

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. at the National Tropical Botanical Garden with a quorum.

- I. **PRESENT: Directors:** Howard Greene; Adam Killermann; David Smith; Blaise Boyle;
Associate Directors: Umi Martin; Richard Loero
Others: Jenni Scotti, Conservation Specialist; John Nelson, HACD Conservation Specialist
- II. **REVIEW OF AGENDA:** Next meeting information to change to May 19th, 2020.
- III. **REVIEW OF MINUTES:** Blaise made a motion to approve minutes from 2/18/2020, Adam second. Motion was accepted with unanimous vote.
- IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** David offered report for April 21, 2020 for the account as of March 12, 2020 **Discussion:** One check from East Kauai for reimbursement and minor interest from account. Blaise made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Adam Second. Motion was accepted unanimously.
- V. **CORRESPONDENCE:** The correspondence was sent as an e-mail that morning.
Discussion: Most of the information is regarding Emergency COVID-19 support for farmers from local, state and national resources. Some groups have surveys regarding impacts from disaster events (rain and COVID-19)
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. **NRCS Report:** Jenna Dunn's report is in an e-mail as correspondence
 1. **General**
 - a. American Samoa DC- To be announced. Jocelyn Bamba, DC in Guam is acting
 - b. State Engineer- Susan Kubo is Acting.
 - c. State Agronomist & State Forester- Selections made, start date in June and July
 - d. Kauai/Oahu FO engineer- Kevin Macquoid from Oregon has been selected, potential start date of late April
 - e. Kauai Soil Con- Selection made, start date in June
 - f. Kauai Pathways Intern- Travis Usinger has finished up his internship hours and will not continue with the NRCS.
 2. **Farm Bill Programs**
 - a. EQIP FY20-
 1. Have 29 eligible applications
 2. Applications may be selected for funding by June
 3. Applications will officially become contracts by mid-August.
 3. **Programs Support Specialist/ District Assistant**
 - a. New grant covers all of PSS/DA duties.
 - b. To be hired after self-isolation order is lifted

Discussion: David asked about the new Soil Con, Jenni shared that 4 new positions were posted around the state for NRCS soil conservationists with. Blaise asked about the engineer and if his responsibilities would be 50/50 between Kauai and Oahu, Jenni offered that it will depend upon the workload, but that he will be able to visit Kauai more often than a quarter as needed. Howard asked about the district assistant, Jenni clarified that it is on hold until the stay at home order is lifted. David asked about the previous hire, Jenni shared that she did not stay on.

B. Conservation Specialist Reports:

John Nelson's report for 2/18/20:

- a. **Trainings/Meetings/Learning**
 - a. Weekly Teleconference Roll-out
 - b. NRCS CART
 - c. NRCS Conservation Workload Prioritization Worksheet
 - d. Virtual meeting with Army Corps of Engineers
- b. **Plans/Field visits**
 - a. Planning
 - i. Site Visits with 2 clients, 4 new
 - ii. Planning and Follow-up with 4 clients
- c. **Outreach**
 - a. All outreach postponed due to Pandemic
- d. **Misc/upcoming**
 - a. CTA and new EQIP plans

Jenni Scotti's report for 2/18/20:

1. Trainings / Meetings / Learning

- a. Annual Report meeting
- b. NRCS weekly program updates
- c. Environmental Evaluation Form meeting
- d. Meeting with Army Corp of Engineers for Hawaii

2. Plans / field visits

- a. Planning
 - i. Planning and follow-up with 23 clients
 - ii. Site visits with 8 clients
 - iii. Check-out for 3 clients

4. Outreach

- a. POSTER CONTEST
 - a. Work on mailing out winning poster prizes

5. Misc/News/upcoming events/future projects/goals

- a. 2020 Applications
- b. Annual Report
- c. Still continuing to work from home
- d. Meeting with Adam Friday April 24

Discussion: Annual report articles and who is responsible for each article has been sent out. New directors and associate directors have been asked to contribute a short article about themselves to be

included in the report. Jenni noted that there have been a lot of new changes in programs in the new farm bill, so there has been a lot of meetings and new information that needs to be incorporated. All meetings have been online except for annual report meeting which happened before the stay at home orders. The office is mostly working from home; site visits will still take place as needed utilizing essential employee letters. Zoom meeting scheduled with Adam for a Q&A for the NRCS grant on April 24th.

C. HACD Annual Conference

Discussion: Whether this will take place, postponed or canceled will be discussed at the HACD quarterly meeting. It is tentatively to take place in Volcano on the Big Island in June. A selection for directors who can go needs to be determined as, if it takes place, then booking will need to occur quickly. Jenni shared that at least one director who can vote should attend and only directors can vote, so associate directors can attend but not vote. Howard feels that it probably won't happen. Jenni also shared that NACD has a meeting for September that will be shared once there is more information. Howard and Adam have tentatively offered to attend the HACD annual conference if it takes place.

VII. REVIEW NEW COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS & CONSERVATION PLANS:

BECK'S SUPERIOR HYBRED INC. PLAN UPDATE

Discussion: Beck's (Blaise) presented and the plan as an update which includes new fields and includes practices to mitigate for erosion and water quality. David made a motion to approve the plan, Howard seconded. The motion was accepted unanimously. Blaise recused from the vote.

Discussion: Beck's conservation plan was mailed, but many did not receive it. Discussion for the option to share plans as a password protected file will take place next meeting.

VIII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. **Garden Island RC&D Report:** no report

B. **Grading Ordinance:** no report

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

X. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. **Director end of term 6/30/2020**

1. Howard Greene (*elected*)
2. Adam Killermann (*Appointed*)
3. Blaise Boyle (*elected*)

Discussion: All confirmed to stay on as directors. Forms will be sent in and mailed to DLNR

b. March 27/28th flooding

Discussion: Jenni shared that East Kauai had damage in Wailua. Howard shared information that the mauka bridge is closed and that there was damage from erosion around the structure. The flood damage is primarily due to watershed health issues. Most of the debris is albezia which wasn't a concern in the past. Adam noted that there was a lot of damage in upper Lihue, most being from albezia and hau bush debris. Watersheds are unable to handle high amounts of water. Blaise said that Mana had some flooding that took a while for the water to drain. Howard asked if there are any damage claims. Jenni reminded that Hawaii Farm Bureau is looking for information regarding the flooding. Blaise noted that ADC is looking in the damage, the ditches are heavily silted, so drainage is slowed.

c. Annual East and West Kauai District Combined Meeting

Discussion: Jenni shared that East Kauai tentatively asked to wait till September or October. Howard said to wait till later in the year. Both districts can discuss once stay-at-home orders are lifted.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

a. HACD Quarterly meeting April 23rd 11am

i. Zoom teleconference

Discussion: Jenni noted that at least one Director is needed to vote. Howard and Blaise will both try to attend.

b. Outreach Events Postponed/Canceled

Discussion: Jenni noted that there may be interest in having an article in the newspaper for topics

c. Pictures for Annual Report next month

Discussion: Individual pictures for a collage are needed by the middle of May. Howard asked if Jenni can send an e-mail reminder for pictures.

Discussion: Adam asked if anyone is working in the office. Jenni shared that the office is cleaned from the mold and, as per the USDA guidelines, at least one person has been in the office. But the office is closed to the public.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

WHEN: 3:00 pm, May 19, 2020

WHERE: TBD, see online State of Hawaii calendar

There being no further business the meeting ended at 3:45 pm. Written by Jenni Scotti, Conservation Specialist.