

# **WEST HAWAII FISHERY COUNCIL**

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## *MISSION STATEMENT OF THE WEST HAWAII FISHERY COUNCIL*

*“To effectively manage fishery activities to ensure sustainability; enhance nearshore resources; develop and implement management plans for minimizing resource depletion and conflicts of use; per legislative mandate to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to provide for substantive involvement of the community in resource management decisions; and encourage scientific research and monitoring of the nearshore resources and environment from Upolu Point to Ka Lae.”*

### **Draft Minutes:**

**Thursday, July 17, 2014**

West Hawaii Civic Center Community Hale

Presiding: Tina Owens

**Call to Order:** meeting called to order by Tina Owens at 6:30p

WHFC Mission Statement read by Donna Goodale

Reiteration by the Chair of the meeting protocols:

- \*All questions from Council members must be recognized by the Chair
- \*All questions/statements will be limited to topic-oriented statements. Note that a short time has been added after each agenda item to discuss that item.
- \*Proxies: Each person asking someone to represent them by proxy will have to notify the administrator before the meeting as to who is going to represent them, email to Malia in advance so she has it in writing. There will be no call for proxies from the floor at the meeting.

Introductions of Visitors

- (Per the Sign in Sheet) – Ron Aronson, Sue Aronson, Lee Fausak, Denisa H. Marayama, Doug Perrine, Barbara Dalton.

Approval of Agenda – Dale moved to approve, second by RJ, motion carried and agenda approved.

Approval of Minutes – Dale moves to approve as amended, RJ and Donna Second, motion carried and minutes approved.

Role Call

- Tina Owens (Proxy Dave Dart / Chad Wiggins), Dale Sarver, Dana Riddle, Cirilo Rosario, Donna Goodale, Bob Hajek, Malia Kipapa.

### **Guest:**

Mr. Steve Holmes has been working on the Kealakehe sewage dumping and will give a brief presentation on the situation. The effluent is of concern because it could seriously affect reef health and fish populations in the area. A brief question and answer period will follow the presentation.

## Notes from Steve Holmes presentation “The Bermuda Triangle Of Wastewater”–

- 1993 plant (water reclamation facility) portable ground water, benefit is it can be recycled. Self finances. Has been going on for 20 years, and holding at a holding ground is wasting money. Need to talk to our public officials; certainly a state constitutional violation.
- The wastewater plant was built intended to service a golf course that was never built. Three million gallons of effluent water is being dumped into Honokohau Marina daily.
- 2014 Section 303 (d) Impaired Waters – this is from the federal clean water act. Due to constant violations it has fallen into the, 303 (d) category.
  - o Example of a case in Lahaina Maui with Judge Mollway’s
    - Injection Wells
      - No NPDES permit-violation of CWA.
      - Point source discharge
    - Next steps
      - Citizen’s Suit like Maui
      - Consent Decree between EPA, HDOH, & Hawaii County with timelines & penalties
      - R-1 reuse and portable treatment plant to stop dumping sooner than later
- Sustainable Water
  - o EPA Sustainable Water workshop in Kona
  - o Adopt water efficiency standards in UPC
  - o Adopt EPA Greywater Reuse Standards
- Why DLNR should show leadership:
  - o DLNR owns the harbor
  - o DLNR has the State water commission
  - o DLNR can make County move and make adjustments
- WHFC Resolution
  - o Put pressure on these leaders to get the job done
  - o Technical assistance to update to modern times, help the county out.
  - o Working with EPA and DOH; Aloha + Challenge Program (signed off by Hawaii County Mayor)
  - o Bring in consultants and experts
  - o DOBOR has funding from US Fish and Wildlife, they should install pumps, and Director needs to say something

### **Questions:**

- How effective is the approach of penalizing non-complaint wastewater plants and injection wells in reducing effluent delivered to coastal areas in Hawaii? (Chad Wiggins – per Proxy Tina)
  - o Steve:
    - In Honolulu we have been getting a lot of challenges, billion dollar penalties, if you put them on the right course they will listen. I think that Billy (Mayor for Hawaii County) needs to know how we feel.
- Is the county incurring a \$1 million penalty? (Tina)
  - o Steve
    - They are in penalty and everyday they are in violation it continues to increase.
- Need to make a correction to your presentation; effluent is disinfected with chlorine;

there are 4 wastewater wells in the area (Honokohau Harbor); Line near old Swing Zone in Kona will be redirected to the new walking trail in Maka'e (Dana)

- Federal law – every two years they do testing.
- If your level of solids is too high may clog pipes (Steve)
  - (Dana) - Most of the discharges are diatoms which are skeletal forms and microscopic.
  - (Steve) – need to do terrestrial tests
- After 20 years has this been a good thing or not? I've been hearing this going on for 20 years and no one has done anything (Ron Aronson)
  - (Dana) Healthy stands of different
- Doesn't sound like it's that bad, what if I swim in their will it affect me? If I drink it or swim in it, how bad is it? (Robert)
  - (Dana) I fell in it and I'm still hear, if I had to choose from the water discharge in Hilo I would pick this one here in Kona.
- Is the water in Lahaina Maui treated at a higher level then here in Kona? (Rick)
  - Steve - Maui is doing R1 and we are not doing it
  - Rick – Kaanapali reefs all died as a result to injection wells; I've been fighting against these wells since the early 70's.
- I think that everyone is getting confused with the discharge; it's about the nutrients that are being discharged. (Dale)
  - (Steve) – we have not looked into the pharmaceutical uses of this discharge; it may not be a good thing.
  - (Dale) – it won't go away; it will still be here regardless.
  - (Steve) – sewer mining – huge open green spots to lower the amount of discharge into the ocean.
- Looking at previous studies done in Honokohau, nutrient loading (1991 most recent studies) has increased 5 fold and early impact loading is prevalent. Tipping point – study done in June 2012 by a student – nutrient levels exceed and benthic studies have exceeded proposed tipping point (nutrient enrichment levels increase and something changes, the herbivores can take care of it, but once those herbivores decrease the algae will take over reef. This is why a Kapu is placed on herbivores so it can eat down the algae, have showed a positive turn around. (Bill Walsh)
- I've been in the wastewater treatment field for 35 years hear in Hawaii and I'm trying my best to take care of this work (Dana).
- Any last words in conclusion? (Tina)
  - (Steve) – I want to reach out to you to bring this to your attention and encourage all of you to speak out to your mayor.
- We have been trying to inform people about this, but would like to ask for your help in bringing it to the County and State's attention (Sue)
  - Read a message from her phone: suggests that everyone needs to work together; National park is asking for a designation of wastewater. (Barbara Dalton)
  - Public officials need to stop using public funding to pay for lawyer fees and instead make the adjustments to wastewater plant. (Steve)

### **New Business:**

The presiding chair wishes to hold a discussion among council members as to advancing our task of establishing marine reserves in West Hawai'i. Members are asked to consider in advance their feelings and advice as well as what talents and abilities each member can bring to the issue. (Held off on this discussion due to band practice disruption)

**Announcements:**

Kona Science Symposium – King Kamehameha Hotel – first week of September – a lot of scientist will be presenting on all kinds of things, Dale and Bill will be doing some presentations. Tina will email to everyone more information on this.

Next meeting sites – liquor commission, building B on the second floor; no food or drinks only water allowed.

Dale – fish alert app, been working with the individual and they would like more information, gps points would be good; if anyone can think of anything else please let me know.

Tina – thinking of having a FAQ section to the WHFC website; also adding a scientific library.  
- Donna – should add a section with all the presentations that everyone does.

**Adjourn at 8:30pm – motion to adjourn Dale second by Tina – motion carried and meeting adjourned.**