

WEST KAUA'I SWCD MONTHLY MEETING

West Kauai
Soil & Water Conservation District



DATE: Tuesday, April 16, 2019
TIME: 3:00 PM
LOCATION: National Tropical Botanical Garden's Education Room
Lawa'i, Kaua'i

AGENDA

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Peter
- II. **REVIEW OF AGENDA:** (Additions/Deletions/Changes)
- III. **REVIEW/ACCEPT MINUTES:** 3/19/19
- IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** 4/16/19
- V. **CORRESPONDENCE**
- VI. **REVIEW NEW COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS & CONSERVATION PLANS**
- VII. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - A. Garden Island RC&D - Gary
- VIII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. NRCS Report – Jenna Dunn, District Conservationist
 - B. Conservation Specialist Reports – John Nelson & Jenni Scotti
- IX. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A. New Community Involvement Projects
 - 1. Vetiver Project with Go Farm – NRCS & SWCD
 - 2. Update on GIRC&D – Jenna & Rebekah
 - 3. Slow Money Hawaii – Jenna & Rebekah
- X. **OTHER BUSINESS**
 - A. Topics to discuss at EWKSWCD meeting in May
 - B. HACD Conference delegates and silent auction items
 - C. West Kauai Community Plan – County of Kauai Planning Dept. – Alex Wong
 - D. New Associate Director – Kalaniumi Martin
 - E. Outreach Materials – Jenni
- XI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - A. HACD Annual meeting – June 19-21, 2019 on Molokai
 - B. Annual Report – group photo at May 13 meeting
 - C. Annual Picnic – September 14, 2019 at Niumalu Park at 3PM

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, May 13, 2019 2:00PM at Dept. of Health Conference Room

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 3:05 p.m. at the National Tropical Botanical Garden with a quorum.

- I. PRESENT: Directors:** Peter Tausend (Presiding); David Smith; Howard Green; Adam Killermann; Blaise Boyle
Associate Directors: Bailey Clay; Jon Ching
Others: Paul Togioka, COK Dept of Public Works; Jenna Dunn, NRCS District Conservationist; Jenni Scotti, Conservation Specialist; John W. Nelson, HACD Conservation Specialist; Rebekah Magers, District Assistant; Richard Loero, Kauai Roastery; Alex Wong, COK Planning Dept; Kalaniumi Martin, Umi's Farm
- II. REVIEW OF AGENDA:** no changes
- III. MINUTES:** Adam motioned to approve the minutes for 3/19/19/David seconded; the motion was unanimously accepted.
- IV. TREASURER'S REPORT:** David presented the treasurer's report for 4/15/19 that will be put on file.
- V. CORRESPONDENCE:** Peter passed around the Correspondence folder.
- VI. REVIEW NEW COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS & CONSERVATION PLANS:** Peter signed a Cooperator Agreement for Hartung Brothers Inc.
- VII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
- A. Garden Island RC&D Report:** Carolyn Lum emailed the report for April:
Report for the East and West Kauai Soil and Water Conservation Districts
 April 1, 2019; 4253 C Rice St., Lihue HI 96766 808-246-0004; Email: gircdnew@gmail.com
 For 12/6/18-9/30/20: President Owen S. Moe, Vice President Gilbert P. Kea
 Treasurer Ed Kawamura, Secretary Gary Ueunten
 Meetings for 2019: Monday 3:30 – 5:30 pm at KIUC Conference Room
 Feb 4, Apr 1, Jun 3, Aug 5, Oct 7, Annual: Dec 2 (Kalapaki Villas)
The board approved the Vetiver Project and awaits further developments after the presentation by Rebekah Magers & Jenna Dunn (teleconference).
Kauai Invasive Species Committee (KISC): Tiffini Keanini received 2 grants from the County. The rosy parakeet report was delayed by the Fed. Shutdown.
Kauai Landscape Industry Council (KLIC) Arbor Day will get grant for \$7750 (2019). They will offer a Horticulture and Irrigation class this year.
Kauai Forest Bird Recovery Program (KFBRP) Cali Crampton is promoting Mosquito Eradication & got \$10,000 with Indiegogo promo. GIA grant for 2020 is pending.
Kokee Resource Conservation Program (KRCP): KRCP got an HTA grant award for \$35,000. Check out: www.krcp.org Katie Cassel who is considering semiretirement in 2019 to focus on funding referrals or donations or partnerships.
Makawahi Cave submitted a GIA grant (partner Grove Farm). The Dairy plans are swapped for plantings. Funding sources are being searched. See: www.cavereserve.org
Malama Hikana`akala Heiau is led by Henry Kula Schumacher who with many volunteers & friendships accomplished clearing and redesigning this sacred area in Wailua.
Malama Ia Namanu is funded with \$11,000 working with seabirds' presentations
Savannah Katulski and Tiffani Keanini joined our board after the Annual Board Meeting on 12/3/18!

Garden Island RC&D is still interested in assisting with conservation plans training.

Website www.gircd.org

Mahalo for continued sponsorship support!

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. **NRCS Report:** Jenna gave her report for March/April:

- **General**

- Maui DC- To be announced. Morri-Ann Nagata has assumed the role of Acting DC.
- American Samoa DC- To be announced. Brandon Todd has assumed the role of Acting DC.
- Cultural Resource Specialist- Brian Wallace has been selected, his start date is 5/26/2019
- State Agronomist- Kara Nelson is Acting but is going to resign on 4/13/19. No word on who will be acting next or when position will be filled.
- Assistant Director for Programs- is now vacant. Susan Kubo will be Acting ADP until 5/24/2019. Position has not been advertised yet.
- PMC Agronomist- Has been advertised, selection pending
- Pathways Intern- has been advertised. Will be in Lihue, Honolulu, or Kealahou.
- Full Time Employees (FTE)- PIA cap for FTEs has dropped to 58

- **Farm Bill Programs**

- EQIP FY19-
 - Kauai currently has approximately 27 applications that passed eligibility. 18 are above the ranking threshold. 12 have been selected for per-approval. The 11 preapproved applications total approximately \$337,333.00
 - PIA has about \$17 mill in applications, but only about \$6 mill available. Therefore, PIA will be requesting an extra \$5mill or so.

- **Civil Rights / EEO**

- Civil Rights Discussion.
 - USDA Anti-Harassment Statement
 - NRCS Civil Rights Policy Statement
 - Anti-Harassment Statement
 - Limited English Proficiency Policy Statement
 - "And Justice for All" poster

B. **Conservation Specialist Reports:**

1. Jenni Scotti's report for 4/16/19:

- **Trainings / Meetings / Learning**
 - NRCS Contract info meeting
 - Cultural resources meeting
- **Plans / field visits**
 - Planning
 - Site visits with 3 clients, 1 new client
 - Planning and follow-up with 17 clients
 - Assisted with one check-out
 - Completed 3 plans, one almost completed
- **Outreach**

- POSTER CONTEST
 - All but one school delivered
 - Challenges with state prize but will be mailed to students next week.
 - 2019 contest deadline set for September 23rd.
 - Garden Fair
 - Ag Awareness Day April 25th
 - Classroom outreach specific request early May.
 - Outreach Material
 - **Misc/News/upcoming events/future projects/goals**
 - Starting to catch up on CTA workload
 - Will be working on Annual report articles and outreach materials
 - Summer – High Tunnel, Agroforestry & Soil Health
2. John Nelson's report for 4/16/19:
- I have been on multiple site visits and follow up with clients about potential practices
 - I am getting the first round of plans completed and submitted by the deadline
 - Traveled to Kilauea to meet and present the elementary school students with the contest posters
 - Garden Fair and set up (April 6th)
 - Preparing for any upcoming tasks that will need to be completed for the client and helping my co-workers with any needed assistance to learn more about the extensive planning process

John brought up the difficulty of getting a landowner concurrence letter from the DOA for a piggery client. The Directors wanted to discuss the topic at the combined District meeting for May. Rebekah will email Michelle Watkins to see if piggerys could be added to the HACD agenda and if a DOA representative could be invited to the HACD conference.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. New Community Involvement Projects:

1. **Vetiver project with Go Farm:** Jenna gave an update on the project. We are still in the planning phase. Jenni and Rebekah took GPS points on April 9 at GFK. More specific requests for equipment, labor and materials are forthcoming. Jenni will meet with Howard Greene to search for vetiver material.
2. **Partnering with RC&D:** Rebekah and Jenna attended the GIRC&D meeting on April 1, where they presented the Vetiver project and received partnership support. GIRC&D will not charge 10% for project fund management but the Districts will be responsible for paying GET. GIRC&D also approved of the Districts adding a donation button with donations going to a subaccount with GIRC&D.
3. **Slow Money Hawaii:** There will be a Skype session with Mary Spadaro on May 13 at the combined meeting in Lihue. Mary can have 15 minutes to present with about 10 minutes for questions.

X. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Topics to discuss at EWKSWCD meeting in May:

- Mayor Introduction
- Slow Money Hawaii
- HACD Vice President (EK or WK)

- Piggerys
- SWCD Supervisor (usually the HACD VP)
- Tshirts
- Rainfall simulator

Adam brought up a new HRS regarding fruit stands. There was a discussion about who to contact for more information on the statute. Alex gave the advice for anyone growing produce on their property and wanting to sell it: they should check with SHPD and write a statement that they have contacted SHPD. The new archaeologist on Kauai is David Buckley, he can be contacted for more information.

- B. HACD Conference delegates and silent auction items:** David made a motion to send Peter Tausend and Howard Greene to the HACD conference on Molokai on June 19-21/Blaise seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Adam will look into getting some rum donated, Peter will talk with Kauai Coffee, and Jenni will donate an item for the silent auction.

- C. West Kauai Community Plan:** Alex Wong from the COK Planning Department introduced the West Kauai Plan, which is a regional plan that falls under the General Plan for Kauai. An updated to the plan has not been done since the 1970s. The recent public outreach meetings have had about 20-30 people in attendance but there has not been much talk about ag on the Westside. Since sugar left there has been no industry to fill the jobs, living wages and health coverage needed. Alex is looking for more input from knowledgeable farmers and conservationists who have connections and are working on projects that the County might not be aware of. Currently, the State only allows hemp permit holders to grow hemp on 10 acres; this is very limiting to farmers and large landowners. Adam also brought up the fact that if hemp is a commodity crop it will be hard to compete with growers on the Mainland. Blaise brought up missing components on the Westside: infrastructure support, equipment support, and farmer base. Jenna talked about the needs she has noticed that can be actionable now: farm plans, business plans, marketing, and facilitating contracts with restaurants for farmers. Alex encouraged the Districts to submit any testimony, practical goals, and policies, and talk to other farmers to do the same.

Notes emailed from Alex:

- Provide opportunities to support farmers' development of farm plans and business plans. West Kaua'i needs help growing its own successful farmers/entrepreneurs.
- Help local farmers with marketing. Farmers markets/Sunshine Markets are saturated with local vendors, and farmers need help obtaining contracts with other points of sales (i.e. restaurants and resorts).
- Help farmers learn how meet food safety requirements.
- Scholarships for training opportunities for food safety.
- Address the lack of ag processing facilities, equipment/machinery, and infrastructure.
- Maintain walking trails and better access to farmable ag land.
- Minimize constraints and barriers for farmers to sell food safety certified produce/products on their own property.
- Support conservation efforts to remove invasive species on ag land.
- Support Kekaha Ag Association.
- Viable agriculture, agribusiness, ag industry is a State-wide issue.
- Address the farm worker housing problem/constraints.

- Support responsible/sustainable Ag tourism.
- Help farmers differentiate their products (better, more effective marketing).
- West Kaua‘i is constrained by the mismatched combination of a lack of small scale farm equipment and large landowners owning most of the ag land on Westside.
- Look at opportunities for Kaua‘i farms to export products.

Additional comments and concerns:

- Alex encouraged all persons present to submit comments and/or testimony, especially related to agriculture on the Westside. He explained how the Planning Commission and County Council process will provide opportunities for the public to contribute their testimony to the West Kauai Count Plan document.
- Comments and testimony can be emailed to plankauai@kauai.gov

D. New Associate Director: Kalaniumi gave an introduction on his farm and his high density production of fruit trees. Peter explained the expectations of Associate Directors and clarified that only Directors can vote on motions. He expressed that the Districts have been looking to add new Associate Directors to the Board.

Blaise made a motion to accept Kalaniumi Martin as an Associate Director/Howard seconded; the vote was unanimous.

Welcome Umi!

E. Outreach Materials: Jenni discussed investing in a rainfall/infiltration simulator for the Districts. They would be for long term use with students and farmers/ranchers as a visual aid for soil health. We will be using a borrowed set from NRCS for Ag Awareness Day with CTAHR on April 25. The estimated price for four sets would be about \$1000 after shipping. Rebekah will be send an email with a link to the website to see the rainfall simulators. WK SWCD supported the idea of a new banner and frame for fairs and outreach events. We will follow up with Ed about SWCD shirts at the combined May meeting.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. HACD Annual meeting:** Howard will work with Rebekah to plan his airfare.
- B. Annual Report** – We took our photo at this meeting since we had all our Directors!
- C. Annual Picnic** – September 14, 2019 at Niumalu Park at 3PM

Blaise gave a reminder about the Financial Disclosure form from the Ethics Commission that has a May 31, 2019 deadline.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

WHEN: 2:00 pm, May 13, 2019

WHERE: Department of Health Conference Room

There being no further business the meeting ended at 4:30 pm. Written by Rebekah Magers, District Assistant.