

Na Ala Hele (NAH) Maui Advisory Council

Minutes of March 16, 2016

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

Absent: Bob Hobdy

Ex-Officio: Torrie Nohara

Guests: Fern Duval and Adam Lottig

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 January 20, 2016

The January 20, 2016 minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

NAH Staff Reports:

Trails and Access Technician: Volunteer/Intern Update: Jon Han

Iokepa Dela-Cruz and Jaren Paresa-Neizman joined the Na Ala Hele program as KUPU interns and have completed 1,128 hours since joining the crew on October 5, 2015. They both have been a great asset to our crew and we look forward to working with them during their term with us. We would also like to welcome Kevin Yuen who will be joining us on March 14, 2016 as an intern which now puts the total number of 9 members on the crew. We look forward to working with Kevin during his internship.

Aaron Rodrigues, who was a former RCUH employee for the Na Ala Hele trail crew, has accepted and transferred to the Forestry crew. We appreciate all the hard work Aaron has done while working with Na Ala Hele.

For the months of November and December, Na Ala Hele crew completed daily trail maintenance projects which included weed whacking and clearing of debris on all trails. Some time was also spent on Lanai completing trail maintenance on Fishermen's Trail. In January Na Ala Hele assisted the Parks Division out in Waianapanapa State Park cabin area where tree clearing was completed to improve the view from the cabins. Trail maintenance was also completed out in Waianapanapa during that time. For the month of February a lot of time was spent focusing on trail improvements, mainly water control on Waihee Ridge Trail and filling in ruts. A few weeks of February were also spent assisting Maui Fire Department with the brush fire in Kahikinui. Future projects for Waihee Ridge Trail include installing a boardwalk in boggy and muddy sections and installing an electric gate at the main entrance.

Looking ahead a month or two, Na Ala Hele has planned trips to Lanai to do weed whacking, chain sawing of vegetation and rock work on the Fishermen's Trail. Na Ala Hele also is hoping to join and assist the Na Ala Hele crew on Kauai to do some work on the board walk located in the Alaka'i Swamp area. The main focus for the months coming up is Waihee Ridge Trail with water control and installation of a boardwalk needed.

Contractor's Report for Kahakapao Forest Reserve: Adam Lottig

Flow Farm has started off the year strong in Kahakapao Recreation Area. We have begun addressing the wear and tear of the dirt features on Pineapple Express along with our monthly inspection of the wooden features.

Re-shaping berms is going to be our primary focus as many of them have lost their integrity through time. Along with the berm work, we are cleaning out drainage areas where organic material has collected and started re-sculpting the related features. We have also completed clearing work on the East and West loops, Secret, Renegade and Ravine Trails and maintained the skills area.

On Monday, March 14, Layne delivered the Ditch Witch along with some other tools and fuel to Kahakapao for added assistance with trail maintenance. We will have the machine there until the end of the month and will be focusing on this push to re-sculpt berms and transitions where the weather and riding has taken their toll. We began in the lower section of Pineapple Express above Boulder Gulch to make changes to a difficult and potentially dangerous section of trail. We re-shaped a berm and increased the spacing between rollers. This allowed us to construct a mellow jump on the outside for people who were already attempting a jump there, and create more gentle spacing on the inside for people not wanting to take air. We will continue this type of work for the next 2 weeks and continue addressing the list of maintenance issues the Maui Mountain Bike Coalition has drafted.

NAH Specialist:

1. Torrie reported Cam Lockwood of Trails Unlimited will spend three days consulting on Waihee Ridge Trail assisting the crew working out there. MECo is putting in a new pole and transformer. Goodfellow Bros. got the contract for the Boys Scouts and said for an additional \$4,500 they would build a parking lot for NAH at the site. Luckily the required maps were in place to allow this to go forward and Torrie is hoping work will start soon. Solicitations were sent out for gravel. The gate should be installed soon.
2. The \$163,000 available in the CIP funds will be used for improvements at the Waihee Ridge Trail plus HETAP assessments to be done on all trails.
3. Beneficial Designs will be on island May 24 to June 6.
4. A report on the proposed Kamaole III Beach Park sea bird colony protective barrier as a deterrent to keep people on paths and away from nesting Wedge tail

Shearwater (Ua'ukini) was distributed and the work was supported by the group. Fern Duval suggested the group go with him in April to see what happens there after dark.

5. The Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice for the Ma'alaea Plantation Affordable Housing Project and Related Improvements site map still is not showing vehicular access to the Lahaina Pali Trail requested by Torrie. She will follow-up.
6. The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan is available for viewing. Please let Torrie know if you are interested.
7. NARS is now called the Native Eco System Protection Management (NEPM) with NARS as a subset.
8. Torrie circulated a report by Rob Perez and Dana Williams, dated February 14, 2016, headlined "Some in the community are alarmed by the loose limits placed on using DLNR land."
9. The Forest Reserve fencing in the area east of Nakula is experiencing remarkable success. Some Koa plantings are now 8 ft. The removal of the non-native species, like Tree Poppy and Australian Tree Fern, is successful. Feral goats and dogs have been removed. The Environmental Assessment included public trails; they just need to be built and would be suitable only for the very fit. There is still no access through Balthazar's leased area.

Old Business:

1. Proposed New Trail from Maalaea to Honolulu Update: Donna reported the two-day workshop held on February 18 and 19 in Olowalu under the leadership of the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program was a big success. The location, food and entertainment were a hit with the representatives from the National Park Service, the County of Maui, Na Ala Hele, Maui Bicycling League, community members, user groups, Councilmember Elle Cochran and Mayor Alan Arakawa and County Managing Director, Keith Regan. The Thursday bike ride on the Phase I section of the West Maui Greenway was a good way to show the trail is already on the ground and built excitement. The Friday planning day resulted in draft plans showing the existing restroom locations along the route, view sites, interesting historical areas and existing and future parking locations. Ideas were developed around the best way to improve the existing cane haul road by keeping it simple and resurfacing only a portion of the road and leaving the other portions unpaved for equestrian and runners. The County agreed they should take control of the cane haul road areas now owned by private landowners and be responsible for repair and maintenance. The greenway would be available for emergency traffic relief also. Russell attended but Torrie was tied up with firefighting efforts.

2. Nakula Potential Access Routes: Bruce circulated the map to attach to the letter to Suzanne Case. After final revisions to the map, Bruce will send the letter, copies of the leases and the map to her. He also located the original lease wording that will be useful in determining the intention to allow public access.
3. Waia'ilio Trail Potential: The next step is to GPS the trail. The recent fire did not reach the area to expose the trail.
4. Maui Motocross Adjacent Parcel: Nick reported improvements to the area have resulted in growing membership. HC&S has said they do not use the gate the County of Maui thought might be an issue and Nick was encouraged to get a letter from HC&S stating this.
5. State Land Parcels: The council suggested Torrie ask Larry Pacheco of Land Management which East Maui parcels EMI has revocable permits on and Larry sent a list showing only a few parcels fall in this category. The map from Larry seems to show those parcels with revocable permits are in the Koolau Forest Reserve.
6. Waihee Ridge Trail: Torrie circulated the Maui News article on the trail concerns. See above discussion under Joh Han and Torrie Nohara reports for next steps to remedy the situation.
7. Access to Kipahulu Forest Reserve or Hana Forest Reserve: Nothing new. The National Park Trail is on ranch land. If we could link the National Park Trail to the forest reserve we would gain access. The ranch would like to move the trail.
8. Review of Old Maps: Nothing new. It was suggested that this item be combined with item 5 above and EMI revocable permit lands.

New Business:

1. Suggestions for new Na Ala Hele trails:
 - a. Kevin suggested we look into the EMI land opportunities.
2. Agenda Items for next meeting: Add Statewide Advisory Council Meeting – it will be held on Maui June 7th (CORE group), June 8th (Advisory Council Meeting) and June 9th (Kahakapao Recreational Area ride).
3. Date of next meeting: April 20, 2016 at the DLNR Baseyard conference room
4. Public Testimony on All Agenda Items: None

Adjournment at 4:00 pm