

West Maui Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting  
April 7, 2021

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order 10:09 a.m., via Zoom.

Present

Directors: Jay Nobriga, Pomaika'i Kaniaupio-Crozier, Kimo Falconer, and Kainoa Casco  
Associate Directors: Wes Nohara, and Mike Kehano  
USDA NRCS: Gerald Gregory, District Conservationist; and Susan Kubo, Assistant Director for Partnerships/Acting Conservation State Engineer  
SWCD Staff: Jessica Talbot, Kelly Butler, and Maggie Kramp  
Tova Callender, West Maui Watershed Coordinator

II. Minutes of February 23, 2021

Pomaika'i Kaniaupio-Crozier moved to accept the minutes of February 23, 2021, seconded by Kimo Falconer, motion carried.

III. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was e-mailed to WMSWCD directors.

Kainoa Casco moved to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Pomaika'i Kaniaupio-Crozier.

IV. Annual Work Plan

An updated draft annual work plan was emailed to the board to review.

A. Lahaina Watershed

1. PL566 – Flood Control Project 13:31

NRCS was able to obtain additional funding for preparation of the environmental document (ED). A grants and agreement statement of work (SOW) for the ED was sent to Maui County Dept. of Public Works and is currently being reviewed by Maui County Corp Council. The agreement must be approved by the County Council for the mayor to sign it. A Power Point presentation of the project and SOW will be presented at the county council infrastructure and transportation committee meeting, May 17, 2021. Once the agreement is signed, completion targeted date of the ED is 9/20/2024. The next steps after the ED is completed includes two more phases, cost of design and cost of construction.

As a follow-up to prior WMSWCD meeting, Kainoa Casco reached out Kaipo Kekona to have a meeting him and Ke'eaumoku Kapu to discuss the flood control project. Ke'eaumoku and Kaipo wants to review documents prior to scheduling a meeting. It was suggested to share timeline of project history, obstacles, and the Power Point that will be presented at the county council meeting. Basically, share what we have, and listen to their concerns. Kainoa will draft info for the Kapu's and send to the board for review.

Stakeholders and alignment map were also discussed. Peter Martin has submitted a 400+ acre subdivision approval from Kaua'ula Stream to Lahainaluna.

WMSWCD is not trying to politically rally support for the project. The purpose of meeting with stakeholders is to be transparent and proactive by letting them know what is happening. It is up to the them to decide how they want to move on the project.

2. Temporary Flood Control System

Inspection of the Lahaina Temporary Flood Control System was conducted by Kainoa Casco, Wes Nohara, Gerald Gregory, Jessica Talbot, and Kelly Butler. The inspection report from Jessica was forwarded to the WMSWCD board.

Vegetative growth, erosion scars, abandoned vehicles and appliances, and puddling at intersection of road to Kaua'ula were noted.

Tree growth on the embankment of Wainee Reservoir is a concern and should be addressed. Trash in the middle of the trough, as well as abandoned vehicles should also be removed.

Kimo Falconer moved to allocate up to \$5,000 for maintenance work on the Lahaina Temporary Flood Control System.

## B. Honolua Watershed

### 1. Keonenui Basin

Wes Nohara submitted a request to Dennis Iwasaka, ML&P regarding maintenance of Keonenui Basin, and have not yet received a response. ML&P may not have the funds to maintain its basin.

WMSWCD will seek other means to assist with maintenance of the Keonenui Basin. WMSWCD outreach efforts should also be documented.

The Keonenui Basin should also be added to WMSWCD annual work plan.

### 2. DOH Grant to Stabilize Erosion, ML&P Field 52

Pomaika'i Kaniaupio-Crozier obtained a no-cost extension on a 3-year grant agreement with DOH. The project extension request is to continue work on stabilizing erosion off field 52.

Pomaika'i has also been working with The Nature Conservancy on a conservation action plan. The action plan was completed in December 2020.

## C. Lahainaluna – Kainoa Casco and Wes Nohara conducted site inspection

Kainoa Casco and Wes Nohara conducted a site inspection of the Lahainaluna diversion project. The drainage system is fairly in good shape. Recommend maintenance work if Lahainaluna if able to fund it.

Pomaika'i Kaniaupio-Crozier moved to have Wes Nohara forward the inspection and recommended maintenance report to Lahainaluna, seconded by Kainoa Casco, motion carried.

## D. County Grading/Grubbing Permit Plans – no new plans since last meeting

## E. Cooperator Agreements/Conservation Plans

### 1. Makani Olu Ranch Plan

The plan was emailed to directors for review. The conservation plan includes grazing worksheets. Reduction in herd size for live grass is also recommended. As a side note, the cooperator also uses supplement feed.

A site visit with the cooperator to go over finer details of the plan will be schedule. The plan will be presented to the board after it is signed by the cooperator.

## F. SWCD Funding

Support is needed to lobby for continuation of funds at the County and State level. Need to remind folks that when testifying, they are not testifying for NRCS – it's for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

It is also helpful to have more directors and associates, different faces testifying for the SWCDs. Some directors

#### G. Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts

SWCD employees are not insured by NRCS when using the NRCS vehicles. Obtaining general liability and unowned vehicle insurance is still being worked on.

Application to receive surplus equipment was submitted to DAGS Surplus Property Office to possibly get vehicles for the SWCDs.

#### H. National Water Quality Incentive Program (NWQI) – report from Kimo Falconer

The project is about 50% complete.

Dennis Iwasaka, ML&P responded to a letter was submitted to ML&P requesting a meeting to address objectives of the NWQI project and discuss ML&P's future land use. Kimo will be coordinating a meeting with Dennis, WMWCD - NWQI committee, and Tova Callender's group.

#### V. USDA NRCS – Gerald Gregory

##### 1. Farm Bill Program

The field office is working on ranking Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications. There were 10+ Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications.

##### 2. Honokowai Dam Gates

Re-evaluation of the gates need to be done by an engineer for the project to move forward in a cost-effective manner.

Susan Kubo mentioned that the embankment was not designed for ponding of water against it. The County is interested in getting the gates installed and may have engineering capacity. This also could be a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) project, but it needs to be shovel ready.

Kimo Falconer advised Susan and Gerald to speak to other agencies about this project. DLNR Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) has in-stream flow standards.

#### VI. The meeting adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Meeting Recorder: Maggie Kramp