

## MAJURO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Regular Meeting – May 12, 2005

Marshall Islands Resort

Approximately 25 people present

Meeting called to order by President Carlos Domnick at 12:15 P.M.

**Minutes** – April minutes approved

**Guests** – Stuart Hadfield and Colleen Taylor – ADB Youth Social Services

**Financial** – waiting for bank statement - \$5,800.15 in bank

**Mail** – EIA on the dry dock sent by email – if need copy see Carlos

5<sup>th</sup> Micronesian Tourism and Hospitality Conference in Guam – June 27 – 28

May 16 – 18 – In country petroleum workshop at MIR

Copy of assessment study – submarine cable – fiber optics – meeting in Pohnpei –

FSM and RMI made proposals regarding funding. This changed the situation –

army are discussing further

Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Conference materials

Presentation on regional private sector organization

**Guest Speaker** – Caleb McClennan – RMIEPA – Dry dock proposal and EIA. His role is a consultant and will be here for two years working on environmental regulations in the coastal zone. EIA, earth moving, etc. Not a spokesperson on behalf of EPA. Please read the EIA before expressing opinions. Purpose of the EIA is to get information out and involve the stakeholders. There is no precedent here – only by the army base. They are to ensure the proponent follows the process.

EIA process

1. Apply for permit – earth moving
2. Board decided significant effect
3. Scoping process – what is to be covered – most important factor
4. Independent EIA by proponent
5. Draft EIA – if problems – new version developed
6. 30 day public comment period – June 5
7. Public hearing – Thursday 6:00 P.M. in Nitijela conference room
8. EPA Board and chairman of the Board – agree and permit granted or not – produce further documents

Deals with environmental issues

Significant issues:

1. Location – needed to describe 3 alternative sites – they did 6. Justify why the site selected is best location and its impacts
2. Waste stream analysis – inputs and outputs – where is it all going to go?
3. Capacity of EPA for monitoring? – suggest monitoring scheme

Three broader issues outside of EIA

1. General environmental quality in the RMI. Some very degraded, some pristine
2. General compliance with environmental regulations in the RMI
3. Zoning and planning act – not done even though it is a law – no regulations

Written comments are very important

Overview

- Location – Uliga – why? – environmental conditions – wind and weather protected
- Business opportunities – central commercial area – people nearby. Warehouse – can put in that area.
- Water quality and solid waste – very degraded already

Two sites met all of their needs. Uliga and north of RRE. Preferred Uliga because other site close to residences.

Waste stream – floating dry dock – air and noise pollution – dust screen over the ships.

Water pollution – water used for blasting – 4 drains and a separator tank – solids and oil – outflow goes through oil separator

Disposal – hazardous materials – collected in sludge and exported to Taiwan. If not sludge, turned into concrete block and put in landfill

Propose recycling

Have generator

Make own fresh water

Monitoring – four times per year. Sent to lab in Australia

Working on deficiencies – want public input. Sent copies to EIA experts in the U.S. – they are reviewing it for major issues

Questions:

How much does it cost into dry dock and how many boats? – Economic impact is in appendix. 18 boats per year. Fees are very high.

Why did Taiwan bring dry dock here and not somewhere else? – Economically makes sense – work in tuna capital of the world. Too expensive to send ships back and forth.

Tax issues and fees.

Did they approach any other countries like FSM? – Don't know

Are there requirement such as social impacts? – How other issues can be addressed and what is EPPSO's role? – Don't know – must be at national level

Bill Weza gave his theory of decoy and clone

EIA company, did they come here? – had another company do it. Did not review environmental impact on other sites. Company does not normally do EIAs.

Jurisdictional issues? – EPA and AG – other legal issues and what EPA is going to issue? – earthmoving, marine water quality, pollution discharge regulations will be applied here.

Issuance of permit is not an operational permit. Constitution says legal jurisdiction is the local government.

How did they come up with the economic benefit figure? – look at report – seems some line items are strange.

Compensation from company as a result of problems? – EPA to make sure environment is protected.

No redundant systems

Similar operations anywhere else and is EPA going to contact them? – Yes

Monitoring by EPA? – looking at options

Adequate period for comment? – legally 30 days.

Where is the dry dock now? – Taiwan – won't bring it until EIA is done  
Send comments to Caleb at EPA

### **Committee Reports**

- **Membership** – Carlos going to Kwajalein on Saturday for trade fair and also help establish an Ebeye chamber
- **Business** – Stewart – ADB project looking at at-risk youth. Going around islands and talking to groups about issues facing youth. Distributed summary. Government realizes that there is a potential crisis. Develop projects targeting youth over the next two months. Different categories
  1. Livelihoods
  2. Health and social issues
  3. Family supportThere is a lack of leisure facilities. Youth are not involved in society. Institutional strengthening and capacity building. Want to talk to group from the chamber regarding livelihoods. Internship programs and improvement of life skills. Funding? – don't know.
- Treatment of people on Kwaj? – new commander – no interest in diplomacy. Government here needs to be more proactive. RMI government issue. Government Relations committee to draft letter.

### **New Business**

- **Ben Chutaro** - Dry dock – he has been here many years and this is a very important issue. Feels strongly about degradation issue. Have cleaned up Uliga- Government left their junk there, not the community. Small businesses being overlooked. 95% of the dry dock is in front of his property. Two competing interests – large interests versus small interests. Do not cast aside the small guy!
- **FAMI** – thank you for the road reflectors
- **Motion** – COC to give \$500 to family of injured RMI soldier. Approved

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

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Donald Hess