

Ho'olehua Water System Update and Public Meeting

Location: Lanikeha Center, Moloka'i

April 11, 2016 – 6:30 PM

Meeting Notes

The meeting commenced at 6:30 pm

Gigi Cairel, DHHL Planning Office presented a project summary of the planned improvements to the Ho'olehua water system project and described the USDA application process.

- The USDA application is a water and environmental program to rehabilitate a potable drinking water system
- Parts of the existing system are 90 years old
- The new system will be more efficient in terms of water delivery and energy utilization
- The USDA funding can be used for rural communities whose income is less than 80% of the state median income, so this community is eligible.
- If awarded, USDA intends to fund 45% of the cost of this system, with a DHHL contribution of 55%.
- Typically USDA provides for the total cost of the project in the form of a combined loan/grant, however, USDA has indicated it will provide grant funds with a DHHL contribution.
- DHHL received a \$30,000 SEARCH grant from USDA-RD in January to assist with the costs of planning and preparing the technical studies needed for this larger application.
- We have been doing community consultations throughout the planning and development process for some time now so we know you are already familiar with the project.
- What is new is that we received a cost estimate for the project of approximately \$30 million.
- The application to USDA is due by 6.30.16.
- It is a complicated application with 27 components including things like an Environmental Assessment and Engineering Studies.
- We are hitting the targets and milestones set for the project's development.

Catie Cullison of PBR Hawaii and Associates was introduced as the consultant assisting DHHL with this project and she gave a summary of the project details, including a map and proposed improvements by site (PowerPoint Presentation attached).

- Many of the pumps have exceeded their useful life.
- Site 1: Well site improvements and energy saving technologies.
- Site 2: Water line replacement, fire hydrants, laterals, etc. to be replaced.
- Site 3: Connects the tank to Ho'olehua; transmission main to be retrofitted and lowered.
- Site 4: Tank site improvements, maintenance and repair of ladder, automated system to regulate and correct water pressure.
- Site 5: Water line replacement & fire protection site.

- Site 6: Construction of a road to the tank;
- Site 7: construction of a maintenance shed; installation of a concrete pad, and inventory and equipment needs

We have completed the State of Hawaii Environmental Assessment. The Hawaiian Homes Commission gave approval for the Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) earlier today. Most of the work being proposed involves replacement of existing systems with no significant environmental impact. The next steps are to complete the Environmental Reports in the formats required by USDA and HUD.

Gigi Cairel, DHHL discussed the purpose of the improvements (Reference PowerPoint presentation). The purpose of the project is to replace/repair the existing 90 year old system, not add to or expand the system. We are addressing your previous comments regarding water pressure problems and fire protection, while maintaining water quality and safety. Annually we send out a report to each lessee on water quality.

Installation of water system energy improvements will save on electricity costs that can currently reach \$50k - \$60k per month. Savings may be passed on to the users.

Community Questions and Responses

1. There are water pressure problems at the top of the mountain. Is this being addressed?
Yes, they are being addressed with gravity flow for the higher elevations.
2. What type of alternative energy is planned?
A photovoltaic system.
3. What is the status of Moloka'i Ranch water permits?
Tomorrow's Hawaiian Homes Commission meeting is to address pending water permits. There are two other meetings including 4/19/16 and 5/2/16 of the Commission to discuss the USGS Study and Presentation on the groundwater model.
4. With food security becoming an issue, farms need a station to wash produce and must show water testing results that the water is potable. Does DHHL test water to prove portability?
Yes, the project meets all the requirements of the federal Safe Drinking Water act.
5. Fixed income farmers want to know if there is any way to get assistance with the agricultural costs of water?
The question was directed to a sidebar discussion.

During the Open House, Gigi Cairel and Norman Sakamoto, both DHHL staff, fielded further questions:

6. When will water be provided to the pastoral (ranching) lots?
This was referred to other DHHL staff handling pastoral lots.
7. Is there a way to provide relief in water rates to the Kupuna (elders) on fixed incomes?
DHHL plans to conduct a "Cost of Service" Study, then will be able to do a rate analysis.
8. Can agricultural rates be provided to Kupuna for relief to grow their own food to help stretch their budgets?
DHHL will look in to this.

9. There are areas not presently served by the water system that should be served. Beneficiaries have been on the waiting list for a long time and they need water to get on the land.

Currently, the water system improvements is to replace and repair the existing system to improve service to existing customers.

Attachments:

Sign In Sheets
Meeting Notice