Molokai Irrigation System Advisory Board

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2023

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:33pm
2. Approval of minutes: Approved
3. Introductions/ Roll Call
   1. Board Member present in person: Jill Coombs, Nathaniel Oswald, Faith Tuipulotu, James Boswell, Oscar Ignacio
   2. Board Member present via zoom: David Bush
   3. D.O.A. Staff In person: Lance Kaneakua, Janice Fujimoto
   4. D.O.A. Staff via zoom: Stephen Dalton
   5. Guests: none
4. Old Business:

Review minutes from last meeting- Faith moved to approve, Nate seconded. Motion passed.

1. New Business

Proposed water rate changes:

-how will it be communicated: see below

-do the other users have boards: no other active boards

-how to contact the other boards: no focal points

-board will write and submit testimony

-board has requested a review of the financial analysis.

-on the DOA website, the public notice does have the water rate study form 2019 along with 4 possible scenarios.

-after receiving testimony, DOA (ARMD-Kirk) will compile testimony and present findings to Board of Ag. Board of Ag will determine whether to pursue next step of going to Small Business Regulatory Review Board.

-board would like to propose that the legislature provide additional funding for the DOA, part or all of which would be dedicated to repairs and upgrades of the MIS (infrastructure maintenance projects that have been put off for years and safety concerns that need to be addressed) AFTER those projects have been completed, we would ask for a new water rate study and a new assessment of weather or not a rate increase is needed.

-can we ask for this to be postponed? Only through public testimony.

-acreage assessment is based on the system. Gallon rates is the same across the state.

-the water rule (revolving fund act) is from 1987, which the board feels is very outdated and no longer applicable, especially considering the state’s food sovereignty goals. We would also like to petition the legislature to review and update this rule.

-Board is concerned that the rate increase will unfairly affect small farmers at a time when we are trying to support local food production and food sovereignty at as a state.

1. Reports and Presentations
2. System update – refer to attachment
3. Capital Improvement:
4. Waikolu Valley fiberglass walkway project. Prometheus is starting work.
5. Water valve replacement by Goodfellow Bros. Project is in progress.
6. Corona Virus Recovery Funding
   1. Repairs to lower diversion dam
   2. Replace couplings on transmission pipeline, but there is not enough funding for this, so only some of the couplings can be replaced, not all.
7. Board Member Vacancies
   1. All vacancies have been filled except Moku Puni-seat has never been filled since its creation
8. Announcements: The rate public hearing has been rescheduled to August 22nd. Formal notice will be published in the paper as well as updated on the website and a paper notice with the next bill of each of the customer users. Testimony may be submitted online, due two weeks after the meeting. No in-person meetings will be held on Molokai, only zoom.
9. Next meeting date: July 27, 2023 at 11am at the Molokai base yard or zoom
10. Meeting adjourned 5:05pm

Sincerely,

Jill Coombs

**Molokai Irrigation System**

**Department of Agriculture**

**Date: July 06, 2023**

**To: Molokai Water Users Advisory Board**

**From: Lance Kaneakua (District Manager)**

**Subject: System update**

**Molokai Irrigation Tasks**

**July 2023 We been working with Good Fellows to get everything ready for the valve replacement for Bayer and the 2 inch meter replacement. Permitius is grating the roadway up to the West Portal so they can bring up there materials for the dam project in the back of the tunnel. Where planning on doing our monthly maintenance in the valley next week.**

**All daily/Monthly duties is on going for the month.**

**Kualapuu Reservoir level………..27.500 feet………. 657 ½ million gallons stored.**

**Level at this time last year…..24 1/2 feet.**

**Reservoir average outflow…..1.755 MGD**

**Reservoir average inflow…….4.140 MGD**

**MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM**

**July 06, 2023**

**Monthly Report**

**Number of farm field visit to provide general assistance not related to meters ……… 1**

**Quarterly Report Period: July. to Sept.**

**Number of days without planned water delivery disruption (i.e. normal water delivery) …….0**

**Number of days of water restrictions for Homesteaders ………0**

**Number of days of water restrictions for non-Homesteaders……0**

**Number of days without accidents or injuries: …………………… 6**

**Percentage change in revenue and operating cost:**

**Pumps: off due to good flow**

**Semi-Annual Report. Period: July to December**

**Number of meters installed for Homesteaders…….0**

**Number of meters installed for Non-homesteaders…...0**

**Number of meters repaired or replaced……… 70**

**Average time between request for service and completion of service: …….approximately 3 months.**

**Annual Report.**

**Number and type of Capital Improvement Projects 2**

**Number of CIP projects in progress…………. Pending**

**Percentage of brush cleared in Reservoir………. 40% cleared.**

**Percentage of gravel cleared in tunnel…………. 95% cleared.**

**Financial Strength: ……………… On time bill paying**

**Financial Weakness: …………… Delinquent account\Rising Fuel Cost\Pumps**