

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

COUNTY OF HAWAII

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

9:05 a.m. to 11:06 a.m.

West Hawai'i Civic Center (Kailua-Kona) and Zoom

Commissioners present:

Georjean Adams, Chair

Jon Olson, Vice Chair

Laura Acasio

Lee McIntosh

Dot Norris

Dell Otsuka

County staff present:

Ramzi Mansour, Director

Chris Laude, Wastewater Division Chief

Craig Kawaguchi, Recycling Coordinator

Peter Sur, Secretary

Kelly Hartman, Environmental Management Planer

Sherilyn Tavares, Deputy Corporation Counsel

Kea Loa, Legislative Assistant, District 6

Wendy Baez, Legislative Assistant, District 8

Others present:

Jovan J. Hall, Jennifer Navarra, Michael Brestovansky, others

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR APRIL 25, 2023¹

Motion, second, and vote: Vice Chair Olson moved to approve the minutes as presented, and Commissioner Norris seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented. Ayes: 6 (Acasio, McIntosh, Olson, Otsuka, Norris, Adams); Nays 0; Absent 2 (Burns, Cardwell). Motion carried.

¹ April 25, 2023 draft minutes: <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/weblink/DocView.aspx?dbid=1&id=123288>

III. STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Adams asked Commissioner Norris to give a little bit of her background, and we'd appreciate, and we're very happy that you've joined us. We're picking up someone who's very knowledgeable and going to keep us on our toes, so that's great.

Commissioner Norris said she had been retired for about six years, so it's still in her DNA. She worked in wastewater in California, in the city of San Diego, and in the City and County of San Francisco. As a marine biologist, she worked in a lot of watershed issues as well, but mostly offshore and frequently the near shore areas. She has worked in wastewater evaluation and worked on a lot of the reports, and was part of the wastewater reporting to EPA.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Status report on action items from previous meeting

1. Pretreatment rule draft

Chair Adams asked Acting Chief Laude on the status of the pretreatment proposal.

It's still unfinished, Chief Laude said. He would commit to finishing that up this weekend. He doesn't get time here at work to get things like that done. We had a pretty good meeting with DOH last week about their strategies for when they're going to require something instead of on-site wastewater treatment, for example when they're going to require subdivision to have a package plant, when they're going to require them to extend sewer, that kind of thing. This time he has everything needed to finish off our proposed changes. He will propose that we bring back control over sewers for subdivisions into our chapter and take it away from the subdivision chapter, because we need to make that clear and we need to be consistent.

Vice Chair Olson said he would be very interested to hear more about that, given all the subdivisions that we have in Puna.

This is a huge problem that we're going to have to figure out how to address. They're already built, Chief Laude said.

I've only known that for 30 years, the Vice Chair said. I've brought it up on several occasions, and it seems like you're the only one that has been able to say something about it.

Chief Laude said he has some ideas on how we can strategize for that, but it comes down to the same basic problems. Money, staff, schedules, and the political will to make it happen.

I'm more interested in the logistics of making it happen because they're already built, Vice Chair Olson said. And that is going to be a major problem. We have the second largest subdivision in the United States. So I really want to hear more about it.

It's on the agenda every meeting, Chair Adams said. So we'll keep bugging Chief Laude or whoever's left in the chair.

Well, just to add one other thing, the Vice Chair said. The Mainstreet Pāhoa Association, we have gotten to the point where we succeeded in getting monies for an advanced treatment facility for Pāhoa. We've gotten to the point where Russell Ruderman, when he was our Senator, got us money for a regional library. All of those things need to be connected, and that's an ASAP. That money is sitting there, and without that infrastructure, they're not going to get built. I don't have an exact figure, but it's \$8 million to \$10 million just to open the door. You could contact Sen. Joy San Buenaventura, and she would be happy to pass along all the data.

Chair Adams said those would be new facilities that would require pretreatment because they're significant commercial facilities-

It's a no-go without a wastewater system, Vice Chair Olson said. And the library. You're going to put up a real library. You're talking about a whole lot of people going through the facility and then we have a new supermarket and then there certainly is going to be the impetus to do a lot of building out there because the subdivisions are building out.

Director Mansour said this is a topic that pertaining to the AECOM report and the Puna district study that we just completed. It should not be commingled with the pretreatment countywide.

Chair Adams agrees. It goes into the reports on the facility work you have been doing later in your report, but also it includes the concept of, now we're going to have pretreatment rules at some point in the near future. They need to deal with the fact that these side plans are happening to build new facilities that are going to require pretreatment. And is that being factored in and how do you make sure that proper coordination is occurring as they design those new operations? So we'll get back to that, and you can further that conversation, she told the Vice Chair.

2. Continued discussion of EMC county landfill diversion ordinance initiatives.^{2 3}

Chair Adams said she brought back the same agenda item from last month on how we look for opportunities to require diversion from landfill via County ordinance. And she would like to look at if anyone has come up with new ideas, and also maybe get at least a consensus, if not an official motion, to do some further work on devising a draft ordinance or approach. So are there some comments that commissioners wanted to make about diversion ideas?

There's a lot of ideas, Vice Chair Olson said. Back when we filed a civil rights complaint about the level of service that was going on in Puna, we got support from the federal government and it started with transportation. Solid waste was an issue. We started on looking at where other transfer stations could be built, enlarged. The Kea'au Transfer Station got funding to do a much larger transfer station with recycling, with a whole list of things that it would do and that's all

² Ordinances to reduce landfill volume <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/weblink/DocView.aspx?dbid=1&id=123309>

³ Ordinances to reduce landfill volume <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/weblink/DocView.aspx?dbid=1&id=123310>

still sitting on the shelf. None of those things happened even though the money was appropriated to do it. All we got through basically was phase 1.

Chair Adams said the Director is also going to be talking about the operations study that the Department has money to get done and looking at the whole system of how we manage solid waste will be part of that. So she deferred discussion to the Director's Report. What she was talking about specifically is the idea of banning from landfills, certain materials that we know we have a diversion route for. That is our HI-5, the glass, corrugated cardboard, the recycling, that we have that appears to be working, but how do we do more of it? And so her concept is, and perhaps the Commission would back up the Chair and spend more time on working up a proposal perhaps for next meeting, is to write up a bill that would go to the Council to say certain designated recyclable wastes are prohibited from the landfill. We have a system now that has prohibited materials, and they're basically hazardous stuff such as tires and used oil and other materials that have to basically go to a hazardous waste facility. So she came up with this term of "designated recyclable materials" that we wouldn't be able to landfill. And not that we want the Council to identify what those are. She would prefer to say that DEM identify what those materials should be. And as you may recall from the last time she was talking about, there are certain categories of information that need to qualify a kind of waste to be a designated recyclable that's prohibited from landfill. There has to be a market that will take it, and we have to know how to handle it. It's pretty well defined, and it's going to be a significant reduction to our landfill.

The other thing that was Chair Adams' idea is to start first with commercial operations. So businesses – certainly start with the large businesses, maybe work our way down to the smaller businesses – but to apply it first to them, get the logistics set up, create a supply stream that would be coming from commercial operations that might entice some private haulers and processors, recyclers to come into business because they would have that steady stream coming from the commercial end. And then once we've got that rolling, maybe move it down to residential or start with things like developments, outfits that have HOAs, that can be required to develop the collection for recyclable waste. And then it would go to DEM. And DEM would follow these basic criteria, and they would periodically identify, here's something that were designated as recyclable, and it has to be diverted. And that may change as markets evaporate or markets appear. They could add new materials and expand it or take them away because we don't have a reasonable ability for it. So that's kind of the concept she is thinking about, a general all-purpose ordinance that would authorize and in effect charge DEM to come up with a system that will require certain recyclables to be diverted. And then we'd have an opportunity as a Commission to comment on both the bill and on any rules that DEM comes up with to make sure that it is meeting the proposals that we intended. So do you want her to work on that? Or should she just say, all right, we'll let DEM do this?

Commissioner McIntosh asked who made the rules for the current items that are not allowed to go on the landfill. Was that passed by ordinance or was that policy by DEM?

The ones that are banned now, many of them are from the U.S. EPA, Chair Adams said, which then passed down those requirements to the states and counties. The County has a list⁴ of these prohibited materials, things like medical waste and oil and your all-purpose general nasties that you don't want to put in a landfill and then DEM in their admin rules. Interestingly, the County Code does not say they're prohibited and can't go into the landfill. What it says is DEM will prohibit them and they have prohibited them. And you can get an exception from the Director. So there's a little bit more flexibility from DEM. But DEM actually executes the prohibition. The County Code didn't. They just defined stuff. So it's kind of a tiered system as you're moving from Feds to State to County to DEM. So there's some details she need to figure out how to make work.

That's fine, Commissioner McIntosh said. The only concern he has is how do you keep DEM from becoming ban-happy and just banning what's convenient for them in a worst-case scenario? That's what he always looks for when moving forward with policies and laws: where are the checks and balances?

Chair Adams said her idea right now is that the Council would say, these are the criteria that any designated recyclable waste must meet. And the Chair listed some of those things the last meeting about how we have a place to take it, whether it's shipping it off island or our own recycling, that it's cost effective, that you're not going to encourage people to throw it in the ditch because it costs too much to recycle it. So balancing the economic costs, it has to be technically feasible. And it needs to make sense from a life cycle management standpoint to divert it from waste. Some waste plastic, the non-HI-5 plastics, are probably safest sitting in a landfill from a lifecycle standpoint. We could put them to better use by requiring diversion and at commercial level volumes, might be able to justify a business coming into fruition to handle those kinds of waste. So it's a juggling, but the County Council would set the criteria that DEM has to be able to justify banning landfilling. So they could challenge a DEM rule saying, you're not following these criteria the Council laid out. Could they go crazy? We can all go crazy. One of the advantages of DEM is they don't move too fast, you might have noticed. So I don't think they'll go real crazy trying to ban it really, Chair Adams said.

Commissioner McIntosh said the only other thing he has a concern about is the green waste. Yeah, they have a spot in Kona where you can take it, but nothing down in Ka'ū. So then we don't want to truck it all the way up to Kona, which is a three-hour round trip. That was the only concern he had.

The feasibility of selection needs to be one of those criteria, Chair Adams said, which is partly why, you start with commercial because they're located in just a few spots. And so maybe

⁴ Admin Rule 2-1-3: "Prohibited materials" include, but are not limited to, burning or smoldering materials, paint thinner or solvents; oil based paint; engine oil, antifreeze or lead acid batteries; pesticides, poisons; household cleaner; contaminated soil; untreated medical waste; propane, compressed gas cylinders; diesel, gasoline or alcohol; liquids or sludge in containers one gallon or larger unless mixed with a bulking agent so that it solidifies, large appliances, automobiles, whole tires, radioactive or chemical waste, explosives, blasting materials, fuses, live ammunition, and hazardous wastes as defined in the HRS or Hawai'i Administrative Rules."

there's a way to justify commercial volumes, trucking it to a few places we've got, but again, it would be one you've got to look at, can you justify that it really can be recycled and conveniently before you would ban it for residents, for example.

Okay, so go ahead and write it up, Commissioner McIntosh said.

Commissioner Acasio said she was very interested in this as well and would like to help and participate. Just going on Commissioner McIntosh's comment around green waste, is to look at distributed, smaller scale green waste facilities throughout our large island to address, for example, what he did mention around the need to not truck it different places. And what does that look like in terms of redistribution as well? And of course, taking into consideration the cost effectiveness as well. But it becomes relative because what is the larger cost? So anyways, on that note, she also wanted to look at large businesses, for example, Costco (not to single them out). Their business model is creating lots of large amounts of landfill waste, especially around plastics, being that they repackage and repurpose and then sell it out. In that business model, it's all in plastic and there is no reuse structure. And so this is a large issue that we're looking at even on a world scale in terms of Extended Producer Responsibility or reuse and refill infrastructure, but to engage that as part of a larger solution as well.

This is not the be-all answer to the whole gamut, Chair Adams said. She is trying to come up with something that is digestible, and something we could get our arms around that would be relatively practical in a shorter term rather than long term. And as infrastructure builds up, as we move to that distributed composting, that would start meeting the criteria that it needs to be available for recycling because you've got a place to take it and not just six transfer stations. So it's kind of a chicken and egg scenario, and how do you prompt more eggs to be laid?

Commissioner Norris said that when she first moved into the complex that she is in they had recycling bins for HI-5 items and they took them out because people would put just whatever they want to in there. You might think about if we get to that point, that we take it off the property of the complex so that it doesn't become a source of trash. Maybe like you said, a collection center or something.

One of the fantasies Chair Adams said she has about this approach would be the requirement that says you're prohibited from landfilling and you must recycle the following materials, is that you must educate your customers and homeowners to what the rules are for recycling and to manage the collection of recycling. She has the same issue as the condo area that she lives in, that people don't understand the Chair's pictures of zigzags on corrugated cardboard. They put everything in there, including plastic containers. So it is a challenge to educate and to make sure that you have a process in place to make it work. And the same thing is in a workplace. People throw the wrong things in. And so you need to have a live education program to make sure that it's working. One of the things that she would like to avoid is building up a new service that the County has to provide. She doesn't want the County to have to plant more transfer stations, more collection stations everywhere for every subdivision or condo development, but

to encourage that there is business volume if you want to get your trucks moving around on this island. So it's a lot of balancing.

Chair Adams said that if she and Commissioner Acasio want to work on it together, we can do that and we don't need an official Permitted Interaction Group. So thank you for volunteering and she will share drafts and maybe we could start working on this. It may be something that she winds up going independently anyway. She has been talking to a recycling hauler, Nick Resnick from Hana Hou Recycling and Jennifer Navarra of Zero Waste Hawai'i Island, about this concept.

Chair Adams said she would work with Commissioner Acasio. If you have other ideas, bring them. We will have this on the next agenda.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Funding for solid waste – discussion about moving to a fee for service model versus property tax funding - e.g., enterprise funding (as supported by EMC⁵) for wastewater management.

Chair Adams said EMC sent a letter a couple of years ago to the Council. At that time, it was cast in terms of, give DEM some money to hire somebody to come up with how they're going to fund the wastewater program other than relying on just sewer fees. And there's this concept of an enterprise fund, basically running the operation as a business where you've got enough customers and they're paying fees to cover your operating costs and you're not just relying on the ups and downs of property tax and a small proportion of support and grants that you go run and chase down every couple of years. She is wondering if we could ask for the same kind of consideration for solid waste, to think of it more in terms of a fee for service model instead of- and heaven forbid they reduce the property tax that gets assigned to solid waste- but assuming that could happen, that it's basically, you're paying for this service the County is providing. There are different ways to do it. It's a different kind of model. Just wondering if that's another route for us to look at how can we sustain and grow our solid waste management program other than relying on the property tax and some fairly minor tipping fees that are basically supporting our solid waste management program.

As we give the reports, we could drive into it because it is part of the operational study as well, Director Mansour said, because there's going to be a wide discussion on that.

Well, let's do it in order, otherwise it drives the Secretary crazy when he's doing the minutes, Chair Adams said. It dawned on her not too long ago that we did put in the concept of a fee for service and as an enterprise funding mindset for wastewater management, and we didn't do the same thing for solid waste. It's in there as one of the many options in the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, but we haven't specifically highlighted it to the council. So it's something that if we wanted to, we can kind of model a new thing aimed at solid waste. But this report, this analysis that the Director is going to tell us about, will certainly inform that.

⁵ VI.1: Letter re enterprise funding <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/weblink/DocView.aspx?dbid=1&id=111072>

But this question came up a few meetings back, and counsel was going to look at the legality of what would it take to take the solid waste out of the property tax as currently exists and try to make it as an enterprise fund. Because currently under the Charter, solid waste services is funded through property taxes. Therefore it's already dictated where we are going to get the fund from, especially for residential, not commercial. Commercial is getting charged through tip fees. So the idea is from a legal way, how could we transition? And it may require a ballot that may go to the constituents to vote on if they want to be exited out of the property tax structure and to set it as a fee. So I don't know if you ever got the answer on that, the Director said.

Chair Adams said she did not think EMC formally ever asked Corporation Counsel to do that. How do we ask for that?

DCC Tavares said you simply ask for it. In the same way that EMC asked DCC Keyra Wong to do research on formalizing something, you just have to put an official ask, make a motion, vote on it.

Chair Adams said what we'd be asking is, how would we move from a property tax supported solid waste management program to a fee for service program? What steps would need to happen to change a property tax allocation?

Director Mansour said he would not want to waste time and energy on the steps and find out later that we cannot do it anyway.

Motion and second: Vice Chair Olson made a motion, to which Commissioner Acasio seconded, to request its Deputy Corporation Counsel to evaluate the feasibility and steps to move from a property tax-based support for solid waste management to a fee-for-service model.

Discussion:

Vice Chair Olson said that one of the things you might go looking for is we did get federal money way back when to do the rehabilitation of the Kea'au Transfer Station. Unfortunately, that was never finished. In other words, all the facilities that were supposed to be put in place there never did happen. But that was spoken to on a multiplicity of levels, and he can't find his copy of it anymore.

Chair Adams asked if anyone in DEM has ever been able to find that. Maybe it molded away in a container truck that Recycle Hawai'i had and is long gone. But it was government money. So there should be a government file somewhere.

We hired from a list that was presented to us by EPA of people who came to help us do that, the Vice Chair said. So it wasn't just something pulled out of the bank.

Somebody's got to go dig into archives, Chair Adams said.

The Vice Chair said it was around 1994, 1995. We made a lot of trouble with abandoned cars at that time because all of the subdivisions had been filled with abandoned vehicles. And that's where we started and that's where we got the most help from EPA.

Well, there's always funding through EPA, especially now under the climate change and diversion and recycling, the Director said. So hopefully that will continue even though whatever funding mechanism that becomes the standard, we may stay the status quo on property tax or we may chase something else, but that should not stop us from chasing federal money when it comes.

Vote: Ayes 6 (Acasio, McIntosh, Olson, Otsuka, Norris, Adams); Nays 0; Absent 2 (Burns, Cardwell). Motion passes.

VII. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Director's Informational Report

1. Legislative update

Director Mansour said the Secretary has been sharing with you what bills went through and not, but there's one particular item he wanted to share, which was a resolution that came from the State to the Mayor's office, and was forwarded to us from the House of Representatives. It's HCR 208, which is asking all counties to submit the comprehensive integrated wastewater management plan and financial strategy, including any proposed legislation to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the conveying of regular session of 2024. That only leaves us with six months to do that. We received that last week. Part of it is because none of the bills pertaining to cesspool conversion went through, which is unfortunate, and that's why that resolution came about.

It seems like you're working on the integrated wastewater management concept and no way is it going to be done in six months, Chair Adams said. The idea of what kind of additional funding and planning for the future, put together your wish list, but-

They are looking at financial strategy, the Director said. Part of it is state may be willing to assist in the financial aspect of getting people assistance to convert from cesspool to septic or connect to sewer. The timing was- we're still working on it, but I don't know what other counties already have it ready. So it's going to be hard to accomplish, but you are right, we're working on it. We're trying to enter into an agreement with our consultant to do a countywide cesspool conversion facility plan for the east and west side of the island, also as an optional task to update the operation and maintenance manuals for all our facilities. We haven't even signed the contract, but they are aware of this resolution. But I don't know if we're going to have anything that comprehensive to submit. We may have the skeleton, the structure of it.

Yeah, Chair Adams said. That's all you're going to be able to do is say, here's what we're working on, here are the components that are going to be in there, and this brilliant list of items to make sure you include in it that you received from your EMC. And the rest of it is, what was recommended in the Cesspool Conversion Working Group plan that didn't pass. And I don't

understand why they dragged their heels on that. But I think at least the way I was hearing Rep. Nicole Lowen explaining what happened, that it would be, we've got the plan to look at the priority areas that we've got. We've identified those. Then we got to work out how are we going to sewer these areas or look for the most feasible alternatives. So you've got the bones of it. Here are the details we're going to be fleshing out and no, we're not going to hand you a finished plan in six months. I'm okay with that.

Chief Laude said he and Kelly Hartman have been brainstorming already about how to approach it and that's basically what we came up with. We haven't pitched it to the directors yet. The important thing is, hey, we have a dollar amount for each cesspool. It's \$40,000. The state needs to give us that amount times however many cesspools we figure out there are. And that's a starting line for a budget they need to provide.

Commissioner Acasio said the CCWG had come up with some pretty clear direction. Because it wasn't passed in the legislation in this session, we can still utilize that expertise and all of that energy that was put into the working group to begin with, and go from there.

Commissioner McIntosh said that because it's a resolution, it's not a mandate to comply, right? It's more like they're asking for it. But if you can't deliver, you can't deliver. Just tell them it's unreasonable.

Yeah, well, that's a good point. It's a resolution, Chief Laude said. But we should be constructive. We need to leverage the work that's already been done to have a consistent approach. But yeah, they need to pass some legislation to make this happen and they also need to figure out how they're going to fund us.

Well, the idea is, it is a resolution, it's non-binding, but the challenge that every county faces is we have to partner with the State, Director Mansour said. Even though it's a resolution, we cannot just shrug it off because it may put us a black dot on the County of Hawai'i for future financial assistance. So we don't want to do that.

No, I certainly don't think it should be blow them off, but it's give them the bones of what we're already working on, Chair Adams said.

It may be their passive-aggressive way of asking us for support, Chief Laude said. If we reiterate what everyone else has already talked about yeah, we agree this is the way to go, then I think that helps them.

Commissioner Acasio said that it is important because it's just showing that the County is indeed supportive of the work done by DEM and CCWG. While they do already have that evidence, for whatever reason, they're asking for more details and more specifics according to each county.

DEM has demonstrated support, Chair Adams said. She has been one of the more vocal testifiers to support a lot of the legislation, so she doesn't think there's a problem. Plus Rep. Lowen is from here. They know we're working on it and so just write up what we're working on. We're headed in the right direction. And just do what you can. Don't go too crazy. You do have to sleep at least a couple of hours.

Ms. Hartman added it's a good opportunity just for us to communicate from this County's perspective. The Big Island is going to have some unique challenges, so it's just coming to the table, providing that information to see.

2. Solid Waste Division Projects and Updates

1. Recycling and Landfill Diversion updates
2. Next studies: curbside collection, new landfill locations, operations analysis
3. Status and content of Request for Information on landfill diversion and recycling re Resolution No. 73-23.

(Note: Discussions for agenda items under VII.2(1), (2), and (3) are combined below)

Director Mansour said the intent of this operational analysis that we're trying to do is to analyze the current system, the solid waste system that the County has, and be able to give recommendations about where the weaknesses are. Is the current system adequate and where should we put our energy to modify it to be better and more efficient? And the intent is to look at the possibility of curbside collection versus the current system that we have with 21 transfer stations countywide. Is that possible and what would it take to implement and how much would the cost projection be? Also we are looking at the possibility of landfill locations. Is it possible to continue with what we have now versus revisit the idea of an East Side landfill needed to become more efficient, carbon emission reduction, environmental protection, less traffic on the highways and provide redundancy? We've seen that during the last eruption we have when we consider Saddle Road to be closed down. So the idea is, how would you transport the waste from the east side all the way to the west? So the idea of that operational analysis is to get into the weeds and evaluate the current structure. He would like for all commission members to add inputs to this study because possibly it could be driven to lead to policies and procedure changes. And we have to be transparent. We have to get everyone involved, all stakeholders, for the idea that, if the system itself is going to change, we need to get everyone on board from day one so there will be no surprises down the road. So this is the vision the Director had. When he first started, we didn't get the money last year. This current year we got the money. So the idea is he wants to use it before we lose it to make sure that we move it on the right track when it comes to our current system.

We have one subdivision with 12,000 one-acre lots, Vice Chair Olson said.

EPA rule of thumb, the Director said, is usually 5 tons per year per house. So the idea is, yes, you're right, that's going to increase the amount of solid waste generation countywide. And that study is going to look into it because we have not expanded our transfer stations since they were constructed.

Well, and it's going to have to be inside the subdivision because you can't get out on the highway, the Vice Chair said.

Director Mansour said he floated the concept of, let's do what Europe does with these 3 cubic yard bins at the end of the subdivision and one of our trucks will go pick it up once a week. So you have three different colors of 3 cubic yards. Or you could have an enclosure within the subdivision. You treat it like an apartment complex where you, in apartment settings, they have refuse collection through the association. So a garbage truck comes in to accept the 3 cubic yard bins twice a week or once a week. And maybe that's how we need to set up these new subdivisions rather than them driving to the transfer station. Maybe it'll be set up as a requirement in the subdivision code. That's why he reached out to EMC before about commenting on the subdivision code that is being reviewed and being changed as we speak. Because to him, that's when the change is going to take place is, if the code is being revised, under the subdivision code, they should allow developers to include solid waste enclosures within the subdivision and maybe either create an association just for collection within that subdivision or you do what Europe is doing. Put it outside the subdivision, where as you driving out to your work, you carry your garbage back and you dump it in that 3 cubic yard container that will be picked up. So there's many things that we could do. It's a matter of just changing the codes and get everybody's buy-in.

Vice Chair Olson said that as far as HPP is concerned and as far as in Ainaloa is concerned, there were set aside lands for public uses in those subdivisions when they were approved, but the County has never gone to get theirs, as it were. Those are TMKs set aside for public purposes.

Well, see, it goes back again to the concept of property, because now everybody's paying property tax, the Director said. That service becomes part of that obligation as well. We've seen the same thing with the Ocean View Transfer Station. The money was set aside prior to the subdivision, but the amount of money that was set aside, it became pennies in comparison to the cost of construction. We spent \$2 million just allowing the right turns from the highway. It took all the money that's supposed to go to the transfer station. So, yeah, the equation is not there to be able to generate enough revenue to offset the cost to build the infrastructure. That's why we need to look at a smaller model that could achieve the same objectives, but more efficient and cheaper than just building another transfer station. Because you just said it, if you only have one road in, one road out, it's going to even make it harder for our guys to drive in and out with their big vehicles as well.

The transfer stations have to be inside the subdivisions, the Vice Chair said.

Yes, Director Mansour said. that's why if we start controlling it at the source, start doing home composting, start doing diversion, and encouraging, through public education, the residents to start reducing before it comes to us, that's the intent. Especially you have 1 acre, it's hard to get there. How are you going to become sustainable? And a lot of people are already doing it when it comes to leftover food, green waste, and what have you, they are doing it within their

backyard and they doing compost and what have you. We just need to control it and provide public education at the source itself. It's a challenge, but we'll get there. It's not only solid waste, you're going to see the challenge with the wastewater as well.

Director Mansour asked Recycling Coordinator Craig Kawaguchi to provide an update on the used motor oil situation.

One of the Council Members had a call about their garage or their mechanics who stopped doing oil changes because the pickups weren't coming, Mr. Kawaguchi said. Hawai'i Petroleum or Unitek were backed up due to inventory. So they were trying to find an end market for it. And that was back in January. So after meeting with them and communicating with them, they said they're slowly getting back to normal.

The Director offered kudos to Mr. Kawaguchi and Council Member Inaba for reaching out to these commercial entities to encourage them and work with them to bring that program back to life. Because a lot of people got worried about, golly, I cannot take my car now and do oil change because nobody's taking that oil. And we were afraid that people are going to start dumping it in the sewer or just dumping it in the gutter or the storm drain. Thanks to staff, it took us about four months, but we are back on track.

4. Wai'ōhinu Recycling and Transfer Station update

We're going to have a blessing ceremony June 9, the Director said. The facility is going to be 100 percent construction complete. If you want to attend, it's scheduled for June 9.⁶

3. Wastewater Division Projects and Updates.

1. Pāhala and Nā'ālehu AOC

Director Mansour said we submitted the preliminary engineering report for Pāhala to EPA in advance of the deadline.

Ms. Hartman continued: We submitted the feasibility report in October, held public meetings and the April quarterly meeting with EPA. We completed the draft Preliminary Engineering Report ahead of schedule, and that's currently being reviewed by EPA. The Environmental Information Document contract scope is being developed right now and the Nā'ālehu PER contract is in negotiation. We're working on an MOA with State Historic Preservation Division to streamline how we do state historic preservation reviews for such a large scale conversion. So the milestones on deck for Pāhala and Nā'ālehu are: The EPA is reviewing and will hopefully approve the Pāhala PER. We have the July semiannual report coming up in two months, and the EID for Pāhala is due 180 days once the PER is approved, and then we'll start working on the cesspool closure implementation plan, which is due 30 days after the approval of the information document.

⁶ Video of remarks and blessing ceremony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMwbd8j7jgs>

It's great you're ahead of schedule on things, Chair Adams said. And the website, are people using it? It's really cool.

So we have the Pāhala website on the DEM website right now, and we can't do analytics with it, Ms. Hartman said. We're currently in the middle of a website upgrade, and so about eight months from now, we'll be able to run analytics and we'll have a section for all of our projects on the website.

Any questions, comments about that project? You getting good vibes from EPA, the Chair asked.

Yeah, they've been really happy with what we've done, Ms. Hartman said. Our team that we put together for this project is really solid. We meet at least weekly, just internally, and we're ahead of schedule and we meet with EPA and kind of deal with anything we anticipate, any issues to kind of work those things out. So good vibes from EPA.

2. West Hawai'i wastewater projects

(No discussion)

3. Hilo WWTP upgrades

(No discussion)

4. Wastewater plans

1. Addition of wastewater services for the Puna District⁷

Ms. Hartman said the Puna project is on schedule. We have finished the project definition report. We filed the draft PEIS to the state Environmental Review Program last month. So we're currently in the comment period for that. So if you want to leave comments, you have until June 7, and you can go to the website for that. There's a link, you can directly submit a comment there. We would appreciate that. Our consultant completed the draft facility plan. It's currently under county review. We recently held a workshop to discuss some of the rates, the milestones on deck for Puna. After the 45 day comment period ends June 7, we will submit the final PEIS. It's after the facility plan, which is due August 31. That's our target deadline anyway. And then the final facility plan is also going to be drafted in August.

We had our meeting with the consultant, the Director said, so we are planning on presenting that report to County Council, the administration, and the commission as well. Once we set the date, the Director encourages EMC to tune in either by person or Zoom, because they did a very comprehensive report and options. Things are not cheap, we are talking in the range of tens of billions of dollars. He is sure you have seen the report because trying to build something from nothing, it's very expensive. You're going to tear up roads. You're going to build up a whole structure after the fact because everything has been built. So definitely it is going to bring a lot of discussion.

⁷ VII.3.4.1: Puna wastewater website: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/50e624065fa641598326febe6316327b>

Vice Chair Olson said you got 80,000 vacant lots in Puna that have been paying property taxes since 1960, vacant land for which the county has been collecting property tax. So we want our money back. Show me the money. Yeah, it's like we didn't pay for it already in spades. Everything that you look at in Hilo today was built with Puna's property taxes. I had that from the woman who was the chair of the (Board of Supervisors) when that was done, Helene Hale.

My understanding her intention was to subdivide, to generate revenue, the Director said. What was the intention of Hawaiian Paradise Park?

Twelve thousand one-acre lots, the Vice Chair said. People paid property taxes long before anybody ever moved in there.

Yeah, because the idea was they never thought they're going to move in there, the Director said.

They were counting on it, the Vice Chair said.

Remember, property tax gives you the services from police to parks and what have you, but it doesn't give you wastewater services. That wastewater services should have been provided during the subdivision by the developer who subdivided it, the Director said.

Hilo got the money to build theirs, the Vice Chair said.

I hear you. I know, the Director said. Where is Hilo getting the money now to rehab? That's an ongoing discussion. That's why he recommended maybe we should do the entire county as a sewer district, so everybody get piece of that pie because you're already paying for it.

Well, again, people paid for infrastructure that they did not get and still don't have, the Vice Chair said. There's not one acre of public park in HPP. There's not one acre of public park in Nanawale. There's not one acre in, pick one. Pick a subdivision. It isn't there, does not exist.

Maybe that's a discussion you could have with Zendo Kern, because that's a planning issue, the Director said. It goes back to the zoning. Because that's within Zone 1 and Zone 2 of the lava hazard inundation zones. So the idea is even you spend \$35 billion building a facility, two years later it is going to get buried under lava. So these are the challenges. That area, should it continue going or, I don't know. It's a big challenge. Is the property tax worth the infrastructure cost, that potentially has a very high risk factor?

But they knew the risk when they allowed the subdivision, the Vice Chair said.

I don't know if they did, the Director said. That's my understanding. Way back in the old days,

I had a face to face with the geologists that told the County what the risks were going to be, the Vice Chair said. Just like again, we go back to Helene Hale, who was the Chair of the (Board of Supervisors) back then. They knew. Have you read "Land and Power in Hawaii"?

The Director said he bought the book. So yes, it's a tough one.

Chair Adams said she would like to bring the discussion back to, so what can EMC do about it? It is a huge political issue of stupid decisions made decades ago. And here we are. What are we going to do? How are we going to pay for it? I mean, it's the cesspool issue- none of the bills passed. Well, decades ago, before I moved here, I'm sorry, but you did a bum deal. It's kind of like the Superfund program in a way. It was perfectly legal to bury a lot of that stuff back when they buried it. They had permission, they got permits to build, so they did.

But the funny thing with the Superfund sites, the Department of Energy and Defense paid for it, the Director said. This one, who's going to pay for it?

And it's big companies. We have hardly any big companies here, the Chair said. We don't have anybody to stick it other than tourists. We can always stick it to the tourists, right?

Director Mansour recommended that EMC review the report, look at the analysis and the cost and the options and start generating feedback.

So just to be clear, Ms. Hartman said, the facility plan has not been published publicly yet. We needed to discuss that internally. We need to have a follow up meeting with County Council. So what you're going to find on the website is an explanation of the project, links to the programmatic impact statement. Yeah, just kind of a summary. But the facility plan with the cost is not public yet. She would be happy to share that with the EMC, but understands maybe once we do it's public, so she is not too sure.

Vice Chair Olson said the point is that the people who own the lots, who are building on the lots, living on the lots, paid for services they're not getting. They paid their taxes in good faith.

This is a big legal issue, the Director said. In California, we call it the 218 process. Prop 218 prohibits any funds from a non-user to go toward people that receive the service. So if you're not paying for the service, you should not be charged. And that's what Prop 218 was. But here we don't have it. So unless somebody ends up suing the County or the State and it becomes a State case, then that's probably being enforced. But currently everything is getting funded by General Fund, either through obligation bonds or through some type of funding mechanism that we all pay for it. I hear you loud- I know exactly what you're referring to when you say everybody's living there, paying for Hilo and Kealakehe WWTP users, but they are not getting the service. I understand it. I've been there with the 218 process. There are different cited law cases but I don't know how it's going to apply to Hawai'i because we don't have any Hawai'i Supreme Court or regular court citing a decision pertaining to that example.

Chair Adams asked DCC Tavares whether we are within the Charter for EMC to talk about the mistakes made in the past and how it gets funded. It seems like it's a legal and a political issue and I'm not sure we're the ones to solve it or address it.

You're not, DCC Tavares said. And you're not going to be able to reverse something that was done 30 or 40 years ago. You can advise the Department on current policy and things going forward but you don't have a mechanism to fix what happened in the past.

We're here to point out the need, the Vice Chair said.

I think what the Vice Chair is referring to is not going back 30 years, the Director said. What he's saying is the continuation of everybody else's paying for services not received. But who's going to pay for the infrastructure for the Puna community because they have been paying for it. That's what he's saying.

DCC Tavares asked if it was developed as a private subdivision.

Yes, the Director said. But even if a private subdivision is not connected to sewer, they eventually indirectly are paying for sewer by covering general obligation bonds because it gets covered by the general fund. And that's what the Vice Chair is referring to. Indirectly, everybody on the island is paying for sewer services, they're not getting. I hear you, but it's very complicated. Unless we get sued and the court finds- and then it's going to wake people up.

I don't think it's the role of EMC to recommend somebody sue the County, Chair Adams said. So I'm going to pull the plug on this discussion. The fact that we need to fund wastewater management infrastructure in Hawai'i Island-

We need to be putting in the sewers, the Vice Chair said. We need to be putting all of those things. The people who in good faith bought the property with the understanding that their dollars would go toward-

I understand the argument that you made, the Chair said. And the reason to that is we have asked the Department and the Council – we've asked for an integrated wastewater management plan. We've got an integrated solid waste management plan and identifying the infrastructure we need, the services that we need to keep the island going. And we're looking at, the focus of this one is how do we get that infrastructure to happen? You need to have an overall plan for it. And that's a big part of the need, and I think everybody knows it. It's just okay, we got to figure out how are we going to get from here to there, right?

Director Mansour said Hilo WWTP was constructed based on a lawsuit. It's complicated, but we'll share with you the study and hopefully the intent is not- like I said, I know you think the County is going to fund a \$35 billion facility. It's a complicated issue.

Commissioner Otsuka wanted to add a couple of things based on all this discussion about knowing what we've done is disservice or an injustice to the people paying for services they're not getting. What about, rather than not do anything and say we can't do anything, maybe looking towards something on a credit for the people who have been paying. It's all complicated, but that's something that we can do to kind of remedy or at least in good faith, address it so that they don't have to continue paying and once they do get service, they're being credited for that service. That's just a thought.

Commissioner Otsuka shared one more thought on the trash pickup at subdivisions or new developments coming up. If they were to put a designated place to pick up the trash in a residential development, how would they do that? Would the trash pickup place be considered residential or public use?

Vice Chair Olson said that using HPP or Nanawale as the model because those were two of the earliest subdivisions, the set asides in terms of the property itself exist, and are in the charge of the existing associations. So you're not going to have to buy land, but you are going to have to put in the infrastructure.

Commissioner Otsuka said that maybe we should invest in doing that because after all, they did pay for services they're not getting. We can probably redirect it to that.

The other thing is, once they build on it, you start getting property taxes for which you are only getting a minimal amount, the Vice Chair said.

Commissioner Otsuka said that maybe that's where they would apply the credit or figure a way. It's complicated, but if there's a way, they can try and credit them or at least do something so that they don't have to pay for something they've already paid for.

It's going to be the cheap part because you're not buying the land. The land was set aside, the Vice Chair said.

Chair Adams said that the idea of one way to recompense the people is to provide them with a credit. The deeper thing is, where are we getting the money to build all this stuff?

I would be curious, Commissioner Otsuka said, to know then how much revenue the County got from all those fees that actually were paid for and no services given. I mean, they must have, after all these years, got a lot.

I can tell you that, the Vice Chair said. It sounds ridiculous, but in 1960, \$5 would buy you a tank full of gas.

Yeah, it's been several decades, so I'm just saying, where are we going to get the money for that? Well, they paid so much into it, and I'm curious to find out now how much money was

collected from all of them, Commissioner Otsuka said. And so now it's looking to find money to put something there that should have been there is all I'm saying.

Okay, we need to move on, Chair Adams said. I appreciate the idea and the concept of credit. I think the big issue that we've beat on forevermore is trying to figure out how to do it for solid waste. I mean, the same thing with how do we fund our wastewater services? And right now we're trying to grab money from all the grants that the feds are doing, but (with a possible default) they crash our credit in a week or so, and we won't have to worry about anything anymore. Anyway, I'm not sure, and I guess I would ask you to think about, okay, what are some specific actions that EMC can do to help address the need? I don't think it's a secret to the Council that there's a lack of infrastructure. I don't know that it's within the wherewithal of the EMC to come up with the answers.

So if you've got something concrete, bring it to next meeting and we'll talk about whether or not it's something that we should move to put together recommendations to Council and DEM. You're welcome to come up with some ideas as well for us to review and decide if it's something EMC should propose.

2. Puakō and South Kohala Regional Wastewater Master Plan

(No discussion)

4. DEM input to draft Integrated Climate Action Plan⁸

Director Mansour said the Mayor was working on an action plan.

We've got the link to the Draft Integrated Climate Action Plan, Chair Adams said, and there are a couple of sections in there where DEM has put things that they're already planning for. You're taking away from future emissions to help with climate action, but the Chair wanted to hear if there were any additional things that you've done. And there was a convoluted budget amendment that would fund a new Office of Sustainability, Climate Equity, and Resilience. So they got money approved. But the final budget hasn't been approved, has it? No. So it's still got another round. Anyway, they approved the budget, but they didn't approve establishing this office that would take out some things from R&D that's being done and create more things. The only thing they were missing there was "and coconut pie," but they had climate action. DEM has contributed to that plan. Is there anything you're comfortable with or uncomfortable with that you'd like EMC input on climate action, she asked.

So far it's okay with DEM, the Director said. If you have not reviewed and want to add comments, it's an opportunity to review what's out there and what the Planning Department had put out. Planning worked with all departments and they got comments as well.

Chair Adams noted the link is there to the plan (footnote 8). You can go through it. If you personally want to submit comments, you're welcome to. You'll see what Chair Adams

⁸ VII.5: Planning Department's Integrated Climate Action Plan <https://cohplanning.konveio.com/>

submitted. Basically, anything anybody does affects climate. So most of our programs where we're looking at reducing waste or managing or recovering the generation of methane or whatever it may be from DEM operations would help to mitigate climate change. So, just wanted to make sure you were aware of it and if there was something we needed to do. I don't particularly see a big need for DEM to change or do what you're doing. I think you appropriately identified your activities. But climate is everything now. That's where all the money is. It's where all the politics are. It's going to end life as we know it on the planet. So it's something to pay attention to and be aware of how it could impact DEM.

5. Information requests to DEM from Commissioners

1. What is the scope of work for the Solid Waste Division operations analysis contract? (Adams)

(See VII.2, Page 11)

2. Please background us on the 23-05-05 Solid Waste Management Plan - Guidelines for Submission⁹. How has this changed review of construction projects compared to past practice? (Adams)

Chair Adams said she was trying to chase back through the code issue, the zoning code issue, and she got kind of a response, pointing fingers both directions, that that's not the Planning Commission responsibility or the Department. It's DEM that looks at construction projects, new construction projects, and they've got a review process that if someone's going to build a new building, you need to have a solid waste management plan, and it has these components, and DEM approves it or not. There was a new guideline that was just signed May 4 and it wasn't clear to the Chair, what did you change and what do you do to approve these solid waste management plans for big construction projects?

Are you talking about construction projects or are you talking about subdivision projects, asked the Director.

A subdivision, the Chair said. They're putting in a new subdivision or they're building a new building, there's a requirement that the contractor submit a solid waste management plan. And it's just been rewritten or reissued and had a little bit more detail in it. And she was just wondering what the background on that was. And if you don't know, she will bring it back next time. But it appeared to her that the contractor will write one up. But it's kind of you write up what you want to write up and you need to follow what you wrote up. But DEM really isn't instructing, "you've got to do this" or "here's a way that you can recycle, here's how you can reuse and reduce the amount of construction waste you're generating." So she was just curious how that is actually processed or whether it was just a rubber stamped, "oh yeah, they did up a plan. You can go ahead and build." So there are components that need to be in there and you need to explain what you're going to do with it. There's a required plan, but not necessarily particular standards or goals that need to be met.

⁹ VII.6.2: SWMP guidelines <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/weblink/DocView.aspx?dbid=1&id=123186>

The current process, now, is that any project that comes through Planning, they send it to every department for review and comments, the Director said. And as far as how it's going to impact the solid waste versus the wastewater, if the intent is- and that's the review process for development, subdivision, commercial, industrial, whatever that or zone change. So it comes to us to dictate, okay, how is it going to impact the solid waste facilities, our operations. So we comment on it through that process. But if there's a construction and demolition, currently we don't have any county ordinances saying that any construction project within the county shall be subject to diversion and recycling. So maybe that's what we need to do. If we need to start encouraging construction projects within the county to start implementing diversion and recycling programs, maybe we should do it as a county ordinance. But that will bring the cost of construction up. It's already sky high. Our projects have come four times the engineer's estimate. And that's without diversion requirement and recycling but we need to think about inert material. We need to think about construction and demolition material that's taking space in our landfills. We need to start giving incentives to these private entities that wanting to come and turn that to something useful. It's a matter of just attracting private entities, recyclers, to come in and start taking that and putting it to recycling and diverting it away from the landfill. So one way of achieving that is through county ordinances to make sure that any construction project within the County has to go through plan submittals regarding diversion and recycling for approval. I don't know if I think that it's kind of Catch-22, right. We don't have the infrastructure and manufacturing to take that product and convert it. Therefore, could we really ask a contractor to do that?

That's back to the Chair's concept of banning landfilling and requiring recycling, but only if you've got a way to do it. And C&D was down on her list, we're not ready for that yet, the Chair said. We keep trying to get Reuse Hawai'i, who does C&D recovery for reuse, to show up here at our meeting. And we just need to keep working at them. Maybe she will stop there on the way home and say, guys, come on, come and talk to us. Tell us what you're about. We've got one outfit that will do that on island right now, whether they can expand or whether we figure out a way to incentivize competition. Because now we'll say, well, we're banning it. So you've got guaranteed business coming to you. I don't know the ins and outs of that, but that's sitting there on the list of, it's something that in the future we ought to be able to require. So I was just curious as I was doing some backgrounding on just how hard you come down on people to reduce the amount of waste going to your landfill.

6. Correspondence

1. EMC letter to DEM to DOH (copy to Council) requesting studies on advanced disposal and point of sale fees for solid waste management¹⁰

Chair Adams said we asked DEM last time to ask the State DOH solid waste group, have you guys ever looked at the concept of expanding fees, advanced disposal fees? The Director did write the letter. We'll see. I expect the answer will be no, we haven't done anything looking at additional advanced disposal fees. Thank you very much. Nor do we plan to. But we'll see what

¹⁰ VII.7.1: EMC letter to DEM re studies on advanced disposal and point of sale fees
<https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/weblink/DocView.aspx?dbid=1&id=123335>

they come back with. But I think what we learned was maybe a dead end there. But you can try thinking about state- we would probably need to get a state law passed.

Well, it would come from a portion to property tax and a portion from sales tax, Vice Chair Olson said.

This is talking about your point of sale fee idea. That would have to come from the state, Chair Adams said. The state would have to issue the regulation or the law that says, thou shalt pay in advance.

At our last meeting, DCC Tavares said, DCC Keyra Wong presented her research on the advanced point of sale. EMC asked the Department to inquire with the state about whether they have done research or not, and if they have not, to do it. And so that has been done. We sent it to them.

We'll see what the response is, Chair Adams said. I assume our next potential step would be to go to Council and say, we think you ought to put this in your list of things to press for as a state action.

When we get the response, then it would be an appropriate time to take the next step because maybe they'll say they did it. We don't know. So we should wait for the response, and then potentially, if they have done nothing, that could be something EMC can consider, DCC Tavares said.

Then it comes back to us. And we could possibly do something on the County level, Vice Chair Olson asked.

No, we cannot, DCC Tavares said.

No kind of sales tax or fee, the Vice Chair asked.

It has to be from the State, DCC Tavares said.

I have a clarification question on that, Commissioner Acasio said. The idea would be if they have or have not, we analyze that information, and then we could push the County to recommend to the State to implement more options for point of sale, which would be geared towards a consumer.

Right, Chair Adams said. Retail purchases. You'd see it up front, kind of like the deposit for HI-5.

As opposed to pursuing something from the producer end, which their business models are the ones that are producing the waste that folks are consuming, Commissioner Acasio said. And so it is, of course, multifaceted in terms of who's driving the waste, but in terms of the business models that are producing it, which is why I continue to go back to a model of extended

producer responsibility and the capacity for EMC to perhaps push the Council. If it's all these steps going towards ultimately state legislation to begin with, we also would want to look at really pushing for producer responsibility also in conjunction or in lieu of putting more tax on the retail end and the consumer end.

What we were looking at was what are the avenues that are open to the county, Chair Adams said. The County is not the place to do an EPR or point of sale. That would come from the state. And there are State bills that have been in process, and are still working forward, trying to figure out how to do an EPR. The effort the Chair was looking at was, well, what could the County level do? The county can ban the sale of certain materials if it wants to go there, but that's probably not the most efficient way to accomplish things. But it's trying to look at where are the point of authority, basically, and impact. And some have got to be at the state level. So it's supportive of a state level effort.

And it would perhaps be a resolution to the State to say, please support this, the County feels like it's important, Commissioner Acasio said.

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Follow up on action items determined today.

1. June 23 - Invite to Douglass Adams, Director of Research and Development, to discuss site visit to Yummet and the possibility of resource recovery from waste.

Chair Adams said we've got a couple of things to bring forward. She will come back and talk with Commissioner Acasio with some drafts on how to begin to scope out a County ordinance dealing with certain recyclable wastes that we could start pushing for restricting from landfilling. And if there are some ideas you guys have about the wastewater issue, go for it.

We have invited Doug Adams, the Director of Research and Development, to come and talk about what he knows about this, Yummet biochar resolution that was passed by Council. And we may expand some of the questions we ask since we'll have him, but we won't only have him for like 20, 30 minutes, so we won't have to be able to go too deep. But it's a resource.

And obviously if you've got any other topics you want to discuss, welcome to send them to me and Peter and we'll try and figure out how to put them in the next agenda.

2. Other (Commissioners may suggest items they would like placed on the next agenda.)

Commissioner Otsuka recommended that Stacey Breining from the Hawai'i Wildlife Foundation talk to us. She just got back to me, and so she said she'll be able to probably do the June 23 one if you want to add her on to the agenda.

Commissioner Acasio asked for information about the polymer that's added to the sludge at the wastewater treatment plant and more detail on what that is and why it's put in there. And some of those details, but for the next agenda, in case they need to do some looking up.

Commissioner Otsuka also asked about Kristine Kubat's letter provided to EMC at the April meeting and said she had questions about it.

Commissioner Acasio said that Ms. Kubat, representing Recycle Hawai'i, is currently en route to the intergovernmental program at the United Nations on plastic reduction for the climate issues that we face. And so it would be nice also to, at some point in the near future, ask her to report on that in terms of if there are any intergovernmental recommendations for us here in the EMC relating to reduction of plastic pollution.

Chair Adams asked if there are any other ideas for future agenda. It's easier if you send it to her, and then we can go back and forth and clarify just what we ought to put on the agenda.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday June 23, 2023, at the Puna Conference Room of the Hawai'i County Building, 25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, and via Zoom.¹¹ Please contact the Secretary for the Department of Environmental Management or review the agenda posted on the County Calendar within six days of the next meeting for confirmation.¹²

Chair Adams said the next meeting is Friday, June 23, in Hilo and Zoom as well. We went to Friday partly because we are not going to have the Secretary. The survey looked like June 23 would work for most of us. Chair Adams might even be willing to drive to Hilo. We're still struggling to be able to find a day that we can all make. It's getting frustrating. We've been too close to not having quorum. But she appreciates all of you who showed up today.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion, second, and vote: Vice Chair Olson made a motion to adjourn, to which Commissioner McIntosh seconded, and the motion was adopted. Ayes: 6 (Acasio, McIntosh, Olson, Otsuka, Norris, Adams); Nays 0; Absent 2 (Burns, Cardwell). Meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Sur, Secretary

¹¹ IX: 2023 EMC meeting schedule: <https://records.hawaiicounty.gov/weblink/DocView.aspx?dbid=1&id=120846>

¹² IX: Hawai'i County Calendar: <https://www.hawaiicounty.gov/our-county/county-calendar>