

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 24, 2019

Hyperlink to [Meeting Video](#)

Community Plan Advisory Committee

Attending: Chair Kai Nishiki, Vice-Chair Jeri Dean, Hans Michel, Karen J. Comcowich, Dylan Payne, Ravi Bugga, Joseph D. Pluta, Donald Robert Gerbig, Leilani Pulmano, Yvette Joyce Celiz (arrived at 6:42 p.m.)

Absent: Aina Kohler, Dawn Hegger-Nordblom

County of Maui – Planning Department

Pam Eaton, Long Range Planning Division

Jennifer Maydan, Long Range Planning Division

Kate Blystone, Long Range Planning Division

Tiffany Bostwick, Long Range Planning Division

Call to order at 5:39 p.m.

Public Testimony (00:00 to 1:09:35 in Meeting Video)

Councilmember Tamara Paltin voiced her support for the policies in Goal 2.1: Ready and Resilient Systems, especially Policies 2 & 3. She noted that Action 3 might be controversial. For Goal 2.4 Economic Opportunity through Innovation and Collaboration, she didn't understand nor recommend Action 4. For Action 6 she supported limiting the units to what is already in West Maui, and not growing the tourism industry substantially until infrastructure has a chance to catch up. Chair Nishiki asked Tamara to clarify her testimony and if she had any suggestions on better language for Action 6.

Angela Lucero read testimony from her friend Maria (who was unable to attend the meeting) regarding emergency shelters and resilience hubs in West Maui. Angela then provided a brief overview of what a resilience hub is and its effectiveness in times of emergencies. She noted that she'd be happy to provide a handout to CPAC if the opportunity allows at a future meeting.

Kimo Falconer spoke about needing better ways to put water back in the reservoirs (which are empty right now) to assist in fighting fires. He also noted that there is no longer any significant agriculture on the West side, but that there are ways to bring it

back if the community can work together to make it happen. Questions from CPAC included the possibility of setting up a co-op to maintain the reservoirs/water sources for agriculture and emergencies; how little freshwater we have now compared to plantation days; how many commercial water users are in West Maui; which crops can be grown in West Maui that are commercially viable; the cost to manage water systems (reservoirs) in West Maui; what other challenges (besides water) face farmers in West Maui; decreasing irrigation landscaping use to provide more water for farmers; and whether there is a coordinated effort between Emergency Management and landowners to have access to reservoirs. (8:45 to 31:39)

Michele Lincoln read from her written testimony, suggesting numerous policies and actions for Goals 2.1, 2.2 and 2.4. ([Link to written testimony](#))

Darren McDaniel voiced his concerns with the growing water crisis and strongly advocated that no ag lands be converted to urban or rural designations unless future water projections can sustain the population growth. He also advocated for more Native Hawaiian representation in tourism management, and for a committee of “Kanaka o West Maui” to join the Mayor’s Tourism Group and the Maui Tourism Advisory Committee. Finally, he recommended adding a policy that denies permits for developments that still have open/pending “Request for Services.” ([Link to written testimony](#))

Ke’eaumoku Kapu reminded members of the importance of kanaka maoli in regards to the Community Plan, and how the Native Hawaiian community must be addressed separately from the general public based on the Hawai’i Constitution and statutory laws. He submitted to CPAC copies of the DLNR’s Final Rules of Practices & Procedures and advised members to be *akahela* (cautious; careful consideration) when coming up with recommendations for the West Maui Community Plan. Chair Nishiki thanked Ke’eaumoku and encouraged Planning staff to continue working with him in policy and action recommendations.

‘Uilani Kapu stressed the need to fix the water situation first before building more houses, and to have plants that can sustain themselves. She spoke about teaching residents about self-sustainment before focusing on visitors. She also briefly touched upon issues with roads and fires. Chair Nishiki requested that Uilani submit policy and action recommendations to CPAC.

Kalani (no last name given) suggested better advertisement of CPAC meetings to get more people to show up and provide input. She felt that agriculture jobs should go to kanaka maoli first, and that the water and soil issues need to be fixed before agriculture in West Maui can be sustainable. Questions from CPAC included removing the word “jobs” from Policy 1; what methods work best to advertise CPAC meetings; and adding policy language such as “to support subsistence agriculture.”

Dari Alvarez provided policy suggestions for restricting the design of hotel rooms that encourage wasting water (i.e. big jacuzzi tubs); transportation; and implementing parking charges for tourists to help upkeep our parks and public beaches.

Toni Dizan stressed the importance of mauka to makai water sources, and urged CPAC members to find out who took water from our streams and to hold those people accountable. She expressed her disappointment regarding the treatment of our land and the lack of accountability. Chair Nishiki invited Toni to work with Jeri Dean to help with the agriculture mentorship program.

Policies and Actions Related to Goal 2.1: Ready and Resilient Systems, Specifically Fire Hazard and Emergency Management (1:09:35 to 1:43:27)

Chair Nishiki identified the resource people available to provide information to CPAC members:

- Andrea Finkelstein - Maui Emergency Management Agency
- Kay Fukumoto– Office of Economic Development
- Terryl Vencl – Mayor’s Office
- Ke’eaumoku Kapu
- Kimo Falconer

She briefly reviewed the ground rules and urged members to be at meetings as much as possible to help with discussions and decisions. **(1:09:35 to 1:12:45)**

POLICIES

1. Support the goals, objectives, and actions of the Western Maui Community Wildfire Protection Plan. **(1:12:45 to 1:25:41)**
 - Discussion
 - Pam Eaton and Andrea Finkelstein provided background on the plan, the Maui Fire Department (MFD)'s and Maui Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)'s involvement in developing it. They also provided background on the Hazards Mitigation Plan, and noted that the County is in the process of updating it.
 - **Ravi Bugga suggested referencing the Hazard Mitigation Plan in the policy;** Pam and Andrea agreed that it was a good idea.
 - Consensus Decision(s): **Adopt with amended language**
2. Require new development to incorporate defensible space around structures and communities and ongoing maintenance of defensible space. **(1:25:41 to 1:27:57)**
 - Discussion
 - **Leilani Pulmano suggested replacing "new" with "all."**
 - Consensus Decision(s): **Adopt with amended language**
3. Require community buildings that will serve as emergency shelters to be built to hurricane standards. **(1:27:57 to 1:43:27)**
 - Discussion
 - Comments/questions from members included having existing community buildings are also brought up to standards as well; funding for resiliency hubs; after-action reports; Community Disaster Plans being included in the West Maui Community Plan; Red Cross assessing/approving buildings for use as shelters; and the locations of hurricane shelters in West Maui.
 - Karen Comcowich suggested adding a new action: Create a resiliency hub appropriate for the West Maui Community. (To be discussed in the Actions section.)
 - **Karen's suggestion: amend to read "to be built or retrofitted to hurricane standards"**
 - Consensus Decision(s): **Adopt with amended language**

RECESS/DINNER BREAK

Policies and Actions Related to Goal 2.1: Ready and Resilient Systems, Specifically Fire Hazard and Emergency Management (1:43:27 to END)

Members agreed to continue reviewing actions for Goal 2.1, and Chair Nishiki thanked and excused County resource people Terryl Vencl and Kay Fukumoto, since it was unlikely members would get to agenda items D and E before the end of the meeting. (1:43:27 to 1:46:38)

ACTIONS

1. Develop a wildfire information campaign with signage to build public awareness of wildfire hazards. Improve community awareness of the human, economic, and environmental costs associated with wildfires caused by negligence or accident. Engage the community to create and maintain fire breaks, and to consider native dryland plants in landscaping in the drier areas of West Maui. (Maui Fire Department) (1:46:38 to 1:50:35)
 - Discussion
 - Pam Eaton and Tiffany Bostwick explained the reason staff included this action in the Plan.
 - Dylan Payne asked if Action 1 is overly repetitive since MFD is already doing this; Pam and Jennifer Maydan noted that Community Plan actions have ties to the County budget, which is important. Staff will provide Action 1 to MFD to verify. *(Part of Action 2 discussion; moved to Action 1 section for relevance)*
 - Consensus Decision(s): **Adopt/Keep as is**
2. Amend the Maui County Code to require new development to incorporate defensible space around structures and communities and require ongoing maintenance of defensible spaces. (DPW) (1:50:35 to 2:01:46)
 - Discussion
 - Dylan Payne asked where the language for policies and actions come from, and who writes/edits them. Jennifer Maydan explained the process the Long Range Division planners go through in coming up with the policies and actions that are presented to CPAC.
 - **Chair Nishiki suggested deleting “new” and making “development” plural.**
 - Karen Comcowich suggested deleting “structures” or stating “communities and large structures;” however, staff member Kate Blystone encouraged members to keep “structure.”
 - Tiffany Bostwick briefly explained why “structures and communities” was included in the action language, and Kate defined “defensible space” for members.

- Consensus Decision(s): **Adopt with amended language**
3. Amend the Maui County Code to require landowners of large vacant land in high fire hazard areas to prepare and carry out a fuel management plan. (DPW) **(2:01:47 to 2:08:41)**
 - Discussion
 - Karen Comcowich suggested having landowners work with communities to create trails or paths that would act as a firebreak, and providing the option for the community to maintain those firebreaks; and to establish paths as firebreaks ahead of time. **Chair Nishiki suggested having this as an additional action (to be discussed later in the meeting).**
 - **Ke'eumoku Kapu suggested adding language to make sure cultural and historic sites are protected when creating firebreaks. Chair Nishiki agreed.**
 - Consensus Decision(s): **Adopt with Ke'eumoku's language**
 4. Conduct a feasibility study to determine the appropriate place for a new fire station along Honoapi'ilani Highway, south of Lahaina, to address increased call volume and improve response time in that area. (MFD) **(2:08:41 - 2:10:10)**
 - Discussion
 - Ravi Bugga's suggestion: amend to "...a feasibility study to determine and implement the recommendation for a new fire station"
 - **Leilani Pulmano's suggestion - "Build a new fire station along Honoapi'ilani Highway..."**
 - Consensus Decision(s): **Adopt with Leilani's language**
 5. Annually fund maintenance of a GIS database of fire suppression infrastructure, such as hydrants, fire stations, and locations of firefighting apparatus, and collection of post-fire monitoring data. (ITS) **(2:10:10 to 2:14:19)**
 - Discussion
 - Andrea Finkelstein suggested expanding the action to include first responder and emergency management infrastructure. She will develop language to include in this action.
 - Leilani Pulmano suggested replacing "fire suppression infrastructure" with "all emergency management infrastructure."
 - Kate Blystone suggested changing "post-fire" to "post-incident."
 - Consensus Decision(s): **Adopt with Leilani's and Kate's language**

6. Identify additional emergency shelter facilities that include storage of supplies and are located away from areas susceptible to natural hazards in West Maui. (MEMA) **(2:14:19 to 2:18:04)**
 - Discussion
 - Ke’eaumoku Kapu asked about areas outside of public utility accessibility (such as kuleana lands) and noted that the host cultures need to be taken care of as well. **Chair Nishiki agreed and suggested that Ke’eaumoku work with MFD and MEMA to develop an additional action item that best addresses this.**
 - Consensus Decision(s): **Adopt/Keep as is**

7. Identify emergency evacuation routes throughout West Maui. (MEMA) **(2:18:04 to 2:22:22)**
 - Discussion
 - Andrea Finkelstein explained the difficulty of evacuation in West Maui.
 - Chair Nishiki’s suggestion: Expand the language to include implementable actions and an actual plan. Dylan Payne suggested that Chair Nishiki instead make it a separate action - to develop and implement a more robust communication system that is put into effect during emergency; Chair Nishiki agreed.
 - Jeri Dean suggested deleting this action item altogether and instead work on Chair Nishiki’s and Dylan’s suggestions for a new action item.
 - Consensus Decision(s): **Revisit**

ADDITIONAL ACTIONS (2:22:22 to 2:22:51)

Karen Comcowich’s suggestion: Develop a resiliency hub appropriate for the West Maui community. Consensus decision(s): **Adopt**

Chair Nishiki proposed pushing back the growth framework schedule until CPAC can complete their review of the policies and actions, and doing one additional meeting per section (Goal) to complete review and discussion of policies and actions. She also requested that members provide written changes or additions to Planning Staff 24 hours prior to CPAC meetings. Pam Eaton noted that staff will prepare an updated meeting schedule. **(2:22:51 to END)**

NEXT MEETING IS ON NOVEMBER 5, 2019. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35 P.M.

