

CENTRAL MAUI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING
FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2021

I. Meeting Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m., via Zoom.

Present

Directors: Mike Silva, Yarrow Flower, Mike Murakami, and Darren Strand

USDA-NRCS: Gerald Gregory

SWCD Staff: Jessica Talbot, Kelly Butler, Sabrina Medina, James Ino, and Maggie Kramp

II. Minutes of June 26, 2020

Yarrow Flower moved to approve the minutes of June 26, 2020, seconded by Darren Strand, motion carried.

III. Correspondence

1. Conservation Planning Feedback from NRCS – survey must be completed by close of business, Friday, May 21, 2021

IV. Treasurer's Report

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

V. Keokea Gulch Riparian Rehabilitation Project

Information from Michael Reyes's quarterly report:

- In lieu of the pandemic limiting volunteer opportunities, Bayer has been kind enough to offer their staff as volunteers throughout the project to assist with planting, plant propagation, removal of non-native species, irrigation, and general maintenance.
- They planted the first 800 plants which include Aalii, Naio, Wili wili, Alahee, Ilima, and Maiapilo. Survivorship of these native plants has been successful.
- In the next quarter, they will begin watering and planting 1000 plants on the lower half of the project. A press release will be submitted to inform the public about the project. The website will also be updated.
- The following videos show baseline conditions of the newly installed ungulate fencing and dripline infrastructure compared with the March 2021 conditions after the initial round of planting has been completed. The change in conditions at the Keokea Rehabilitation project site is striking, and we are pleased with how well the new plants are doing.

Baseline 2020: <https://youtu.be/WS7Oz9jHMfE>

March 2021: <https://youtu.be/Gr2B6fuxhCY>

VI. Cooperative Agreements/Conservation Plans – Jessica Talbot and Kelly Butler

A. Mahi Pono

1. Grazing Plan for feed, forage, and biomass. It includes 1000 acres of pastureland on the northeast slop of Haleakala. Main goal of this plan is for soil health.
2. Conservation Crop Rotation Plan includes 4 fields 904A, B, E, and F. The purpose of the plan is it reduce wind and water erosion.
3. Tree Planting plan covers approximately 8900 acres for citrus, papaya, and coffee. NRCS HEL calculation tools were used for each field. The NRCS state agronomist also checked the calculations.

Note: There will always be issues dealing with concentrated erosion, whereby recommendations were offered to Mahi Pono to address future concerns.

Mike Murakami moved to approve the three Mahi Pono plans, seconded by Yarrow Flower. Motion carried by Mike Murakami, Yarrow Flower, and Mike Silva. Darren Strand recused himself.

VII. County Grading/Grubbing Permit Plans – James Ino and Maggie Kramp

Log of grading/grubbing plans was sent via email.

Projects that are pending further review, and comments were not submitted to the County:

1. Nalu Ola Ranch West
2. Maui Research & Technology Park Mass Grading Lots 6, 7, 8
3. Piihola South Subdivision, Lots 4 to 9
4. COM – Central Maui Landfill Phase 3-A Cell
5. Keokea-Waiohuli Development – Phase 2B
6. Piilani Promenade

Checklist of what the SWCD look for in a grading/grubbing permit plans are normally submitted to the engineering firms that have inadequate plans. Most of them are not from Maui. The checklist is also on the county website.

In some cases, DSA is informed that comments are pending more information from engineering firm.

Main issue of inadequate plans is the operations and maintenance plan.

VIII. District Director Positions

Mike Murakami and Mae Nakahata's term as CMSWCD director expires June 2021.

Yarrow Flower moved to approve re-election of Mike Murakami and Mae Nakahata to continue serving on the CMSWCD board for term ending June 2024, seconded by Darren Strand, motion carried.

IX. NRCS – Gerald Gregory

Gerald Gregory was a rangeland management specialist in Colorado and started working as the new NRCS Kahului field office district conservationist.

The Kahului field office staff have been working on Farm Bill applications. So far 5 applicants are being funded.

NRCS is transitioning into a Targeted Conservation Deliver Program (TCD). TCD will involve multiple landowners/producers with similar resource concerns within a specific geographic area.

X. Other Business

A. General Liability Insurance

Copy of the general liability insurance was emailed to all directors. The GLI includes non-owned auto liability coverage, but the policy does not include the following:

- Coverage protects your business and not your employees driving the vehicles
- Physical damage – non-owned auto liability insurance provides no protection for physical damage to the non-owned vehicles being used
- Transportation of Property – no protection for damage to property being transported or property within your care

The non-owned auto liability coverage includes liability claims, defense cost, actions of your full-time and temporary staff

Other options:

- Rent vehicles for field visits
- Purchase a vehicle, but owning a vehicle comes with extra expenses
- Speak to legislators to get SWCDs covered by the State

More discussion with Michelle Watkins is needed.

B. FY 2022 Funding for SWCDs

Both state and county funds are in the FY 2022 budget.

XI. Adjournment 11:25

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Meeting Recorder: Maggie Kramp