi. I have been (inaudible) for a while so I have not attended most of the meetings that were held prior to this and really am not sure what's going on as far as the well repair goes and that's my main concern. I've been a contractor for...I got my first contractor's license in 1969, so figure that one out. And I have worked on well drilling projects. My first DWS project was in 1975, working on the Waimea Water Treatment Plant. And I've been here for quite a while. In any case, my major concern is what is DWS doing to make sure something like this doesn't happen again in the future. And while they're doing the repairs right now, having been in the construction business for years, I realize that one of your most important people on a major construction job is your master mechanic. Does the DWS have a master mechanic? Do they have a supervisor who is skilled in putting these wells...removing the pumps and putting them back in? My understanding is they dropped one of the pumps in one of the repair jobs and I think, I don't know if you all know, it wasn't the first pump that's been dropped. There was a well that was built privately where they dropped the pump and it was probably delayed for a year and a half because of it. If we have a good supervisor watching what's happening, perhaps something like this won't recur. And the cost of recurring, I think, all of you know is going to be far more costly than if it doesn't happen at all. The other thing is, I'm wondering if Water Supply has made a list of what exact problems they've had, how many are the same ones, and then getting the spare parts so that they have them on hand for the next time these things happen. The last thing is, is Procurement and Water Supply's way of letting out these contracts, getting the contractor who is licensed or maybe isn't licensed but has the skills to do the work because we've gotta have people here to do the work. Five out of fourteen wells down and I don't know how long for is just not satisfactory. I got a lot more things to say; but obviously, there are time limitations.

4. Mr. Bo Kahui

B. Kahui: Before we get started, I represent maybe four organizations. Do I get three minutes for each organization? (laughter) Still give you three minutes total. Aloha. My name is Bo Kahui. I'm a member of the Villages of La'i'Opua Homesteads Association, the Director. I also serve as the Executive Director of La'i'Opua 2020. I'm a President of the West Hawai'i Parks Incorporated, helping the County develop the park across the street. I'm here to discuss the Permitted Interaction Group, Item 4 on your Agenda. We, as stakeholders, find it important, first of all, in this permitted interaction committee, there should be a stakeholder like myself or other community members that can give a voice to this Board. Crucial, I think, when you look at some of the work that we've done with the Department of Water Supply, currently La'i'Opua 2020 has a water development up in Holualoa to develop 1.5 million gallons. We thought through the last three years that government would pipe up on this opportunity and would have helped with this redundancy plan, had we initiated this plan some time ago. But as of June of this year, La'i'Opua 2020, through the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, has raised \$1 million for the entitlement part. We need this Board to match that, to move this initiative forward so we can help with your redundancy plan, which is affecting our community. Also, with respect to the permitted interaction committee, which is why we're here today, I would ask that the County of Hawai'i Environmental Management, Bill Kucharski, also sit on this interaction committee because he is directly working on the sewage treatment plant and that in effect helps with our water conservation, yeah? Especially when you look at the future of how that water is going to get distributed. Second, we would ask the Governor's Liaison, Susan Kim, be here so the Governor hears what we have to say, what this Board and this committee can interact with the community and with all the stakeholders so that Susan Kim can send that message to the Governor and we can get funding. Second, I think it's important to find out if major land owners and stakeholders are gonna take serious this issue. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands have been fighting with them to give us money and only recently did they allow in their budget, \$1 million, to help us. So DHHL should be invited into this committee. QLT, Queen Lil'uokalani Trust, should be invited into this committee, and the State Housing Community Development Corporation should also be invited to this committee as they have 273 acres, a 2,300-unit development there. Hawaiian Homes have a 1,200-unit development. QLT has a 5,000-unit development. You see where this is leading to? Urbanization is happening in Kona. How we tailor this plan and how this is gonna affect our water really depends maybe on this interaction group. Thank you.

5. Mr. David Thomas

D. Thomas: Good morning Board. Thank you so much for having a meeting and to bring this subject up. I'm an operation and maintenance person. I run wastewater treatment plants and water treatment facilities and I'm here to offer my assistance to you if you need any help with manning wells, temporary wells, or any piping. That's it. That's what I'm here for. I think it's a ... we really need to bring it all together and bring everybody together and operations really needs to be part of this committee so we know when these pumps fail and we can do something before they fail. Thank you.

3) EXECUTIVE SESSION RE: PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP

Chairperson Takamine called for a Motion to convene an executive meeting, closed to the public, pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Sections 92-4 and 92-5(a)(4), for the purpose of consulting with the Water Board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to its powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities.

ACTION: Mr. Arikawa so moved; seconded by Ms. Iokepa-Moses and carried unanimously by voice vote.

(The Board entered Executive Session at 10:23 a.m. and ended at 10:49 a.m.)

4) ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP RE: NORTH KONA WATER SITUATION

Chairperson Takamine called for a Motion for the establishment of a Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) to investigate matters related to the North Kona water situation, pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Section 92-2.5(b)(1), and would like to appoint from the Board to the PIG, himself, Vice-Chairperson Russell Arikawa, William Boswell, Jr., and Eric Scicchitano.

MOTION: Mr. Arikawa so moved; seconded by Mr. Scicchitano.

Chairperson Takamine opened up the Public Testimony portion and asked the public for some names they would like to suggest to be a part of this Permitted Interaction Group.

Mr. Elarionoff asked that before the public testimony is opened, that each of the Water Board Members appointed to the Permitted Interaction Group give some information on their background.

Mr. Eric Scicchitano – Employed with HPM Building Supply as Director of Operations, Manufacturing and Distribution. He has been with the company about seven years and has significant background in operational capabilities, discovery, and improvement process. Prior to that, he spent ten years in the Air Force working with the Government of Japan with facilities, etc. He has extensive background in looking at operational capabilities and maintenance; therefore, he volunteered to be a part of this committee.

Mr. William (Bill) Boswell, Jr. – Works with Kohanaiki as Director of Construction Operations, managing the sewer and construction operations on the entire property. He has an extensive amount of wastewater treatment plant irrigation water, reuse of water, distribution; and prior to that, for about 18 years, he worked with private contracting and has worked on the Hawaiian Ocean View Well project and the Wai'aha two 1-million gallon tank distribution system. He has experience working on water supply projects.

Mr. Russell Arikawa – represents District 3 in Hilo. He is presently working for his wife at Ginoza Realty. He is retired from the County of Hawai'i as a Police Radio Dispatch Supervisor and was on board when they first started 911 in Hilo for the County of Hawai'i. He also has 27 years as a Master Sergeant in the Hawai'i Air National Guard, in charge of operations and communications. He is very calm and able to assess situations.

Mr. Craig Takamine – Water Board Chair. He is a general contractor based out of Hilo. He has been Chairperson for the last two years and a Board Member for four.

Before opening up to public testimony, he stated that his thinking as far as what the purpose of this group will be, which is subject to change based on the feedback from the Board, but in general, the purpose of this group will be to review Procurement specifications, storage warranties, certification procedures of pumps and motors for wells located in West Hawai'i and more specifically, North Kona, review equipment performance monitoring and maintenance procedures, and offer suggestions for improvements and efficiencies, to review policies and procedures for contractor inspections by the Department of Water Supply (DWS). Once that information is compiled, to report back to the Board with the findings and possible adoption.

He asked if anyone wished to testify.

STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (reopened) – verbatim

Mr. Bo Kahui

B. Kahui: So if I might restate, that I have four organizations that I represent, do I get three minutes for each? (laughter) Three minutes total...okay. Okay, so when looking at the purpose of this committee, I thought about it, and certainly La'i'Opua 2020, myself as the Executive Director, would like to serve as a stakeholder for the community, specifically the Hawaiian Homesteaders Association in Kona. Again, I would renew my request to see that the County Environmental Manager participate, or his designee...participate in this committee because I think it is important that there is some interaction between what the Environmental Management is doing and what this committee will be drafting as policy for the County. I also ask that the Governor's Liaison, Susan Kim, be also put on this committee so that instead of on the back end after your recommendation to the Council, there might be some forward progress with seeking the Governor's assistance with related to whatever initiatives might come out from this committee. I would request that the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands designate their water czar. His name is Hale Akio, I believe, and I might have misstated his name; but they actually have a designated water person for that. So he might be instrumental as a Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, seek to see more water for its housing development and our community facilities development here in Kealahou. QLT, I think Kehau Henderson is the agent for QLT; but I think you would need to contact Deanne. I cannot remember the name but I can forward that to you, if you wish. But QLT should be at the table, looking at how these policies might affect them as well. And maybe they have a mana'o about how they can help this policy group establish these new rules for the County. The State Housing Community Development Corporation, which is the one currently, Durango's group is developing that kapuna and that family housing right here in Kealahou. I don't know the agent for that, but he or she should be invited, or their designee, and participate in this process. I can't think of anybody else, but I will forward my other names maybe to Keith Okamoto and then he can forward to you.

Chairperson Takamine: Thank you.

L. Elarionoff: Mr. Chair, may I make a comment? I don't think it is proper that the public has the idea that this is a policy-making group. As I understand, it is not a policy-making group. It is a search group to find out what the problem is.

Chairperson Takamine: You know, if we go back to the purpose, I think when we're looking at establishing this group, we might be looking for a little bit more technical experience just because, with our pumps and wells, we're kind of just basically trying to look outside of the box for solutions. So if you can keep your testimony kind of within those parameters; and if you have suggestions, maybe look at providing names that might provide a bit more of a technical expertise. Mr. Greenwell?

Mr. Kelly Greenwell

K. Greenwell: I want to reinforce the concept that I brought forward in my earlier testimony. I think we all recognize that the County doesn't have the money to do what needs to be done here, nor does the State. That's why I'm looking at the federal government; and what I said earlier, I will say again is that the federal government likes to get involved in projects that are imaginative and creative and in this case deal with a whole lot of conservation type issues. They're not gonna get involved in something this small. It becomes a political issue after a while and politicians like to have their names on big projects. They don't want to spend the time concerning themselves with a water distribution system in Kona somewhere out in the middle of the Pacific. So what I'm looking at is more of a tapestry of events that we can weave together to get that kind of interest which allows us to have an audience in Washington where the money is going to have to come from. When that happens, those people that fly here in their white jets that we see down at the airport every day are going to get involved in because it's their technology and it's things that they're doing, it's the fellows up there fooling around with hydrogen and what not. They need something to invest in. This issue that's before us right now has the kind of profile that will attract that kind of attention. If we're just looking to fix the system, we're not gonna get the kind of help that we need. If we're gonna look at reinventing the system and including all of those things that I bring up, along with the cultural issues, things like Bo just talked about, about the people that he's involved with, Hawaiian issue, alternative energy issue, a new way of looking at things, something that can be translated to other states that is born here, providing water in a tropical environment, is something that also has ramifications to what is going on in the world market. This is such an opportunity to do just what I'm speaking of and I'm going to volunteer. I don't know that I can contribute much more than I have said, but I would like to ask you to consider having me on your committee. Those of you that know me know that my family has been involved in the water system here for a long time. In fact, I did give you the Honokōhau well site. But anyway, I would like to be involved, and I would like you to also consider what Bo has said about bringing the community, let's call it for lack of better term, the native community of this place, into the envisioning of what we're doing here. And I think that's it. Thank you.

Mr. John Moore

J. Moore: I'm John Moore. I testified earlier. What I didn't say is I was very disappointed that this meeting didn't start with a status of the wells and the well repair. I can't understand why. I asked Keith if he was gonna do that. He said no, it's not on the agenda. I guess the only thing on the agenda is getting together a group that is going to work on helping solve the repair problem. With respect to the repair problem, I don't know how your group is gonna set up and function but you have named four or five people on the Board. I would imagine there would be at least three people from the Water Supply, and then a few from the community as well, and I don't know how often they'd meet, I don't know what they'd do. All I know is what they'd try to do anyway but it seems that maybe they'll work out what they're going to do themselves. But, and I don't know if you've already designated some people or not but I can't imagine not having a couple people from the Water Supply in this group and I look at it and yes, you need technical people. If you're trying to figure out how to fix the pumps, I don't think you need to have a bunch of people who are concerned about the Hawaiian issues and stuff with the other things. We're just trying to get our pumps fixed right now and our wells back in operation. If that's what my understanding is... correct me if I'm wrong, that was my understanding. And then you're gonna need some technical people who have done this kind of work. You might need somebody who has been a driller. You might need somebody who has been a pump repair guy who has been a pump supplier, some major guys like that, and have a background in that. And a background in construction

equipment which is what these pumps are. And where do you go from there...I'm not sure. But this is what I see and you all are gonna have to figure out what to do. We talk about having a second well in each site. I happen to believe that's a ridiculous expense. It'd be better to have a second pump at each site and have the capability to be able to pull a pump at will as soon as one goes down and you can look at and that's part of what this Board can do...it can look at what the expense of the alternatives would be because that's what you're gonna need to do. You know, how much does it cost to drill a well? Well you guys got a pretty good idea. How much does it cost to buy a rig? You can get a good idea on that. How much does it cost to have spare parts for each pump? And if they are replaceable at each well, if you've got eight wells that have Type "A" pump, then you had six of Type "B," well we get pumps for "A" and we get parts for "B." How much does that cost us? Do we need 14 parts or can we get away with two or three of each type and then as they go, we can get some more. But these are the things that I think this group is gonna have to know how to do and they're gonna have to address them and then say here's where we go. And I don't know if I'm into too much detail or not, but this is where I am.

Chairperson Takamine: Thank you Mr. Moore. You know, Keith, can you address his issue with not getting proper information about the current status because all of that stuff is posted on the website and you guys have been actively sending that information out, right?

Manager-Chief Engineer: We can talk story after the meeting. We'll share the information.

Member of the Public: Can you maybe do a status update for everybody else in the room as to where we are and if there is any breakthrough?

B. Iokepa-Moses: After the meeting, Keith is willing to address that.

Chairperson Takamine: I think this meeting was specifically to address the permitted interaction group, but I think Keith will be happy to address everyone.

B. Iokepa-Moses: And then maybe you could share the website stuff too because you actively update that information on the well activity, I would imagine, daily. There is a website everybody can access. But, Keith, that would be great if you could update everybody afterwards.

Chairperson Takamine: Anybody else from the public?

Mr. Bruce Pratt

B. Pratt: Good morning. My name is Bruce Pratt. I live just up here makai. Thank you for the time together this morning. It's been a good conversation and I've learned a few things. One of the things I would like to suggest to you as Board Members is that there is a huge pump relations crisis right now. I know it's not your biggest concern but one of the things that I'm hearing from my neighbors and a lot of people in North Kona is that those of us on the West Hawai'i side of the island feel like Hilo is not hearing us all the time. And part of that could be solved by, in this group, also including Mr. Domingo who is from West Hawai'i as well. I don't know if he's available to do that, but I think having both North Kona representatives of the Water Board on this group would be helpful from the standpoint of the people here believing that their representatives of the Board are hearing what's going on. I know both of you gentlemen are fairly new to the Board and kind of got thrown into it, and I thank you for that; and I do believe that would be helpful to the West Hawai'i folks to have both representatives on the Board.

Chairperson Takamine: Thank you. Anybody else?

Mr. Vince Orn

V. Orn: Hi my name is Vince Orn. I live in Lokahi Makai. You know, I'm concerned about what I'm seeing and what I'm observing here, okay, when you have a pump head job being dropped. That concerns me. I used to work on pumps. There's another gentleman back there that used to work on pumps. We go 2,000 feet down, okay. I can't understand why the pumps are so hard to come by because when I was working in Central Valley, when the farmers need a pump, I could make a phone call and get that pump, okay. The system that you're using is a submersible pump, am I right? So that means the motor is on the bottom side being cooled by water. Then you have your pump head. On top the pump head, there's a check valve and then your pipes are connected and your wires are connected and on up. And then you have your cable, okay? One of the suggestions I could make to you guys is it is good that you are in this committee that you are building up to have somebody that has the technical background that has the connection that could assist you, okay, of obtaining or giving you names of places where you could get the parts. Parts should not be hard to come by. They slap these pumps together all day long.

Chairperson Takamine: Can I ask where you...you mentioned a valley?

V. Orn: Central Valley, California. Okay, and the farmers are dependent on pumps to irrigate the field and so if they're without water, guess what...they start screaming, on my back. And this is why if you are building a committee, put somebody that has the expertise that knows about this stuff and I think, also, is I would like to recommend, when I was doing pumps, I have a log. And if it's down at farmer's place, I have the log book, I mark it down what the readings are between leads. What the amp draws are, okay. And there are six different points that I check. At the bus where it comes in, from the bus it goes down to the relay that triggers it, the controller. From there, it goes down. Before it goes down, there are six points that I check. I wanna make sure that all the (indiscernible) are alike, that the end draws are alike, that the resistance are alike. If there is a big drop or big increase, then I got a problem. I got to find out why. I don't just use a capacitor tester. I use a capacitor analyzer because if a capacitor start drawing...start having too much loss of efficiency, then I know the capacitor is going out. This is the things that you need to do, and apparently, you don't have that. And it's affecting the whole community.

Chairperson Takamine: You know, at this time, I don't want to come to a conclusion what we have or what we don't have; but all I gotta say is for this particular meeting, we're looking at forming the permitted interaction group and looking for solutions so if you'll trust me, we're gonna be working hard. We're gonna look for people from the private sector who have the technical experience and we're gonna find some solutions. That's all I can say at this point.

V. Orn: Okay. Thank you.

Chairperson Takamine: Thank you. Sherry?

Ms. Sherry Bracken

S. Bracken: My name is Sherry Bracken. I would normally just ask this of you and Keith afterwards but there's people here who came here to hear what's going on and so I just have a couple questions. One is you talk about this committee as doing things like we're doing procurement, we're doing equipment, etc. Do you have nobody now doing that?

Chairperson Takamine: We wanted to actually have a fresh set of eyes coming and look at the Department from an outside of the box perspective. So, I'm not saying that we don't have anybody to do that right now; but I thought with the emergency situation that is currently occurring, that the Board needed to step in and that the Board needed to do something to show the public that we're really involved in looking for solutions, not only for now, but solutions for the long-term future of the Department.

S. Bracken: So the question is do you have somebody doing it now internally?

Chairperson Takamine: I'll defer that to Keith.

Manager-Chief Engineer: We have staff. We have contracts technicians and our project engineers are the ones who review the specifications and pass that on to the contracts technicians and take it to advertising and the bidding process and whatnot. So internally, we have staff.

S. Bracken: Okay. And Craig, you yourself mentioned you were going to seek assistance from an industry association on the mainland, I don't remember the name of it.

Chairperson Takamine: AWWA.

S. Bracken: Yeah, the American Water Association or something. Has that been done to connect with others and connect with experts in the industry?

Chairperson Takamine: I believe that we've gotten some interest from the AWWA but what I wanted to do was to actually form this group, talk to some of the Board Members that will be a part of this, and from that point, come up with the names and suggestions of individuals that will be sitting on the group.

S. Bracken: Then finally, everybody on this side of the island understands that our population is going to increase markedly. It started now, it will probably go through about the 21st of October. And although you point out the water usage has been excellent and that is because everybody has been cutting back, clearly once the influx of people starts happening, not only will restaurants go up because they'll have more customers, hotels are gonna go up, everybody's gonna go up. Meanwhile, Mayor Harry Kim told me in an interview last Thursday that he did put out an emergency declaration and because he's concerned about the brownness of the fields at Old Kona Airport, but many people who live here are also concerned about their crops, if they are farmers, their own landscaping. So how are you going to deal with this because, as you said, you can't cut off people when they get to what you consider to be excess usage. Usage is going to go up because when you have more people it will. So how are you prepared to deal with the Ironman influx?

Chairperson Takamine: The Department has been really gearing up for that and, Keith, can you share?

B. Iokepa-Moses: It's not supposed to be a back-and-forth.

J. Yeh: If you're asking whether they, as a permitted interaction group, is gonna address that, then I think it's proper to discuss that but I think that seems more of a Department focus inquiry.

S. Bracken: Is it a secret, how you're gearing up? I mean people who live on this side of the island really have serious concerns. We're talking about already we're getting an influx of people and starting October 1, it'll be more, starting October 7, it'll be more. According to what I was told by

Ironman two years ago, they expect as many as 40,000 people in Kona on that day. Granted they won't all be here for a couple weeks on either side but I think the public deserves to understand why it's not just the people who live here. I mean, are we gonna have enough water?

J. Yeh: I'm not on the Board and I'm not a Department of Water Supply employee. I do think, Craig, as the Chair, it is at your discretion to answer that question; but we kind of want to confine this particular discussion to what matters you are going to be discussing. If you are going to talk about how are we gonna address the Ironman problem within your group and include that in part of the purpose that you want to address, that's fine. Otherwise...

Chairperson Takamine: You know, this meeting was specially convened for the purpose of establishing this permitted interaction group. It is a Special Meeting. We do have regular meetings on the fourth Tuesday of every month. So we will be having one in Hilo at the end of this month, so like I mentioned earlier, Keith will be open after the meeting to discuss any of these matters; but at this time, I would like to keep our focus on this permitted interaction group.

S. Bracken: Sorry, I just thought people in the audience might appreciate, since there are a lot of concerns, but if you want to not talk about it and save it for your Hilo meeting, that will work.

R. Arikawa: You know, Sherry, Max Dible's from West Hawai'i and he wrote an article about this situation.

S. Bracken: I do read the newspaper, yes sir, but...

B. Iokepa-Moses: And just to be fair to all testifiers, it is testimony only, so back and forth questions are not part of this, so we're not trying to be secretive. We're just trying to find the needs of the (indiscernible) so Keith has opened himself to talking with everybody so after the meeting, by all means, get all the information you can from him and he's open to talk with you about that.

Chairperson Takamine: Sure, and this is not a Hilo or Kona thing at all.

N. Domingo: Mr. Chairman, may I say something? Sherry, I share your concern. I live here in West Hawai'i and like you said, my plants are turning brown and I'm directly affected. The problem that I see here is we are not offering any immediate solution to this problem that we have at this time. I wrote a letter to West Hawai'i Today offering some solutions and hopefully we can get some feedback from the community. With that, I am suggesting a dual redundant system. It's a dual system. And the reason why I am suggesting that is I came out of a risk analysis. I worked at flight (indiscernible) for 21 years; and part of our task is to analyze the risk, and the risk we have here right now is not enough water and it's creating a lot of heartache from the community and where I live. So, what's the risk? Risk is not having enough water. What caused it? It's the pump failing. So, the answer that we are having right now and that is why I suggest we have a backup of the systems that we have here. And once we have established that, then we probably could go in a bit deeper and find out what is causing all these failures.

Chairperson Takamine: Excuse me, Mr. Domingo. This is what the permitted interaction group is for, to come up with and look at solutions like you said. The reason why we are here is to establish this group and to address your concerns.

N. Domingo: Yes, and I just want to acknowledge the gentleman right here, I think Mr. (indiscernible) you mentioned about redundancy and employ people who have outside concern and I support that idea.

Chairperson Takamine: We do have a high sense of urgency to take care of your constituents for sure. Yes?

Mr. Max Dible: Yeah, I just was curious, you mentioned several members from the Department of Water Supply. Do you know who from Department of water Supply?

Chairperson Takamine: As far as I know and I didn't consult with Keith, but it will be Keith and his Deputy. There could be more, but I would like to consult with the Board Members who are gonna be on the permitted interaction group before we really see any other names.

M. Dible: Okay. And your Deputy?

Chairperson Takamine: Kawika Uyehara. Okay...please come up.

Ms. Terese Nakama

T. Nakama: Aloha residents of Kailua-Kona, North Kona. Terese Nakama. You know it's funny how things come. I wasn't expecting to be here, but I just got a letter from the Department of Water Supply giving residents who put in a barrel for water catchment and that is one of the good ideas that they've come forward with; but there must be other resolutions that we can do because there are six entities that use up more water than all the residents and all the resorts put together. The resorts have their own water well. But the residents are the ones that are having to restrain themselves. And what are the solutions, what you folks have to come up with besides input from the public? So water catchment is something that we all need to look into, especially in the rain belt area. But how does that water disseminate to the others in the drier area, the lower elevations of 800-foot level, which is closer to Queen Ka'ahumanu highway, which will be in a business district. So what are your future plans for this business district area on water usage? Six entities that use more water than all the residents put together. We need to look into that. NELHA, that's supposed to use the ocean water, but, you know, they have Koyo Water Company that sells our public water; and can you imagine? They use more water than all the residents put together, so, how do you have a balance with the influx of people coming in? How do you have a balance with the agriculture use that are growing lawns; they need to use water? Or the golf course closer to the highway? That's a dry area. Are they using their brackish water ponds? I mean, we need to look and you need community input, and you need to have a cultural identity, or Hawaiian identity, of water wells that used to be here a long time ago. All of our water is underground. But it's how to capture that water that's underground and not affect everybody else's usage. Because if you capture water on the mauka lands, it will affect the lower coast lands. Our ponds need fresh water in order for those to thrive along the shoreline. So it's a balance of that, that you need as part of your community, part of the concept that you folks come together in. So, you know, take that into consideration. You know, when you take a look, you know, right now, because of the problems we're having with the pump and the pump dropping into the well because of fray of the cables, they have to possibly drill a new hole, and that's gonna take time, so we're further into the restriction. So find out what are the real problems the Department of Water Supply, because I'm sure they don't tell the public everything so we don't go into hysteria and then jump to conclusions. We need to know what the facts are and if you could share the facts with us, then we, the public, can come inside and give input as to what would be a possible solution besides water catchment. I think the \$75.00 rebate the Department of Water Supply has given notice...it should be part of our announcement to the public that they all can use barrel water so whatever water catchment system, and they could possibly qualify for the \$75.00 rebate and maybe even more. Maybe \$150.00

because water catchment plastic containers cost a little bit more than \$75.00. So that's my suggestion to the panel here, and nice to see you, Leningrad.

Chairperson Takamine: Thank you.

T. Nakama: I'm glad you are forming this committee. I mean, this is something we're all facing. I mean, it's hard to go back to the coffee land days, we had to use water catchment. We washed the same dishpan water for the next breakfast, lunch and dinner and don't change the water until the next day. That's the situation we're faced with.

Chairperson Takamine: Uh, can I interrupt...we'd like to just speak about the permitted interaction group and...

T. Nakama: Yeah, but these are suggestions that we're having to do this. I want you to know that we're struggling. You know, it's not something we do in this high-tech society, in the 21st century. You know, something's wrong with the methodology of water usage here and something wasn't done properly, something wasn't planned properly, and yes, the influx of people are coming, not only are the 40,000 people coming...can you imagine the amount of traffic that we're having to deal with so...

Chairperson Takamine: Understand.

T. Nakama: Um getting back on the water thing, come up with other solutions that we can possibly capture rain water that we can share, that can be shared. Maybe another rain water catchment system that the County can have. I'm not sure. Okay. Thank you.

Chairperson Takamine: Thank you. (Mr. Kahui came forward.)

Mr. Bo Kahui

B. Kahui: Sorry, I appreciate the opportunity after listening to some of the speakers and then Mr. Leningrad's (sic) concern about really the purpose of the committee. Originally, when I heard the statement from Craig Takamine, Chairperson, the purpose of the committee may include policies and procedures of development. And, I think from the outside, community perspective, it might help in that arena. I also, and by the way, Bo Kahui for the record. I also think that this committee needs subcommittees because you have technical expertise, then you have policies and procedure, then you have other areas that you may want to divide this work in order to reach an outcome. No one committee can just sit down all day and do this job. You're gonna want to break up into subcommittees, and I highly recommend that because, like I said, the technical guys, and then maybe policy guys. You know, both are gonna work hand in hand as you bring those committees together. So I highly recommend that. I have several people that I also want to recommend to this committee; and if the committee doesn't choose me, that's okay, but Kihei Ahuna, who is a driller from Hilo--he has a lot of experience, and I know that he could lend his experience to this. A Native Hawaiian and take looking into the interests of our Native Hawaiian community, he could serve in this capacity; and I would defer to him if I think would work for this committee. Second, Sam Walker. He is the president from our Association. He's a master plumber, but he used to work in the subs, and I think he's worked with numerous different submersible pumps and so on, and he might have that experience. And lastly, I think for all of the candidates, I think you need a process like an application so that we can kindly get the resumes of these individuals that would allow themselves to speak to you about their expertise, because if we begin to weigh out who should be on this committee and you only have so many, I think forming

the committee, kind of figuring out, okay we need...we'll get the subcommittees and then figuring out how many members and so on and so on, then you can figure out through an application process through maybe your website. People can reach out to you to participate in this process. And I think it would be helpful instead of everybody trying to give their names to you rather than trying to solicit the help from the Board. Thank you.

Chairperson Takamine: Thank you. At this time, I'd like to close testimony portion...oh...
(Mr. Nita came up.)

Mr. Duane Nitta

D. Nitta: Good morning. My name is Duane Nitta. I live in Lokahi Makai. I'm one of the ones suffering. And I know you're starting this committee, but part of the committee's duties is to inform the Board from the Water Department, work together (inaudible) on what's going on. Now I understand that you are telling us that Mr. Okamoto, later on, will be talking to us individually outside regarding the status. I don't think that's fair for all of us who came here. In fact, if that's the way it's gonna work, the committee is not going to be able to get the information out to the public, if that's what's gonna happen. We are here because we know this is a Special Meeting for Kona. I'm not even sure if any of you understand what the latest update is. Does anybody here have the latest update? I don't think so. So I would request that Mr. Okamoto give testimony here, now, in front of everybody so we all get the exact same information instead of...

Chairperson Takamine: How's about, Jessica, can we make an amendment to the Agenda? Can we move it after we get through Number 4?

J. Yeh: Yeah, so you guys can move to amend the Agenda with Keith giving a status report subsequent to the vote on this group.

Chairperson Takamine: Thank you. (Mr. Fischer came forward.)

Mr. Dave Fischer

D. Fischer: My name is Dave Fischer. I'll keep it short. I'm a registered professional engineer in Hawai'i. I have been since 1989. My experience with water goes back to 1975 here in Hawai'i, starting on Kauai and going to Ka'u and also the Hilo side. And I would like to be considered as part of this committee. Appreciate your hearing me out. Thank you.

Chairperson Takamine: Thank you. Okay. I would like to hear from the Board Members what your thoughts are on this permitted interaction group and discuss the purpose of the group.

B. Iokepa-Moses: I think a lot of people who came here wanted to hear about the status of the water system, and understandably. We're not trying to avoid that. This Special Meeting was to get this group together so I think we should move through the process. I support this group. I think it's a good idea to get community input as well as expertise from the Department of Water and the Board Members involved so we are abreast and can be proactive. **So I make a Motion that we accept this.**

R. Arikawa: Second.

Chairperson Takamine: It has been moved and seconded. Any more discussion? (None) All in favor? (Board Members: Unanimous ayes). Any opposed? (None) Okay, Motion carried.

ACTION TO AMEND AGENDA:

Chairperson Takamine called for a Motion to amend the Agenda to allow the Manager-Chief Engineer to give a report on the Kona water situation.

ACTION: Ms. Iokepa-Moses so moved; seconded by Ms. Wilson and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Manager-Chief Engineer's Report:

The Manager-Chief Engineer reported that the latest, as of today, is we are really focusing on the repair of two wells—Palani and Hualālai. Right now, we have a contractor working on Hualālai and trying to get that online. Our target for that one is to have it operational by next week and Palani the week after. As we all know, things change; and we haven't had the best of luck on these repairs. Right now, the current status with Hualālai is we are reviewing the motor. There appears to be an oil leak in the existing motor, so what we plan to do is bring another motor in from our baseyard that was designated for 'Ōla'a. That should have the capacity to operate at Hualālai. If that contingency plan does not work, our focus will shift to repairing Palani because that motor should be arriving on island tomorrow. Again, that is the current status as of today. That is our primary strategy to deal with the influx of people in the area for Ironman is to get those two wells up and running. As a reminder, those two wells are originally scheduled for completion November 26 and October 30 for Hualālai and Palani, respectively. Due to the good works by the contractor, the distributor, and the manufacturer in working with us to get those pumps and/or motors delivered well in advance of their regular schedule, we were able to do so. After that, we will be focusing on Honokōhau. Right now, the plan for Honokōhau is to rebuild the motor that was extracted from the well because that would be the most timely remedy for that one. Right now, our target date for completion of Honokōhau Well repair is the end of October. After that, the next well is Keōpū which is currently scheduled for December 20, 2017. Even with that one, we are working with the contractor and manufacturers to get the major components, the pump and motors, well in advance of that schedule also.

5) ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Next Meeting:

Chairperson Takamine made a suggestion for the next meeting of the Water Board, which was scheduled to be in Hilo. He asked Ms. Yeh if there was enough time to make that change to hold the meeting in Kona in case there are more people that want to attend from Kona. Ms. Yeh replied there was enough time.

MOTION: Mr. Iokepa-Moses moved to change the meeting of September 26, 2017, from Hilo to Kona; seconded by Mr. Arikawa.

Mr. Elarionoff asked what the reason was, again, to move the meeting.

Chairperson Takamine stated that it was to be moved to Kona just in case there are more community members that want to attend, and in case there are any updates.

ACTION: Motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

Chairperson Takamine announced that the next meeting of the Water Board is going to be on September 26, 2017, 10:00 a.m., at the West Hawai'i Civic Center.

2. Following Meeting:

The following meeting of the Water Board will be October 24, 2017, 10:00 a.m., at the Department of Water Supply, Operations Center Conference Room; 889 Leilani Street, Hilo, Hawai'i.

6) ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Mr. Arikawa moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Iokepa-Moses and carried unanimously by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Recording Secretary