

The meeting was opened at 3:00 pm online using Zoom Meeting

- I. PRESENT: Directors:** Howard Greene; David Smith; Adam Killermann; Blaise Boyle, Jon Ching
Associate Directors: Greg Williams; Umi Martin; Richard Loero
Others: Jenni Scotti, Conservation Specialist; Jenna Dunn, NRCS District Conservationist; John Nelson, HACD Conservation Specialist; Paul Togioka, County of Kauai; Steven Heisey, NRCS Soil Conservationist

- II. REVIEW OF AGENDA (ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES):** No additions or changes.

Discussion: Howard would like to discuss Food Bank Donation

- III. REVIEW OF MINUTES: Motion:** Blaise made a motion to accept the minutes, Adam second. Motion was accepted unanimously.

- IV. TREASURER'S REPORT:** David offered the treasurer's report for June 16, 2020. Howard made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Blaise second. Motion was accepted unanimously.

- V. CORRESPONDENCE:** Information and flyers were e-mailed

- VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. NRCS REPORT:** Jenna Dunn, NRCS Conservation Specialist provided her report for 6/16/2020

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, helping with Kauai workload remotely during the mandatory 14 day quarantine
- e. Kauai Soil Con- Steven Heisey, first day last Monday. Will work from home during the mandatory 14 day quarantine

Discussion: Steven Heisey introduced himself.

2. Farm Bill Programs

- a. EQIP FY20-
 - i. 10 applications have been pre-approved totaling \$626,197.13
 - ii. Engineer came last week, so a few assessments and rankings will be updated
 - iii. Intent to proceed letters will go out this week
- b. CSP FY20- 4 applications

3. LWG

- a. Survey & Zoom
- b. Director involvement?

Discussion: Regarding the Local Working Group Meeting, Jenna offered the idea to do an e-mail survey first and then host a ZOOM meeting follow-up to discuss survey results. Last year's meeting had a lot of information and a lot going on during the meeting. So, this year it would be good to focus using information received from the survey. Jenna also requested director involvement. She would also like to go over the results from the meeting with the boards to discuss before it gets sent to the State Office. Adam asked if this was the same

meeting that we had last year which Jenna confirmed that it was. Howard asked what input and guidance is needed from the Districts, Jenna offered that the Local Working Group meetings are generally run by the Districts and she would accept any input that is offered. Input examples could include what questions to include on the survey or what it would look like. She will reiterate the purpose and importance for the Local Working Group meetings. Umi has offered to be a part of the subcommittee. Adam requested an example for priorities and what was approved for EQIP. Jenna shared that based upon the voting from last years meeting five top resource concern priorities for Lihue were; livestock forage, irrigation efficiency, plant pest pressure, aquatic organism habitat and soil health. Grazing operations were generally prioritized as high due to addressing plant pest pressure and livestock forage concerns unless they were behind on a current contract. Crop land use projects were very competitive unless they included a wildlife or soil health component. This was because one of the factors for application and funding priority is that it needed to include at least two local priorities to be classified as high, those with only one were classified as medium. Jenni offered that Forest projects also were more likely to be high due to soil health and plant pest pressure. A specific example for crop would be, a crop producer is focusing on irrigation efficiency, but did not include other practices such as cover crop (soil health), then they would be ranked medium. This year, there was only enough funding for applications that were classified as high. Greg asked what the timeframe is for the Local Working Group meeting, Jenna said that it needs to be done by early/mid - September. Jenni offered that it might be good to have a meeting by August to have time to discuss results if possible. Adam and Umi have offered that a ZOOM meeting would be challenging, Jenna clarified the importance of a survey first to narrow down the discussion. She also offered that it will depend upon state restriction for in-person meetings. Umi asked if we could have a physical meeting if things open in the fall. All these thoughts would be discussed at a committee meeting.

4. PSS/DAA

- a. Let's advertise
- b. Interview help?

Discussion: Looking for help with interviews. The old advertisement could be reviewed and updated as needed. Howard will help with the interviews.

B. CONSERVATION SPECILAISTS' REPORTS:

1. Jenni Scotti gave her report for 6/16/2020:

a. Trainings / Meetings / Learning

- i. NRCS weekly program information meetings
- ii. NRCS CSP rollout

b. Plans / field visits

- i. Planning
 1. Planning and follow-up with 21 clients
 2. Site visits with 6
 - a. 4 with Engineer
 3. Check-out for 1 client
 4. Completed 1 plan

c. Outreach

- i. All outreach on hold

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

- i. 2020 Applications
- ii. Annual Report
- iii. Still continuing to work from home

Discussion: Reminder to submit annual report articles. Howard also asked as a reminder for photos from directors for the annual report

2. **John Nelson:** gave his report for 6/16/2020:
 - a. **Trainings / Meetings / Learning**
 - i. Weekly Teleconference roll-out
 - ii. NRCS CART
 - iii. NRCS Conservation Workload Prioritization Worksheet
 - iv. Continue working on Conservation Plan
 - v. Site visit with new engineer
 - b. **Plans / field visits**
 - i. Planning
 1. Site visits with 3 clients, 2 new
 2. Planning and follow-up with 5 clients
 - c. **Outreach**
 - i. All outreach postponed due to pandemic
 - d. **Misc/News/upcoming events/future projects/goals**
 - i. New EQIP plans 2020/2021

VII. REVIEW NEWCOOPERATOR AGREEMENTS & CONSERVATION PLANS:

New West Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Cooperators: None
Conservation Plans for presentation: None

VIII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **Garden Island RC&D:** No report
- B. **Grading Ordinance:** No Report

Discussion: There have been many complaints during the COVID-19 stay-at-home. Some included work that was also happening when all work was supposed to stop. One involved an East SWCD cooperator, but they had a conservation plan and were cleared. No others involved SWCD cooperators.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

X. OTHER BUSINESS:

- A. **Annual Picnic**

Discussion: Jenni offered that this is usually held during August or September. Howard suggested to defer discussion to next month since everything is uncertain.

- B. **Local Working Group Meeting**

Discussion: Discussed during Jenna's report

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS / EVENTS:**A. HACD Quarterly meeting - June 25th, 2020 either 11 or 12**

Discussion: Jenni will send an e-mail and she reminded that it is good to have at least one voting director from each District. Though any can attend (associate directors cannot vote).

Discussion: Howard shared that East Board voted to donate \$250 to the Food Bank, Jenni clarified that they included both Kauai Independent Food Bank and Hawaii Food Bank Kauai Branch and they suggested \$250 each and it was requested that the donation be specifically used to purchase food from local agriculture. Howard made a motion to donate \$500 to each food bank, with each district donating \$250 with west specifically going to Kauai Independent food bank with the stipulation that the donation be used to support local farms, Blaise Second. Motion was accepted unanimously.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday July 21, 2020 TBD. Information will be posted on the online state calendar. <http://calendar.ehawaii.gov/calendar/html/event>

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:32 pm, written by Jenni Scotti, Conservation Specialist