

MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

10:00 am, May 20, 2008

- I. Call to Order: Adolph Helm, Chairman, called the meeting to order @ 10:04 am. Board Members Present: Dick Wheeler, Steve Arce, George Maioho, and James Boswell.
Guest: Randy Teruya, Byron Alcos, Brandon Roberts (Molokai Dispatch), Corinne Impey (Molokai Times), Brad Aquino, William Luuloa, Walter Ritte, Hano Naehu, Ua Ritte, Glenn Teves and Joyce Kainoa
- II. Approval of Agenda: Richard Wheeler moved to accept the agenda; seconded by George Maioho; motion carried.
- III. Approval of Minutes: Richard Wheeler moved to accept the minutes; seconded by Steve Arce; motion carried.
- IV. Old Business
 - A. System Update – Reported by Byron Alcos:
 - Water level in reservoir @ 17'; compared to 25.5' last year at same time.
 - 2.81 mgd reservoir inflow; 3.78 mgd reservoir outflow.
 - Two pumps operating during off-peak hours; 9:00 pm to 7:00 am.
 - MPL Inflow = .745 mgd; Outflow = .732 mgd and Reservoir buffer = 16.737 million gallons
 - In response to R. Wheeler's request for clarification at the April 22, 2008 meeting regarding the method used to calculate MPL's inflow, outflow and reservoir balance, Byron handed out a sample of the Daily Reservoir Monitoring worksheet used to monitor and calculate MPL's reservoir buffer balance. Additionally, a two-page narrative that explains the calculations for each daily record was included with the hand-out.
 - Chair Helm asked for the status of the meter replacements. Byron reported that eleven (11) of the fourteen (14) broken meters have been replaced as of today. All meters installed were 2" meters. There are three (3) more broken homestead meters needing replacement. Staff is scheduled to replace two of those meters today.
 - William Buchanan, III's meter was leaking and required replacement. Staff replaced the meter and re-used the former meter's register.
 - Staff also exercised all mainline shut-off valves in Hoolehua and the Ag Park as part of its routine maintenance.

RECEIVED MO 0 1 2008

- Relocated Wayde Lee's meter. Mr. Lee's meter was formerly tapped into the supply pipeline servicing Oasis Nursery at Mahana. Staff re-used Mr. Lee's 2" meter and installed a new service lateral separating it from Oasis Nursery.
- Regarding Monsanto's request to pay for additional pumping to increase storage during the summer months. R. Teruya stated that DOA has not made a decision as yet. The hydrology records, Well permit authorities, as well as National Weather Service forecast need to be reviewed and studied before DOA can render a recommendation to accept or reject Monsanto's offer.

B. Capital Project Update

- FOPCO was awarded the contract to replace the primary electrical cable in the tunnel. The contract documents are presently being prepared and routed for approvals. This will take approximately 2-3 months for the contract signing and encumbrance by DAGS. A pre-construction conference is anticipated in July 2008 to discuss the logistics of the work with the contractor.

C. Molokai Properties Ltd. and Environmental Review Requirements

- There has been no change in the status of the pipeline agreement. DOA continues to take a "wait and see" position. It is our understanding that MPL initiated discussions with DHHL and the county water department regarding Well #17. According to rumor, MPL was going to abandon Well #17 by the end of August 2008.

V. New Business

A. Financial Status of M.I.S.

- R. Teruya reported on the financial status of the MIS with a hand-out that identified revenue and expenses for the period July 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

B. Audit Recommendations and Follow-Up: Delinquent Accounts as of 03/31/08

- Discussion on how DOA should proceed to resolve the Accounts Receivable problems, as recommended by the Legislative Auditor.
 - a) Authority pursuant to the Administrative Rules
 - b) ARMD Collection Guidelines
 - c) Advisory Board recommendations

- G. Teves stated that he is concerned that the MIS is making money, but the homesteaders are paying for the system. He said that there is a need to make things Pono. Why is it that DHHL does not collect rent for the MIS office? Wants to see DHHL and DOA resolve this issue. Hawaiians want DOA to pay the past rents and to credit the oldest Accounts Receivable with the future land rents against homesteader's water charges.
- W. Ritte stated that the audit has more recommendations than just the collection issue. Wants to discuss ALL the recommendations at once.
- G. Teves said that Hawaiians have preference to the water...unpumped (gravity flow) water is coming down first and should be charged to Hawaiians for less than pumped water. There needs to be clarification as to why water is not free per the Hawaiian Homes Act?
- M. Adolpho suggested that educational classes needs to be held to make people understand why they have to pay for the water and under what authority.
- W. Ritte suggested that the users and the department need to get together to move things along at the legislature. He also asked about Monsanto's request for additional pumping. R. Teruya repeated that DOA has not made a decision. There is information needed to be studied before DOA can respond.
- W. Ritte suggested that non-homesteaders submit a Conservation Plan for their respective farming operation. Says the board has the power to withhold water if Conservation Plans aren't submitted. Said this was requested over a year ago.
- G. Teves stated that there have been many studies made of the Waikolu Valley sources and DOA should look at those reports.
- W. Ritte asked board members for their opinion regarding the idea of having two-thirds (2/3) of the board members be made up of homesteaders?
 - J. Boswell – Stated he doesn't have a problem, so long as the person(s) is/are not biased.
 - R. Wheeler – Also didn't have a problem, but felt a little insulted because he's not a homesteader.
 - S. Arce – Doesn't have a problem, as long as it's for the benefit of the board and MIS.

G. Maioho – Doesn't have a problem, (personal opinion) as long as the members maintain fairness to all users.

A. Helm – Doesn't have a problem, as long as it doesn't impact the operation of the system.

- G. Teves stated it's still the 2/3's issue. Suggested that it would be better to expand the board to whatever it needs to be to get things done.


- Kupuna Joyce Kainoa (came in late), and over hearing the discussion wanted to provide her input...she stated that all the people should learn to work together to reach a common goal. People such as Walter Ritte and Adolph Helm, who have been around a long time, should be taking a leadership (kupuna) role as many of our kupuna are no longer around. We all need to understand and embrace each other's opinions and not challenge everything as times have changed and people, along with the lifestyle changes. Finding common ground is important to everyone to move forward in all that we do.

VI. Next Meeting Date: J. Boswell moved that the board meetings be held every other month instead of monthly. Motion was seconded by S. Arce. Motion was unanimously passed. Future MISWUAB Meetings shall be held on the third Tuesday of every other month, commencing in July 2008. The next board meeting will be held on July 22, 2008 at 10:00 am at the MIS Office.

VII. Announcements: J. Boswell mentioned that the seed corn companies are using water cannons to irrigate and suggests that DOA send a letter recommending the seed corn companies irrigate at night. Chair Helm requested that R. Teruya draft a letter from the department to the seed corn companies. R. Teruya acknowledged the request.

VIII. Meeting adjourned @ 11:28 am, motion by S. Arce; seconded by G. Maioho. Motioned carried.

Respectfully submitted:


James Boswell, Secretary
MIS Water Users Advisory Board