



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019

3:00 PM (CONSERVATION POSTER JUDGING AT 2:30PM)

NATIONAL TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDENS EDUCATION CENTER, LAWAI

AGENDA FOR MONTHLY WEST KAUAI SWCD MEETING

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- I. CALL TO ORDER, QUORUM**
 - II. REVIEW OF AGENDA**
 - III. REVIEW/ACCEPT MINUTES: 9/17/19**
 - IV. TREASURER'S REPORT: 10/15/19 – David**
 - V. CORRESPONDENCE**
 - A. Flyers for upcoming events
 - B. Treasurer's Report
 - C. Sunshine Law Information
 - VI. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. NRCS Report – Jenna Dunn, District Conservationist
 - General – NRCS Staffing
 - Farm Bill Programs – EQIP, CSP, AMA, RCPP
 - Other – Local Work Group, NRCS events and news
 - B. Conservation Specialist Report – Jenni Scotti & John Nelson
 - Trainings/meetings/Learning
 - Plans/Field Visits
 - Outreach
 - Misc./News/Upcoming Events/Future Projects/Goals
 - VII. COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS & CONSERVATION PLANS**
 - A. New Conservation Plan – Green Energy LLC
 - Presentation of plan
 - Grading and grubbing ordinance Ag exemption letter
 - B. New Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Cooperators
 - Benefits to becoming an SWCD Cooperator
 - Additions/changes to Cooperator form to include site visit option
 - Suggest meeting attendance
 - Expand on benefits
 - VIII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 - A. Garden Island RC&D (report is filed in correspondence) - Gary
 - NRCS/SWCD
 - Kauai Invasive Species Committee (KISC)
 - Kauai Landscape Industry Council (KLIC)
 - Kauai Forest Bird Recovery Program (KFBRP)
 - Kokee Resource Conservation Program (KRCP)
 - Makawahi Cave
 - Malama Hikanaakala Heiau
 - Malama Ia Namanu
 - B. Grading Ordinance – Paul
 - IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
 - A. Local Work Group (LWG) Meeting
 - Top Resource Concerns
 - Top Priority Issues
 - Funding Allocation
 - Summary of Feedback



B. Filming Future Workshops and Budgets

Price comparison for video camera and accessories

X. OTHER BUSINESS

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

- Ag Conference on Oahu – 10/15-10/16
- Water Conservationist Award Ceremony at Department of Water – Tentatively Thursday, November 21
- Climate-Smart Agriculture Stakeholder meeting – Wednesday, October 16 – 2-3:30 p.m. Invite only meeting held on Oahu by the Healthy Soils Hawaii Team (Hawaii Agriculture Research Center and Oahu Resource Conservation & Development)
- SWCD Annual Awards Dinner – sponsored by the EK SWCD – Tentatively Saturday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING: November 19, 2019 at 3 p.m. at the NTBG Education Center

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:** David Smith, Treasurer; Jon Ching; Adam Killermann
Associate Directors: Gary Ueunten; Bailey Clay; Richard Loero
Others: Paul Togioka, County of Kauai; Jenni Scotti, SWCD Conservation Specialist; John W. Nelson, HACD Conservation Specialist; Rebekah Magers, District Assistant; Gilles Lebbe, Green Energy LLC; Bronson Yadao
- II. **REVIEW OF AGENDA:** There were no additions to the agenda.
- III. **REVIEW OF MINUTES:** David made a motion to accept the minutes from September, Adam second. The motion was accepted.
- IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** David gave an update on the treasurer's report for October. There was interest earned and a First Hawaiian credit card offer that came in the mail. There was no interest in the credit card. David recommended we move the Conservation Plan up in the agenda so that Green Eneegy LLC could present their plan sooner and depart from the meeting if they were not interested in staying.
- V. **REVIEW NEW COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS & CONSERVATION PLANS:**
 - A. **New Conservation Plan – Green Energy LLC:** Gilles Lebbe presented the plan for Green Energy LLC. The plan presented was for new land, adding the land to their existing plan. He explained that guinea grass will be left in the ditches for buffer strips. Gilles said there should be a full canopy cover in a year and all trees planted will be Eucalyptus of various hybrids. Rebekah brought up a question that was raised during the Local Work Group meeting in September: What are the by-products of Green Energy? Is there biochar that is made and can it be given to the community to use? Gilles explained that the by-product is ash from combustion but it is used as fertilizer in their plantation. Small amounts are available to the pulic. He clarified it is not charcoal, but ash is a good provider for calcium, phosphorus and magnesium. It would be better in the soils on the east side beacuse of the soil pH. He said farmers who are interested can call him to get some if they are interested.
Adam made a motion to approve the conservation plan for Green Energy LLC, David second. The motion was unanimously accepted. Adam signed the conservation plan and ag exemption letter that will be mailed to Green Energy LLC.
Discussion: Jenna asked if there was a current policy for the Districts if a client was not following their current conservation plan but was looking to revise/update and/or create a new plan. Jenna explained that NRCS cannot technically say that the client is in violation but should the office proceed to help update or add to their plan? Jenna recommended that on the new plans the Conservation Planner can put all the pratices and the applied amount for when it is scheduled so the Directors can see if they have finished their previous practices. Adam asked how would the Directors know if the client's previous practices are not done. Jenna said that they can ask the producer if they finished their previous practices on their plan but they may not get an accurate response. The office is able to put the past practices on a client's new/updated plan and show if they have been applied or not. Paul said he will come to the Districts first if he receives a complaint and the client has an eg exemption. He will do this before he cites anyone. Directors should check the applied amount column on the conservation plan to see if previous practices were completed on prior plan. Jenna is referring to non

financial assistance plans: conservation technical assistance (CTA). Jenna said she cannot be the inbetween woman. Jenna will discuss the topic at the EKSWCD meeting with the Directors. Paul wanted to make sure that the Districts will work with the client to try and correct the issue before he must cite them. Jenni said that clients are supposed to contact the office when they apply their practices. She recommended that the Directors remind the clients that they need to contact the office when they apply the practice. Adam did not think the topic needed to be added to the agenda for next month.

- B. New Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Cooperators:** Rebekah reported that the East Kauai SWCD were asking how they could better know the new Cooperators that work with the Districts. One suggestion was redesigning the agreement. East Kauai SWCD suggested adding a line and box for Cooperators to check if they are interested in having field trips, workshops, events, and/or demonstrations to their farms. There was also a suggestion of adding when the SWCD meeting is on the agreement to entice more Cooperators to attend meetings. Adam and David asked how the form works and what it means if they sign up to be a Cooperator. Rebekah will email the old and new Cooperator agreement to the Directors. The item will be on the agenda for November.

- VI. CORRESPONDENCE:** The correspondence folder was passed around with flyers for upcoming events.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. NRCS Report:** Jenna gave her NRCS report:

Lihue Field Office Monthly Report for Sept/Oct 2019

1. General

- Maui DC- Jill Ficke-Beaton has been selected to permanently fill the position.
- American Samoa DC- To be announced.
- Oahu DC- Sarah Tanuvasa, DC in WA is acting. Position has been advertised. .
- State Engineer- Susan Kubo is Acting. Position to be announced.
- Assistant Director of Technology- Matt Walker from TN is acting through 11/16. Position to be announced.
- State Agronomist- No Acting. Position to be announced.

2. Farm Bill Programs

- EQIP FY19-
 - The Kauai FY 19 total to around \$627,052.00- updated figure next month.
- CSP FY19
 - 3 obligated

B. Conservation Specialist Reports:

1. John Nelson gave his report for 10/15/19:
 - Trainings/meetings/Learning: Bootcamp Training in Nebraska. Local Working Group meeting.
 - Plans/Field Visits: Multiple site visits for FY 2020 potential clients.
 - Outreach: NTBG soils talk, CAP Contest and prep day, Poster contest.
 - Misc./News/Upcoming Events/Future Projects/Goals: none
2. Jenni Scotti gave her report for 10/15/19:
 - **Trainings / Meetings / Learning**
 - Local Working Group meeting
 - **Plans / field visits**

- Planning
- Site visits with 2 clients
- Planning and follow-up with 10 clients
- Worked on 2 practice completion check-outs
- Completed 1 plan
- **Outreach**
 - Summer Outreach Series
 - Soil Health – September
 - Students from 4 schools attended
 - POSTER CONTEST
 - Visited 6 schools – 500 students
 - 311 posters from 8 schools
 - Pre-judging will take place in the office from October 7th to October 9th
 - Final judging will take place Tuesday October 15th at the West Kauai SWCD meeting at 2:30 PM and online from the 15th until Friday October 18th
 - CAP CONTEST
 - CAP contest October 11th
 - West side sites
 - State Contest in Molokai
 - November 14th
- **Misc/News/upcoming events/future projects/goals**
 - Went on vacation in September

VIII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Garden Island RC&D Report: Gary invited everyone to the GIRC&D Annual Meeting on December 2 at Kalapaki Villas at 5:30 p.m.

Report for East and West Kauai Soil & Water Conservation Districts
September, 2019

4253 C Rice St., Lihue HI 96766, 808-246-0004

Email: gircdnew@gmail.com

For 10/1/19-9/30/20: President Gilbert P. Kea, Vice Savannah Katulski
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)

- NRCS/SWCD: The Vetiver Project awaits further developments.
- Kauai Invasive Species Committee (KISC): Tiffini Keanini received 2 grants from the County. The rosy parakeet report is being discussed.
- Kauai Landscape Industry Council (KLIC): Arbor Day will get grant for \$7750 (2019).
- They will offer an Arborist Training in August.
- Kauai Forest Bird Recovery Program (KFBRP) Cali Crampton is promoting Mosquito Eradication & got \$10,000 with Indiegogo promo. GIA grant for 2020 did not happen.
- Kokee Resource Conservation Program (KRCP): KRCP got an HTA grant award for \$35,000. Check out: www.krcep.org KRCP is looking for Field workers or interns.
- Makawahi Cave GIA grant is pending funds being released. 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 has statewide seabirds presentations.
- Ahi Satellite Tagging has begun with a start of \$13,200.
- Garden Island RC&D is unsure of how to apply for a grant to assist with conservation plans training.

Website www.gircd.org - Mahalo for continued sponsorship support!

B. Grading ordinance: Adam acknowledged that a discussion about the County grading ordinance occurred earlier in the meeting during the conservation plan presentation.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Local Work Group (LWG) Meeting: Jenna informed the Districts that they can write a letter as an entity to the head of PIA NRCS in support of the recommendations and money allocations from the LWG, including concerns about pigs. David made a motion to have the Chair draft a letter to PIA NRCS about the LWG priorities and pigs. Jenna let everyone know that they are more restricted with funds for pig eradication. Jenna explained the reason that they are limited is because pigs are considered a pest rather than a resource concern like gully erosion. The Board brought up how pigs affect water quality. Jenna explained how fences to keep out pigs can be funded if there is something like wildlife habitat within the fence. Everyone reviewed the spreadsheet with the final top resource concerns and priorities. Jenna explained how she will be making a proposal for the top resource concerns and priorities and how the information will help NRCS to focus conservation funds. Jenna refreshed the Board about the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The RCPP deadline is early December, ~12/10. There was no second for the draft letter to PIA NRCS. Rebekah recommended that the LWG issues could be addressed at the monthly public meetings with presentations by appropriate organizations and agencies. Jenna let the Directors know Kauai had the most attended LWG in all the Pacific Islands Area (PIA). Jenna reminded the Directors that it will be an annual meeting and that it can be anytime of the year. Ideas for next year include giving examples of current projects, the steps of the contracting process, and the ranking system.

B. Filming Future Workshops and Budgets: Adam asked why it was necessary to get a camera and equipment. Jenna explained that the Districts and NRCS are putting in lot of resources for outreach and educational events. By filming them the information could be reused or distributed to those that may not have been able to attend the event initially. The camera and equipment totaled approximately \$300. EK SWCD approved for a budget of \$500 for the equipment. David had some questions about the camera and battery. He will investigate more options and bring information to the next meeting. Jenni brought up the fact that the Districts may need to get a laptop or tablet for editing the videos since USDA equipment can not have new programs installed. Jenna said she would ask NRCS if an old laptop can be donated to the SWCD when new NRCS laptops are issued in the future.

X. OTHER BUSINESS:

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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- Center and Oahu Resource Conservation & Development)
- SWCD Annual Awards Dinner – sponsored by the EK SWCD – Tentatively Saturday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

WHEN: November 19, 2019 at 3:00 PM

WHERE: NTBG Education Center, Lawai

There being no further business the meeting ended at 4:50 pm. Written by Rebekah Magers, District Assistant.

DRAFT