

# WEST KAUA'I SWCD MONTHLY MEETING



DATE: Tuesday, August 20, 2019  
TIME: 3:00 PM  
LOCATION: National Tropical Botanical Garden's **Education Classroom**  
Lawa'i, Kaua'i

## AGENDA

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Acting Chair
- II. **REVIEW OF AGENDA:** (Additions/Deletions/Changes)
- III. **REVIEW/ACCEPT MINUTES:** 7/16/19
- IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** 8/20/19
- V. **CORRESPONDENCE**
- VI. **REVIEW NEW COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS & CONSERVATION PLANS**
  - A. Two new conservation plans
- VII. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - A. Garden Island RC&D
- VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - A. NRCS Report – Jenna Dunn, District Conservationist
  - B. Conservation Specialist Reports – John Nelson & Jenni Scotti
- IX. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
  - A. Ted Kornecki, USDA
  - B. Ag Summer Series & Future Workshops
- X. **OTHER BUSINESS**
  - A. OED Grant
  - B. Local Working Group (LWG) – September
  - C. Rotating Chair
  - D. Cooperator of the Year 2019
  - E. Water Conservationist of the Year 2019
- XI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - A. Ag Summer Series – Agroforestry: Diversifying your Farm with Trees – Thursday, 8/22
    - 1. Kalaheo Neighborhood Center – 10am – noon
    - 2. Kauai Food Forest – 3-5pm \*includes tour of Food Forest
  - B. Kauai Farm Fair – 8/15-8/18
  - C. Annual Picnic – 9/14 at Niualu Park at 3PM
  - D. Make a Splash and Project WET – 9/20

**NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 3:00 PM at NTBG Education Center**

## XII. ADJOURNMENT

INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING SPECIAL ASSISTANCE OR AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES (e.g., sign language interpreter, wheel chair accessibility, or parking designated for the disabled) AT THE DISTRICT SWCD MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT STAFF AT LEAST 72-HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT (808) 245-9014 SO THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. at the National Tropical Botanical Garden with a quorum.

- I. **PRESENT: Directors:** Howard Greene, Chair; David Smith, Treasurer; Adam Killermann; Blaise Boyle (by phone), Jon Ching  
**Associate Directors:** Greg Williams; Bailey Clay; Umi Martin; Richard Loero  
**Others:** Jenna Dunn, NRCS District Conservationist; Jenni Scotti, Conservation Specialist; John W. Nelson, HACD Conservation Specialist; Rebekah Magers, District Assistant
- II. **REVIEW OF AGENDA:** no changes
- III. **MINUTES:** David made a motion to accept the minutes, Adam second. The motion was unanimously accepted.
- IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** David went over the Treasurer's report for August. Howard signed the DLNR financial report for the second and final portion of FY2019.
- V. **CORRESPONDENCE:** The correspondence folder was passed around.
- VI. **REVIEW NEW COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS & CONSERVATION PLANS:** One Conservation Plan could not be presented because the client was absent. The plan will be deferred until the September meeting. The second Conservation Plan will be deferred until later in the meeting.
  1. The Conservation Plan was discussed later in the meeting after the NRCS report. Bob Gunter from Koloa Rum was called to share the plan. Blaise Boyle was called to meet quorum and discuss the plan. Howard recommended the printed plan be comprehensive showing past and future practices. Jenna said an extra page and revised map could be added to explain the past Conservation Plan. The presented Conservation Plan is an amendment for an updated ag exemption. This plan does not include removing the roots of trees. Jenni explained that they are learning more about the proper permit process to fully remove the haole koa (*Leucaena leucocephala*) and hau (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) near the stream. Howard and Adam recused themselves from voting on the Conservation Plan. David made a motion to approve the Koloa Rum Conservation Plan, Blaise second. The vote was unanimously accepted. Howard signed the Conservation Plan.
- VII. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - A. **Garden Island RC&D Report:** no report until September 16
- VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  - A. **NRCS Report:** Jenna gave her report for August:
    - **General**
      - a. Maui DC- Jill Ficke-Beaton has been selected to permanently fill the position.
      - b. American Samoa DC- To be announced. Brandon Todd has assumed the role of Acting DC.
      - c. Oahu DC- Brandon Todd has accepted a position in Utah and will be 9/15/19. No word on who will act in the interim.
      - d. State Agronomist- No word on who will be acting next or when position will be filled.
      - e. Assistant Director of Technology- Matt Walker from Tennessee is Acting ADT. No word on when the position will be advertised.

- f. Assistant Director for Management and Strategy- Edgar Lopez has been selected for the position and started on 8/18/19.
- **Farm Bill Programs**
    - a. EQIP FY19
      1. Kauai had 5 additional applications selected for per-approval totaling approximately \$159,948 in additional funds. This will bring the Kauai FY 19 total to around \$627,052.00
    - b. CSP FY19
      1. 3 eligible. Pre-approval selections will take place this week.
  - **Local work group**
    - a. September 26 @ KCC in the OCET building, 6-7:30 approx.
    - b. Prioritize funding for NRCS FY20 funds
    - c. Need to get ag producers to come in
    - d. Other details (resource maps, facilitator, door prizes, food, etc.)

Jenna explained how the NRCS will be changing their way of prioritizing their funding using the Local Work Group feedback. Participants from the past have been primarily wildlife focused instead of agriculture and do not participate in NRCS programs. Susan Kubo from NRCS will be the facilitator. Resource maps with elevation, rainfall, highly erodible soils, SMA, critical habitat, etc. data will be sent out in the following weeks with an invitation letter. The Local Work Group meetings are typically District led but with zero turnaround time Jenna and Rebekah are working to get it done this year. Jenna explained why the LWG meeting is important and how NRCS funding in the future will be more targeted to specific conservation needs. Door prizes and food will be available to entice attendees. Emilie Kirk from CTAHR will be asked to help translate for any Thai farmers. David asked about having two separate meetings for the different geographical locations on the island. There was concern about north shore voices overpowering the needs of other locations on island. Jenna pointed out that NRCS funding would not be separated for each meeting, it must be an island wide decision. It was recommended that next year be a better time for having separate meetings because NRCS will be trying to make funding more geographically specific. New Farm Bill wants 10% to be spent on wildlife projects. The EK SWCD voted and approved to split \$500 of County funds for food and door prizes. Adam made a motion to approve of splitting the approved \$500 for food and door prizes with the EK SWCD, Howard second. The vote was unanimously accepted.

#### **B. Conservation Specialist Reports:**

1. John Nelson's report for 8/20/19:
  - Obtaining signatures for completion of projects for payment
  - Following through with my other clients and their projects
  - Completing my first Conservation Stewardship Program sign-up
  - Continue to work with my clients and their projects
  - Confirmed bootcamp in Lincoln, Nebraska in October
  - Spearheading and continuing "FEDS FEED FAMILIES" outreach
  - Kauai Fair outreach Aug 15th-Aug 17<sup>th</sup>

John gave an update on the most recent Deep and Dry Litter Livestock Systems workshop and who attended.

2. Jenni Scotti's report for 8/20/19:
  - Trainings / Meetings / Learning

- NRCS Quality Assurance Reviews
  - Site visits throughout the week
- Plans / field visits
  - Planning
    - Site visits with 23 clients
    - Planning and follow-up with 32 clients
    - Worked on 4 practice completion check-outs
    - Completed 2 plans and mostly finished 1 plan
  - NRCS Engineer on island
    - The whole office met with 5 clients in office and went to 17 sites for 2019 and 2020 contracts/applicants throughout the week
- Outreach
  - Summer Outreach Series
    - Agroforestry: Diversify your farm with trees – August 22<sup>nd</sup>
    - Soil Health – September 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>
      - 3 days, Students, Farms, Livestock
  - Farm Fair this past weekend
    - Soil Health Demonstrations!
  - POSTER CONTEST
    - Letters sent out first week of August
    - Deadline is September 23<sup>rd</sup>
    - Theme – Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper
  - CAP CONTEST (LAND JUDGING CONTEST)
    - 1-2 Directors are needed to help
    - Directors that are interested in helping should contact Jenni
    - Letters sent out first week of August to teachers and superintendent
    - Teacher training August 29<sup>th</sup> at KCC
    - Soils Day for High School students September 11<sup>th</sup>
    - CAP contest October 11<sup>th</sup> – students are already interested in participating
    - State Contest in Molokai
- Misc/News/upcoming events/future projects/goals
  - Working on CTA and new clients
  - Finishing with CSP applicant for 2019
  - Outreach

John asked how the Directors felt about filming the outreach events and adding them as a link to our website. David recommended getting a budget together for how much equipment would cost.

## IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. **Ted Kornecki:** Rebekah presented the budget of about \$2000 to bring Dr. Kornecki to Kauai. David recommended to defer the workshop until next year in hopes there will be more interest from farmers to attend. Directors agreed to defer the workshop and Dr. Kornecki's visit. Jenna

brought up the point that many people don't know that Dr. Kornecki's equipment exists for there to be a need or want. Umi recommended more cover crop workshops as a stepping stone to creating a demand for the no till equipment. Jayme from HARC is willing to come to Kauai to help show how to use Dr. Kornecki's equipment instead of flying Dr. Kornecki over from Auburn, AL.

- B. Ag Summer Series & Future Workshops:** The video equipment was discussed earlier during the Conservation Specialists' reports. A recurring budget for future workshops will allow the office to move forward on food and materials for workshops without having to wait for monthly meetings and Directors' approval. Adam made a motion for a maximum of \$500, without Director's approval, per workshop with receipts. The budget can then be evaluated after a few workshops. The Districts have hardly gone over the budget on the table. The high tunnel workshops was roughly \$30 and the final Ag Summer Series workshop (Soil Health) coming up is a 3-day event. Howard second the motion, the vote was unanimously accepted.

**X. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- A. OED Grant:** Rebekah gave an update about not pursuing the OED grant with Go Farm for their Agribusiness workshop classes. The office has been busy with program applications, outreach workshops, and the Farm Fair.
- B. Local Working Group (LWG):** This was discussed during Jenna's NRCS report.
- C. Rotating Chair:** This was an idea presented by Peter when he retired. Adam made a motion to vote on a new chair at the end of the current chair's term. Which means Howard will continue to be chair until his term ends in 2020 and then at that point a new chair will be chosen. David second, the vote was unanimously accepted.
- D. Water Conservationist of the Year 2019:** Nominee should be picked by October for an article to be written and the award ceremony in November. David made a recommendation for a Cooperator - Gnazzo.

**XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- A. Ag Summer Series – Agroforestry: Diversifying your Farm with Trees – Thursday, 8/22**
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- B. Kauai Farm Fair – 8/15-8/18**
- C. Annual Picnic – Saturday, 9/14 at Niumalu Park at 3PM**  
Rebekah will send an email to help confirm what food will be brought to the picnic.
- D. Make a Splash and Project WET – Friday, 9/20**

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

**WHEN: September 17, 2019 at 3:00 PM**

**WHERE: NTBG Education Center, Lawai**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 5:00 pm. Written by Rebekah Magers, District Assistant.