

Na Ala Hele (NAH) Maui Advisory Council

Minutes of July 15, 2015

Present: Russell Reinertson, Sue Guille, Tom Cannon, Kevin Jenkins, Donna Clayton, David Brown, Nick Saussy, Bruce Faulkner

Absent: Bob Hobdy

Ex-Officio: Torrie Nohara

Guests: John Kreag, Haleakala Ranch Rep.; Adam Lottig, Flow Farm

Call to Order, Public Notice, Quorum

Russell called the meeting to order. Public notice was posted and quorum was met.

Review of Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2015

The June 17 minutes were approved with the correction under Old Business, Item 4, second sentence corrected to read: "One of three recommendations...."

NAH Staff Reports:

Scott Fretz: No Report

Trails and Access Technician:

John Han's Volunteer/Intern Update: Jon Hoopii, an AmeriCorps intern, has completed 976 hours since joining the crew on December 12, 2014. Jamaica De Luna, who started on May 13, 2015, has completed 264 hours; Lucas Blair, who started on June 1, 2015, has completed 146 hours; and our newest member, Kadain Shaw, who started on June 15, 2015, has completed 120 hours. The Na Ala Hele crew is very grateful to have the interns on board. They have been a big help to the program.

The first couple weeks of June were spent doing trail inspections and maintenance for Kula State Forest Reserve, Kahakapao Recreational Area, Waikamoi Ridge, Ohai Loop and Mokuleia Stairs Trails. The crew came across downed trees in Kula State Forest Reserve and noticed trails were due for a weed eating job. Crews also found that Haleakala Ridge Trail needed its stairs exposed and some drainage work was needed on Boundary Trail. In Kahakapao Recreational Area, crews found a few trees that were removed off the Pineapple Express Trail and also some weed removal needed on both the Pump and Keiki tracks. Ohai Loop Trail needed the fence by the look out to be replaced. Also, the few trees that fell on Tie Trail were cut and taken care of.

The Waihou Springs Trail signs were cleaned after vandalism with spray paint. Cleaning removed all the paint. Before and after photos were circulated.

For the next several weeks the crew is looking at weed eating Waihee Ridge Trail.

Contractor's Report for Kahakapao Recreational Area:

Adam Lottig of Flow Farm reported on a volunteer day last Sunday there were 5 volunteers. Fallen trees were removed. He completed the monthly inspections, maintenance, repairs, and cleaning. Minor work was done on the Pineapple Express Trail. The Maui Mountain Bike Club is preparing to move their volunteer efforts to Upper and Lower Waiohuli Trails in the Kula State Forest Reserve.

NAH Specialist:

Torrie and Nick will meet to discuss a permanent meeting location at the Maui Tropical Plantation so that there will be a place to post the agenda one day in advance of the meeting as required. Tom expressed concern that the public would not be able to find the meeting location in this large plantation and asked that employees be informed on where we are meeting so they can direct the public.

Torrie circulated copies of the budget for the entire state and the budget for the individual counties. She also circulated the 3rd Quarter State RTP Expenditures Report (actually 4th quarter) and the Summary Results from an External (Stakeholder) Assessment for the Maui Conservation Alliance.

The Statewide Advisory Council Meeting is July 23 in Hilo. Torrie and Russell Reinertson will attend.

Old Business:

1. Proposed New Trail from Maalaea to Honolulu Update: Donna Clayton is working with the County and other volunteers on the proposal to the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. She thanked Sue Guille for her support letter and asked Russell for one from the Maui Mountain Biking Coalition. The application is due no later than August 1. After hearing from Mayor Arakawa that the Phase I section of the trail is too ambitious and from Councilmember Elle Cochran that she would not support the trail unless it was a loop trail, a shorter loop trail ride (approximately 9 miles total) from Olowalu's water tank to Lahaina and up and back to Olowalu on the existing Makila Trails was proposed. The new route was ridden with the Mayor and others on electric bikes. Donna is trying to get feedback from the Mayor's executive assistants on the Mayor's reaction to the shorter Phase I proposed trail.
2. Kahakapao Recreational Area: Torrie would like to keep the management plan on the agenda one last time for public comments on the draft Kahakapao Recreational Area Management Plan. Russell reported that he has heard people are very happy with the area.

3. Kula State Forest Reserve Update: The FEMA reimbursement process is moving forward. Lance DeSilva and the contractors are working on the final repairs from Iselle –the boundary fence – and once done will submit all work for reimbursement. The USFS Enterprise Team, Trails Unlimited (TU) is returning in September to do training on the mini dozer. From October 5 through November 8, the entire TU team will be working in the Upper Waiohuli and Waiakoa Loop area. They are looking for volunteers to assist with drilling holes so they can repair the spillway crossings. Torrie would like notice when the Maui Mountain Biking Coalition is going out to scout out a reroute of Upper and Lower Waiohuli where it crosses Waipoli Road. At the moment they plan to go out Sunday, July 26.
4. Nakula Potential Access Routes: Bruce Faulkner reported the area is parched and the Rancher had to pull his cattle out for feeding elsewhere. Bruce suggested that with no cattle in the area for approximately 1/3 of the year, perhaps access during that period could be obtained. The group felt the fire hazard potential would likely rule that out. John Kreag said that Haleakala Ranch Company has cut their cattle herd in half and plans are underway for a cow/calf operation in Waikapu. They are also planning to cull the goat herd in the Nakula area. Scott Meidell is the one to contact for public hunting of the goats in the Ranch area.
5. Waia'ilio Trail Potential: A helicopter overflight of this area on June 26 provided a one hour aerial survey for Shane De Mattos, Tom Cannon and Torrie. The jeep trail was located plus remnants of trails at the western end. Photos were circulated from the flight. Torrie, Tom and Russell plan to meet with Shane and discuss a site visit. The NAH website for Hoapili Trail was revised to instruct the public not to trespass on ranch lands, to state there is no water available and not to bother ranch hands.
6. Maui Motocross Adjacent Parcel: Nick Saussy met with Brianne Savage, Deputy Parks Director. She requested they meet again when he can bring a detailed map of the area and a proposal for use of the adjacent parcel. If the additional parcel is added, the total motocross area would be about 100 acres. Nick is on the national motocross team and will leave to compete in Tennessee.
7. State Land Parcels: Torrie received an email from Daniel Ornellas of the Land Management Division stating the requested TMKs were either forest reserve, unencumbered land or a roadway. Land Management is hoping to auction off as leases some of the TMKs which are prime pasture lands. None of the TMKs on the list are available for trails.

New Business:

1. Suggestions for new Na Ala Hele trails: None
2. Agenda Items for next meeting:

- a. Keep Kahakapao Recreational Area Management Plan on the agenda for the third and final time.
 - b. Add Statewide Advisory Council Meeting
3. Date of next meeting: August 19, 2015 at 2pm, at The Millhouse Restaurant at the Maui Tropical Plantation – 1670 Honoapiilani Highway, Waikapu

Public Testimony on All Agenda Items:

Adjournment at 3:30 pm