

Molokai Irrigation System Roadmap to Improvement

Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) & Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board (MISWUAB)

Purpose: The purpose of this document and the Roadmap Process leading to its creation is to build trust and improve the relationship between HDOA and the MISWUAB, and through the MISWUAB, the MIS user community. By working together, HDOA, the MISWUAB, and the user community can improve the efficiency of the Molokai Irrigation System (MIS) and its ability to deliver dependable and affordable quantities of water to Molokai's agricultural community.

HDOA, the MISWUAB, and the MIS user community undertake this Roadmap to Improvement in good faith and with the understanding that patience, understanding and good will are necessary to achieve our mutually shared objectives.

Assumptions:

General

- In this document the "community" refers to the current water users while keeping in mind potential users in the future.
- We recognize that when we talk about community, there are communities at different levels (current MIS users, potential users and the Molokai community at large). When decisions are being made that affect a particular community, every attempt to inform/engage the appropriate community will occur.
- We recognize that there will be legitimate differences of opinion among community members. We do not expect consensus on every issue but expect that all parties will listen with an open mind, thoughtfully consider all opinions and respect the decisions of the MISWUAB.
- The community is responsible to participate, to stay informed and understand the purpose for this document.
- When there are issues of concern, the MISWUAB is the primary mechanism utilized to address the concern.
- Users will keep farming.
- Community will work to support HDOA in their efforts to improve the MIS.

Expected Benefits of Agreement:

All parties believe that in the long-term, an improved MIS will result in the expansion of agriculture on Molokai. We also believe that if we can achieve the level of mutual trust and respect that we hope for, MISWUAB meetings can be more productive and we can focus our time and effort on discussing ways to improve the system. We strongly believe that all parties have many good ideas that deserve hearing and it is in the best interest of all parties to share among ourselves the information needed to participate in and make informed decisions.

Objectives:

1. Improve the level of mutual trust and respect.
2. Improve the level of collaboration in seeking legislative support for MIS-related projects.
3. Improve the completion rate of operational tasks.
4. Improve the sharing of financial and operational information with the MISWUAB and the Molokai community.
5. Improve all forms of communication between the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) & Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board (MISWUAB) and the Molokai community by providing timely and accurate information; work with MISWUAB to develop, distribute and analyze water user surveys to determine water user attitudes on various subjects.

Indicators:

1. Trust and Respect
 - Results from the semi-annual survey of the MISWUAB.
2. Collaboration
 - No. of co-supported legislative bills.
 - Amount of legislative funds obtained for the MIS.
 - No. of MIS projects/activities jointly identified and worked on together.
3. Completion of operational tasks
 - Number of operational tasks completed within the estimated timeframe.
 - Number of operational tasks completed within the estimated budget.
 - Number of meters serviced/installed.
 - Frequency and area of reservoir serviced.
 - Number of meter requests outstanding.
4. Sharing of financial information
 - Quarterly presentations on the financial status of the MISWUAB.
5. Communication
 - Results from the semi-annual survey of the MISWUAB; increased use of local radio, newspaper and HDOA website to improve communications; use of monthly billing notices to inform users of future meetings.

HDOA Commitment:

HDOA shall, on an annual basis, within the first quarter of the state's fiscal year:

- Consult with MISWUAB to create/update a list of planned MIS CIP projects and timing for appropriations.
- Discuss and provide the MISWUAB with an estimated operating budget, based upon the most recently completed fiscal year.
- Provide the MISWUAB with a summary of the operating revenues and expenses of the prior fiscal year.

- Provide the MISWUAB with a list of operational tasks, including preventative maintenance, to be completed in the new fiscal year including their expected start and completion dates. (This list shall be updated and provided to the MISWUAB on a quarterly basis).

HDOA shall, on a quarterly basis, within the first 60 days following the end of a calendar quarter:

- Provide the MISWUAB with a presentation summarizing the operating revenues and expenses of the prior quarter and year to date.

HDOA shall, at the MISWUAB meetings:

- Provide the MISWUAB with an update of on-going tasks and system status.
- Provide other information as requested by the MISWUAB.

HDOA shall, as appropriate:

- Seek adequate funding for staffing to implement listed expectations of HDOA commitment.
- Seek adequate resources.
- Provide ongoing training to MIS staff.
- Offer staff development opportunities.
- Collaborate with DHHL on issues of mutual interest.

Miscellaneous

- The Deputy Director of the HDOA will be present at all meetings of the MISWUAB unless an emergency or personal or professional commitment requires his/her presence elsewhere.
- A representative of the Agricultural Resource Management division will be present at all meetings of the MISWUAB unless an emergency or personal or professional commitment requires his/her presence elsewhere.
- The Deputy Director and representative of the Agricultural Resource Management division will participate with the MISWUAB in the annual evaluation of this document including achievement of the indicators.
- The Deputy Director and representative of the Agricultural Resource Management division will participate with the MISWUAB in the initial development of the MISWUAB Action Plan and subsequent year-end review and update.
- HDOA shall acknowledge and/or respond to all communication about water delivery related issues from MIS water users within two business days.
- The primary point of contact for HDOA shall be a representative of the Agricultural Resource Management division. The Deputy Director shall be provided copies of communications/documents deemed important by the representative of the MISWUAB.

MISWUAB Commitment:

The MISWUAB will:

- Be a good personal steward of the water and the land.
- Encourage and enable friends and neighbors to be good stewards.
- Carefully reflect community attitudes and opinions.
- Actively promote appropriate legislative efforts.
- Recognize the legitimacy of this document and work through it for improvement.
- Conduct timely evaluation of outreach effectiveness, e.g. website, newspaper, radio, etc.
- Continually work with HDOA and MIS users to keep lines of communication open to improve the MIS.

All parties will:

- Proactively promote the use of this document in successfully managing the MIS.
- Actively inform various stakeholder groups about the value of this document as a model for working with one another to move forward. Inform policy people about this whole process and the effort put forth.

Evaluation

This document shall be jointly reviewed on an annual basis and modifications may be incorporated if mutually agreed upon by the HDOA and the MISWUAB.