

Kāne‘ohe Bay Regional Council Meeting
Agenda
May 26, 2021
6:00PM-8:00PM

Online or call-in via ZOOM
(Zoom info listed below)

Meeting convened: 6:05pm

1. Opening (Introductions)

Brian Neilson - DLNR-DAR, administrator and Chair of KBRC
Clifford Loo - Kahalu‘u neighborhood board representative. (voting member)
Liko Kaluhiwa – Community of He‘eia, Kāne‘ohe bay recreational boating association (voting member)
Letani Peltier - OHA, He‘eia resident (voting member)
Aunty Rocky Kaluhiwa – Aha Moku, Ko‘olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club
Casey Ching – DLNR DAR
Michael Riollano – Operations manager based on He‘eia Kea Kāne‘ohe
Joe Pickard – Kāne‘ohe Resident
Bruce Swartz – Oahu district manager for DOBOR at Ke‘ehi Lagoon
Josh Hekeka - Office of Planning for Director Mary Alice Evans
Toshiko Schuster – TOS Hawaii
Keiki Kipapa – Windward side, Kāne‘ohe bay user
Meagan Ostrem – Marine Corps Base Hawai‘i
Pua‘ala Pascua – Ahupua‘a accelerator initiative (presenting on behalf of Kawika Winter)
Mo Radke - Kāne‘ohe neighborhood board chair/representative. (Voting member)

Not enough voting members for quorum were present at the start of the meeting. The meeting started with Agenda Item 4 and came back to Agenda items 2 and 3 for voting.

2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)

Member Peltier moved to approve the agenda. Member Loo seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

3. Approval of Council minutes of March 24, 2021 and April 7, 2021 (Action Item)

The regularly scheduled meeting on March 24th was followed up by another meeting on April 7th to focus on Kāne‘ohe Bay master plan update.

Member Peltier moved to approve the minutes from March 24, 2021 and April 7, 2021. Loo seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

4. Ahupua‘a Accelerator Initiative Presentation – Kawika Winter (Non-Action Item)

Pua‘ala Pascua, coordinator of the Ahupua‘a Accelerator Initiative (AAI), presented on behalf of Kawika Winter.

- The initiative is a product of conversations between the natural and cultural resources team at Kamehameha Schools and Castle Foundation in collaboration with the Hawaii Conservation Alliance (HCA), who all share commitments toward community-based and culturally-based management.
 - Enhanced financial support but also non-financial mechanisms to support networks and communities in practices
 - Shared visions of ‘āina-based education growing as a highly regarded tool in STEM education, community, and leadership
 - Community-based and culturally grounded management accepted as a method to restore natural resources
- Vision for the AAI
 - Advancing toward a well-defined pathway for ahupua‘a restoration
 - Looking across both terrestrial and marine conservation efforts in a way that’s community centered and culturally grounded through a series of activities
 - Identifying and amplifying best practices
 - Creating and supporting opportunities for capacity building
 - Convening partners to share and compare problems/solutions
 - Cultivating and engaging new partnerships and collaborations
- 2-3 years of conversations with a number of stakeholders in restoration - In depth conversations about enabling conditions for ahupua‘a-wide restoration. What does it look like? What does it mean? What do you need?
 - Key things identified came around state and health of natural resources and state of cultural resources, access (tensions points and opportunities of physical access), community (relationships within community, activities community is engaged in), and partnerships (ahupua‘a with a number of existing partnerships, what do the networks look like and what can we share across those networks)
- Funders and advisors landed on 6 sites, Hā‘ena, He‘eia, Kawela, Polanui, Kaho‘olawe, Ka‘ūpūlehu
- Each of the 6 sites made important progress and restoration on cultural and marine ecosystems, so they have an abundance of lived experience and stewardship and are well equipped to speak to hard challenges to innovate new solutions for those challenges
- Work plan envisioned around kōkō pu‘upu‘u
 - Making a structure with the best materials
 - Network building and network weaving before chiseling away at larger action items each site identifies as priority items.
- Status update
 - Ongoing site partner outreach and listening sessions to:
 - Identify needs, priorities, and target actions
 - Key collaborations and necessary support
 - Synthesize challenges and lessons learned

He'eia is one of the sites in the network. There are no specific action items for this group right now, but they will hear more about it in the upcoming months as they do slow and steady outreach.

Chair Neilson noted that He'eia is fortunate to be selected as the only O'ahu site with a healthy ahupua'a that can lead to a healthy bay.

J. Pickard asked about the organization leading the effort.

- P. Pascua informed that it is housed under HCA as an administrative body. HCA is a nonprofit organization.

Member Rocky Kaluhiwa shared that ahupua'a in He'eia were done by kūpuna and kupa'āina, not ali'i, so they should all sit down and talk story with the NERR group about getting away from the ali'i effort to make sure it's done as a kūpuna effort.

- P. Pascua replied that she regularly meets with the NERR group, but would love to talk about how to engage moving forward.

Chair Neilson brought up the Kāne'ohe Bay Master Plan update and potential overlaps between the community members involved in that process and engagement with communities regarding AAI. He suggested adding P. Pascua to the working group list so she can join, if interested.

P. Pascua offered her contact information for those looking to hear more.

ahupuaa@hawaiiconservation.org

5. Overview of the Marine Corps Base Hawaii Marina Program Presentation – Meagan Ostrem (Non-Action Item)

Meagan Ostrem participates in the KBRC meetings as the Community Plans Liaison officer for MCBH. She is involved in planning activities, community engagement, outreach, and encroachment management to make sure MCBH is able to execute its mission and families are supported when officers are deployed. She is presenting research to follow up on previous concerns expressed in past meetings

- MCCS Mission: To take care of marines and their families by providing quality of life programs, products, and services in support of MC objectives - Helps to provide programs to enhance the lives of the people living and working there (operational readiness to make sure marines are ready to go on deployments when needed and supporting their families, war fighting capabilities is training, and quality of life of marines, families, retirees, and civilians, employment opportunities, and financial management, personal support.)
- Recreational aspects are some of the services at the marina - boats, paddleboards, kayaks, watercrafts, etc.
 - To use marina, need access
 - Retail and equipment rentals, ramp at pier can be used by private boat owners or watercraft owners as long as they have access to the base, water support rental, boat licensing
- Established process to rent boats from marina (pontoons, whalers)
 - Online education and online test

- In-person session, where they practice operating the boat, to and from the sandbar, and pass that with someone who's an experienced boater
- Boat licensing program is reviewed and approved by DLNR
- Rules that all renters need to follow
 - Patrols are in place to enforce rules
 - Users are trained and required to use a designated path traveling to and from MCBH into the bay
 - Only allowed to go to the sandbar. No deviation allowed.
 - Need to be a certain distance from each other to ensure they're separate parties and not having one big party
- A lot of the services they provide come with a fee which covers boat servicing, staff, and maintenance → A pay-for service, not classified as a commercial activity

Chair Neilson inquired if pontoon boats are allowed to anchor or stop at any sites within the boundaries, such as patch reefs.

- M. Ostrem replied that they are only allowed to anchor at the sandbar in designated sandy sections.
- Chair Neilson added that DLNR has marked reefs to help boaters and may be able to mark more that are hard for boaters to see or frequently problematic.
 - M. Ostrem will check with the individuals involved with the trainings to see if there are any areas of concern and see if there is potential collaboration with DLNR towards that effort.

J. Pickard commented that with the update in the Kāneʻohe Bay Master Plan, overcrowding at the sandbar needs to be addressed between recreational groups, military, non-profits, Kamaʻāina kids, etc. creating high traffic in the area.

Chair Neilson advocated for GPS systems on the pontoon boats, a suggestion that has previously been brought up, by weighing the relatively cheap cost of a GPS unit with the significant fines that can be incurred if a boat causes coral damage.

- Member Radke supported this citing personal experiences where occasionally maps are forgotten, users forget the route, or the weather makes it hard to see.

6. Discussion of Activities in Kāneʻohe Bay (Non-Action Item)

M. Riollano shared that he's witnessed a big pontoon boat picking people up and charging for their services on the weekends and that the harbor masters are aware. He also brought up recent activities of Kamaʻāina kids, including some instances where 14 kayaks are daisy-chained together typically guided by a couple of young adults and safety concerns where kayaks have flipped. He asserts it is Kamaʻāina kids because they come out of the state park.

- The group clarified that it is not an authorized use and that kayaks are allowed to be rented but the organization is not allowed to do any guided tours or activities.
- B. Swartz confirmed that there is an agreement with Land Division for Kamaʻāina kids to operate out of the state park but they are not allowed to do any commercial tours. He added that there are issues, ongoing weekly rescues, and notice is given when there is

trouble. However, he has concerns about child-care activities or rentals with daisy chaining.

Member Rocky Kaluhiwa shared that the state should do a better job managing because the shoreline communities that witness these problems have lost faith in the system, with new businesses in Kāneʻohe Bay and continuing overcrowding. She voiced the need to take action and do something about these problems.

J. Pickard shared that two and a half weeks ago, a lifetime resident of Kāneʻohe sent him an email he'd sent to Chair Case explaining a situation where a crowd of people were walked out to smaller pontoon boats and other recreational boats with no gear or licensed captains.

- He took photographs of several carloads of boats and spoke with some of the users who said they chartered a trip out to the sandbar via facebook.
- They take out customers, drop them off at the sandbar, and pick them back up in groups.
- The tour operation doesn't have a state permit and operates in an unsafe manner.
- He voiced that because there's a lack of enforcement of nonpermitted activities, other people are starting to think they can violate the rules. He would like to discuss this at the committee level to address some of the loopholes.

Member Loo recalled seeing a man with six kayaks heading to Heʻeia pier with a van full of tourists and speculated that they are coming from Kailua. He also sees a lot of cars parked on the side of the road, since they cannot park at the pier, and notes that community members just have to pay attention to where they come from.

Member Loo shared Kahaluʻu neighborhood board is supporting legislation to end commercial harvesting of reef wildlife for aquarium pet trade with a resolution to protect corals and fish.

- Member Rocky Kaluhiwa also shared that Koʻolaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club will do a vote on their resolution as well, due to so many undocumented species in the bay.
- Member Radke shared that Kāneʻohe neighborhood board also has a resolution with similar sentiments.

Member Radke circled back to Member Rocky Kaluhiwa's point about management action by supporting the need for a plan and responding to problems that remain unresolved. He suggested legal action for groups like Kamaʻāina kids who take advantage of the system.

- Chair Neilson shared that Kamaʻāina kids is under new leadership and that it would be a good time for the council to engage with them about these issues.
- The council members discussed frustrations with previous meetings and continued misinterpretation and uncertainty about legal/illegal activities.

Chair Neilson shared an update regarding aquarium fishing, which remains illegal throughout the state until an EIS is accepted by BLNR.

- West Hawai'i and O'ahu submitted drafts of an EIS, but haven't presented the final to BLNR

- West Hawai'i will be presenting theirs in 30 days, the final was submitted yesterday.
- O'ahu has not submitted yet, but it would be the opportunity to provide any comments when they take it to BLNR.

B. Swartz shared that starting wastewater treatment funds were secured, but not to retrofit the whole facility. The Clean Water branch advised to shut down the restrooms, which will be an inconvenience until the CIP money is granted for the needed wastewater treatment work.

- This summer (mid to late June), one restroom on the makai side will be open with an external holding tank pumping effluent daily
- Looking into renting porter potties as an option
- It will impact users, but the agency will have a plan in place to make the best of the limited facilities.
- They will need to monitor how the effluent effects the system through safety measures, alarms, valves, check points, etc.
- They are not planning to change anything regarding pump out stations and will accommodate to commercial vessel users who need to pump out as much as they can.
- The next push for funding for the project at the legislature will be in October/November.

Member Rocky Kaluhiwa suggested preparing for the upcoming three day weekend where there may be illegal commercial activities going on and having enforcement at the ready.

J. Pickard suggested a temporary solution for wastewater management, including a barge off the pier that tows to a wastewater treatment plant off the marine base to pump out. He noted that HIMB has a barge and it could be an inexpensive but effective strategy.

- B. Swartz replied that he will inquire with some engineers about it and work with DOH to see if it could be an option.

7. Permitted Interaction Group update on status of the Kāne'ohe Bay Master Plan Update (Non-Action Item)

Member Radke updated the group that an email was sent to folks who volunteered detailing which committees they'd volunteered for, any last minute changes or jumps to other committees, and identified facilitators.

- Allowing a week or so for people to review
- Arranging a morning session and an afternoon/evening session on the same day for facilitators and anybody on committees to receive facilitator training
- At next meeting, some will be up and running.
- No due dates, groups will just get together and start communicating, then let us know when they're closing, then reconvene with the master plan.
- Member Radke to forward the email to the Council and discuss with Chair Neilson possible dates.

8. Suggestions of future agenda items (Non-Action Item)

Chair Neilson will reach out to Kama'āina kids leadership to join the next meeting and be present for standing agenda item regarding activities in Kāne'ōhe Bay.

B. Swartz volunteered to have an update on the bathroom situation at He'eia Pier.

J. Pickard volunteered to gather more evidence about the tours offered on Facebook and provide a report at the next meeting of the unlicensed activity. He also suggested having the Coastguard present to participant and listen.

Member Liko Kaluhiwa requested to add a resolution regarding commercial aquarium collecting in Kāne'ōhe Bay as an agenda item.

9. Scheduling of next Council Meeting (Non-Action Item)

July 21st at 6pm

10. Adjournment (Action Item)

Member Peltier moved to adjourn. Member Liko Kaluhiwa seconded. All were in favor.

Adjourned at 7:52pm.