

CENTRAL MAUI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 6 ,2020

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. via Zoom.

Present

Directors: Mike Silva, Yarrow Flower, Mae Nakahata, and Darren Strand
Associate Directors: Randall Moore, and Michael Reyes
USDA-NRCS: Adam Reed, and Jill Ficke-Beaton
Maui SWCD Staff: Jason Hew, and Maggie Kramp

II. Minutes of January 21, 2020

The minutes of January 21, 2020 was approved administratively.

III. Treasurer's Report

The board acknowledged receipt of the treasurer's report via email.

IV. Correspondence - none

V. Personnel

Jason Hew is scheduled to officially start work as a NRCS planner on April 13, 2020. Jason was recognized for doing an excellent job in serving the Maui SWCDs and NRCS.

There are concerns regarding unused County grant funds due to not having any SWCD planners. The grant is managed by West Maui SWCD, which ends June 30, 2020. The Maui SWCDs may will probably need to redirect unused funds, and need to discuss it with Kay Fukumoto and Tina Silva, County of Office Economic Development. Estimated amount pending.

Mae Nakahata advised the board that the County is looking into reallocate funds to keep farmers and ranchers in business.

Providing conservation technical assistance (non-farm bill-related plans, grading/grubbing exemption plans) without a SWCD planner is also a concern.

Due to restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic, hiring of personnel and providing proper training will also be challenging. Logistics to be discussed with Michelle Watkins, HACD and Jill Ficke-Beaton, NRCS.

VI. NRCS

A. Cooperative Working Agreements

Central Maui SWCD has two grant agreements with NRCS. The current agreement is for supplemental funding for SWCD employee payroll, which ends September 30, 2020. The new agreement is for continuation of funds and build SWCD capacity.

There are similar concerns of not being able to fulfill grant agreement deliverables due to lack of personnel and logistics of hiring and training. As recommended by Adam Reed,

no cost extension request for the agreement ending September 2020 and request to pause both agreements will be sent to NRCS.

B. MOA Between CMSWCD and NRCS

Copies of the MOA with emails from Susan Kubo, NRCS and Alyson Yim, DLNR were sent to the Maui SWCD boards. The MOA will also be discussed at the next HACD meeting, sometime during the week of April 21st.

If the MOA is okay at the HACD level, a straw poll vote will be sent to the Central Maui SWCD board to sign it.

C. Southwest Maui Watershed Plan Update – Michael Reyes

A large component of the Keokea Riparian Zone Project will involve volunteers to help with planting and removing invasive species. Considering the global pandemic, implementation of the project would be difficult and CMSWCD may want to put it on hold. A meeting will be scheduled with Darcy Iwashita, DOH to discuss scope of work.

Maui Nui Marine Resource Council will be using the SMWP to apply for NFWF funding to address flooding issues of Kulanihako Stream outfall, at the intersection of Kaonoulu and S. Kihei Rd. The plan is to assist the landowner with dredging the area. The end result is a multi-use area to serve as a detention basin and urban green space park. MNMRC is also looking at smaller implementation projects in the Keokea.

D. County Grading/Grubbing Permit Plans

There is one pending plan, Na Ola Ranch West. This plan is within the CMSWCD and OKSWCD boundary, most of it is in Central Maui. James Ino is working remotely and will contact the developer on addressing concerns.

E. National Land Judging Contest

In good faith, refund checks will be issued to donors. Haleakala Ranch will also be reimbursed for the cost of the beef jerky.

The SWCDs should hold a gathering to recognize the BHS team after we are cleared from the coronavirus. The County Council also plans on recognizing BHS.

F. Cooperator Agreements/Conservation Plans

1. Pa'upena Community Development

The objective is to receive long-term right of entry to a DHHL parcel, implement a prescribed grazing management, manage the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals, and improve or maintain quantity and quality of forage for animals' health and productivity. This plan will also be part of DHHL's master plan.

Yarrow Flower moved to approve the Pa'upena plan presented by Jason Hew, seconded by Mae Nakahata, motion carried.

2. Bayer

The Bayer conservation plan includes crop rotation and cover cropping for compliance with Maui Code. The plan is complete, but the erosion calculation tool to ensure tolerable limits is not functioning properly while teleworking. Jason Hew will

email the plan to the board for approval when the erosion calculation portion of the plan is completed. Yarrow Flower will be recused.

G. NRCS – Jill Ficke-Beaton, District Conservationist Report

- Processing Farm Bill Applications
- Field Office Teleworking

Report to be emailed to the board.

H. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

Submitted by

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Nakahata', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

/s/ Mae Nakahata
Secretary

Meeting Recorder: Maggie Kramp