

KONA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 17, 2022

MEETING HELD: Office and ZOOM

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jeff Knowles, Greg Hendrickson, Barbara Anderson, Keliikanoe Mahi, Steve Foelber, Mark Peterson,

KSWCD STAFF: Mary Robblee, Robin Hill

NRCS STAFF: Laura Nelson, Lele Kimball

GUESTS: Nick Koch

I. **WELCOME:** The KSWCD Board Meeting called to order 8:10 am by Chairman Knowles.

II. **MINUTES:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 KSWCD Board Meeting Minutes.

✓ *Motion made to approve Meeting Minutes from January 2022. Approved.*

III. **REPORTS:**

A. **FINANCIAL REPORTS (KSWCD):** Robin and Barbara - Reports sent via e-mail to all directors prior to Meeting for Board review.

i. **Accounts Payable:** No invoices to be paid.

ii. **Statement of Financial Position:** General Checking: \$1,394.58 / County Funds: \$4,487.27/ Savings: \$71,675.46 (Total: \$77,557.31)

iii. **Statement of Financial Income and Expense:** \$9,229.60 Total Expenses.

✓ *Motion made to approve Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Income and Expense from January 2022. Approved.*

B. **CONSERVATION ASSISTANT REPORTS:** Robin

i. **NRCS / USDA Reports (SF-425, SF-270, etc.):** Reimbursement payments received.

ii. **National and Hawaii Associations of Conservation Districts (NACD & HACD):** Current reports are in process.

iii. **County of Hawaii Report:** Financial reporting almost caught up (4th Quarter FY 2020-2021/1st Quarter 2021-2022/2nd Quarter FY 2021-2022) Working with Mary for technical reporting during those periods: site visits, etc.

C. **DISTRICT PLANNER REPORTS (KSWCD):**

i. **Cooperative Agreement:** TMK 8-5-001:001 Paniolo Tonewoods LLC – Nick Koch -Property is South of Honaunau. 5,400 acres with 25 year plan. Currently 3 year agreement. Fencing perimeter to keep out ungulates. Roads prone to erosion. Perpetuating more koa and regenerating forest. Big Hill Koa? Ohia forest island, koa dominant & other natives. Project is simple in concept but complicated delivery. Invitation for field visit. Open to ideas: flora, fauna and archaeology. To summarize: Fenceline/Roads. Remove ungulates. Koa harvesting. Natural scarification. Regenerate forest. Surveys coming in Spring. Hope to have conservation plan approved by June. Forest Solutions helping with interim plan and will share in March.

✓ *Motion made to approve Cooperator Application for Paniolo Tonewoods, LLC. Approved*

- ii. Conservation Plan for TMK 8-8-003:001 (88-1575 Hawaii Belt Rd.): Mary sent report to all board members. Flailing left uneven surface. Was asked to refrain but continued to grade. Needs engineered drawings for what little work remains. Cancino does not have Grading & Grubbing Permit from County and the District has not provided exemption. Jeff will send letter to Cancino (Greg and Laura to review) clarifying in writing.

D. NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) / KONA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (KSWCD): Laura and Greg.

- i. **General NRCS:** Service Center is at 75% capacity. Open to visitors by appointment only. Travis Thomason, Director returned and announced he will be leaving to VT. Chad Cherefko #2 Asst Director for programs leaving to CO, here to May and acting Director.
- ii. **2022 Farm Bill:** General EQIP/ranking deadlines 2/25/2022. 40 general EQIP. 3/11/2022 who is funded. New program is EQIP CIC (conservation incentive contract). Sign-up period now and accepting applications until 3/14/2022. CSP (conservation stewardship program) closes 2/25/2022. Renewals coming up first time in our office. Program call this afternoon.
- iii. **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** Innovations in Upland Forest announced. Currently accepting applications until 3/14/2022. Supplemental agreements need to be finalized (Robin's compensation and Project Management deliverables).
- iv. **Targeted Conservation Plans (TCP):** District to form Local Work Group to discuss flooding issues, funds available, and evaluate priorities. Additional funds are available through other agencies & NRCS but need to have Watershed Plan in place before accessing those funds. Need to 1) Identify issues 2) Plan 3) Partners. NRCS will not spearhead but can assist. Infrastructure bill itself has money and maybe a District role is a seat at the table to have a voice but not lead on how money spent. More to come.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

- i. **LEO'S CLUB:** 3 additional school plantings. High School 3/26/2022 and Elementary 4/2/2022. County Council money for Outreach and looking to use for radio spots and Earth Day.
- ii. **HIKI OLA OUTREACH GRANT OPPORTUNITY:** One-on-one with program manager. Grant funded more people than they had money for, so project needed to be re-sized. Funded for \$177,000 versus \$250,000. Statement of working being resubmitted with revisions. Once accepted, proposal copy will be distributed to Board.
- iii. **OUTREACH COMMITTEE:** Logo created to represent District in Outreach material. Kona Conservation. Check e-mail for logo samples.
- iv. **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE:** coordinate e-mail to work on District Annual Work Plan.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- i. **Conservation Grants:** Urban Community Forestry and Climate Friendly Practices. Possible opportunity for Outreach. Jeff will work with Robin.
- ii. **Cooperator of the Year 2021:** Back on Schedule. New nominations due by March Meeting. Vote in April. Farm Tours in May. Picnic in Summer. LIMIT nominees to 3 people for the tours. Need to re-create the Cooperator List (list somehow went from 300+ to only 50+) NRCS will need the Cooperators permission to release e-mails to District. Mary to work with Laura to see if they can find the original 300+ list.

VI. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 17, 2022 @ 8:00am

VI. ADJOURN: KSWCD Board Meeting adjourned at 9:41am by Chairman Knowles.

BOARD MEETING ACTION ITEMS:

TASK	PERSON	DUE DATE
Site Visit to Paniolo Woodtones	Mary / Laura	May / June
Letter to Rey Cancino	Jeff	February
Local Working Group for TCP Flooding	Jeff, Steve	More to come....
Outreach	Jeff & Robin	April 16-22
Logo approval	Board	March 17, 2022
District Annual Work Plan: to coordinate an e-mail to work on plan	Jeff Knowles, Barbara Anderson, Keli'ikanoe Mahi and Robin Hill.	No date set
2021 Cooperator of the Year Nominees (Sara Moore – Rancher / Debra Dumaguin)	Open	March 17, 2022
Previous Cooperators Contact List of 300+ e-mails to be located	Mary & Laura	No date set