

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. at the National Tropical Botanical Garden with a quorum.

- I. PRESENT: Directors:** Howard Greene; Adam Killermann; David Smith; Blaise Boyle; Jon Ching  
**Associate Directors:** Umi Martin; Richard Loero  
**Others:** Jenna Dunn, NRCS District Conservationist; Jenni Scotti, Conservation Specialist; John Nelson, HACD Conservation Specialist
- II. REVIEW OF AGENDA:** no changes
- III. REVIEW OF MINUTES:** Blaise made a motion to approve minutes from 1/21/2020, Adam second. Motion was accepted with unanimous vote.
- IV. TREASURER'S REPORT:** No Report. **Discussion:** Reminder that we need to submit mid-year report for state funds.
- V. CORRESPONDENCE:** The correspondence folder was passed around.
- VI. NEW BUSINESS:**
- A. NRCS Report:** Jenna Dunn presented
- a. General**
- American Samoa DC- To be announced. Jocelyn Bamba, DC in Guam is acting
  - State Engineer- Susan Kubo is Acting. Interviews have not been conducted yet.
  - State Agronomist & State Forester- No Acting. Position to be announced.
  - Kauai/Oahu FO engineer- Initial job offer, potential start date of late April
- b. Farm Bill Programs**
- a. EQIP & CSP FY19-**
1. Kauai FY 19- 22 contracts, 332.9 acres, \$853,056.04
- b. EQIP FY20-**
1. Have over 20, with several people we are planning with who will apply prior to the deadline.
  2. Application cutoff date is 2/21/2020; eligibility deadline 3/37/2020.
- c. Cooperative Working Agreement**
- New one signed this month. Took effect 1/8/2020.
  - Adam Reed will be on island soon to have a meeting to discuss
- d. Programs Support Specialist/ District Assistant**
- c. DeAnna Trass, welcome. She is out on personal leave.
  - d. New grant covers all of PSS/DA duties.

**Discussion:** The office has been tested for elevated levels of mold. The office will be teleworking until the concern has been addressed. The building has hired a duct company to clean, but GSA expects an industrial hygienist, so it is uncertain of the exact process for this being properly addressed.

**B. Conservation Specialist Reports:**

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

**1. Trainings/Meetings/Learning**

- a. Hilo for Conservation Desktop Training

2. **Plans/Field visits**
  - a. Site visits for applications
3. **Outreach**
  - a. Started posters at Kukui Grove
4. **Misc/upcoming**
  - a. Working on the contracting deadlines

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

5. **Trainings / Meetings / Learning**
  - a. Hilo training for Conservation Desktop – new planning tool
  - b. NRCS Programs Training – teleconference
6. **Plans / field visits**
  - a. Planning
    1. Planning and follow-up with 13 clients
    2. Check-out for one client
7. **Outreach**
  - a. POSTER CONTEST
    1. Started to hang them up at Kukui Grove, should be done by 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February, will have them up through mid-March
    2. Awards Picture – aiming for Wednesday February 19<sup>th</sup>.
      - a. At least one director from each District would be great
8. **Misc/News/upcoming events/future projects/goals**
  - a. 2020 Application period through February 21<sup>st</sup>
  - b. Next Outreach event – Garden Fair (April)
    1. 2020 Theme → Where Would We Bee Without Pollinators?

**Discussion:** Pollinators is the Farm Fair theme for this year. Maybe discuss landscaping plants for pollinators. Focus on both bees and native pollinators.

- c. Teleworking for the next couple of weeks.
  1. We can answer e-mails. NRCS cell numbers can be called. District directors can call personal cells. E-mail is the best way to contact the office.

### **C. Annual Report Meeting**

- a. Committee from East and West Kauai SWCDs
- b. Meeting date selection (March)
- c. Discuss Articles to include (see 2019 Annual Report for reference)

**Discussion:** We would love to have other individuals write articles. Adam and David shared interest in attending the annual report meeting. All SWCD directors and associate directors will be e-mailed. Can call in if cannot attend. Earliest is the first week of March before a meeting can take place. The annual report can include any articles that directors are interested in. Report needs to be finished mid may and reports sent to the printers by beginning of June

**VII. REVIEW NEW COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS & CONSERVATION PLANS:**

NONE

**VIII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:****A. Garden Island RC&D Report:** no report**B. Grading Ordinance:** no report**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****A. Cooperator of the Year 2019:**

**Discussion:** There are several cooperators in which nomination in the future would be better as their projects still have a way to go. Garden Island RC&D Kokee Resource Conservation Program (KRCP) was offered as an option. They are working to remove invasive species to encourage native species regrowth. The directors show interest in doing a site visit if possible. Blaise made a motion to KRCP as the 2019 West Kauai Cooperator of the Year, Adam second. Motion was accepted with unanimous vote.

**X. OTHER BUSINESS:****XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Discussion: Cultural resources** specialist probation with SHPD is actually 2 years rather than 1 year that was reported last meeting. The probation is only due to not having Hawaii specific experience, he is otherwise licensed. There are several projects that are in this limbo that are unable to begin. NRCS will work with those individuals to ensure they receive appropriate extensions as needed. The holdup is due to the agreement with SHPD versus field employees. Letters highlighting challenges from the districts are supported. Some discussion that the state may be removing SHPD as a requirement on a state level. Though NRCS is still required to follow-up with cultural consultation even if SHPD is no longer an entity.

**Discussion: RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program)** Jenna would like to offer a formal presentation to discuss this program. The program covers similar things as EQIP, but local partner asks state and national for regional specific projects. Local office would then manage the money for those types of projects. The 2018 Farm Bill has an emphasis on this program.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:****WHEN: 3:00 pm, March 17, 2020****WHERE: National Tropical Botanical Garden, Learning Center (small classroom)**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 3:43 pm. Written by Jenni Scotti, Conservation Specialist.