

# KONA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

**MEETING HELD:** VIA ZOOM

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Jeff Knowles, Barbara Anderson, Mark Peterson, Greg Hendrickson

**KSWCD STAFF:** Mary Robblee, Robin Hill

**NRCS STAFF:** Lele Kimball

**GUESTS:** Debi Kokinos, Aviva Gottesman

- I. **WELCOME:** The KSWCD Board Meeting called to order 8:02 am by Chairman Knowles.
  - i. Welcome guest Aviva Gottesman of Siglo Tonewoods, LLC (Paniolo Tonewoods)
  - ii. Welcome guest Debi Kokinos, accountant
  
- II. **MINUTES:** Thursday, April 21, 2022, KSWCD Board Meeting Minutes (no meeting held in May)
  - ✓ *Motion made to approve Meeting Minutes from April 2022. **Approved.***
  
- III. **REPORTS:**
  - A. **FINANCIAL REPORTS (KSWCD):** Reports sent via e-mail to all directors prior to Meeting for Board review.
    - i. **Accounts Payable:** Payroll \$8,783.16 (County + CTA)
    - ii. **Statement of Financial Position:** General Checking \$-408.87 / County Funds \$33.47/ Saving \$33,184.14 (Total: \$32,808.74)
    - iii. **Statement of Financial Income and Expense:** Total Expenses \$8,783.16 / Total Income \$4,048.42 + \$1.64
    - ✓ *Motion made to approve Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Income and Expense from May 2022. **Approved.***
  
  - B. **CONSERVATION ASSISTANT REPORTS:**
    - i. **NRCS / USDA Reports (SF-425, SF-270, etc.):** CTA Financial Reports up to date. Technical reports in process and reimbursements request once completed.
    - ii. **National and Hawaii Associations of Conservation Districts (NACD & HACD):** Reports are current. HACD Quarterly Executive Board Meeting April 26th. Additional funds TBD and can be used for travel to the conference in September on Maui. More details to come from HACD.
    - iii. **County of Hawaii Report:** FY 22-23 Application due June 30th. Draft to be sent to Jeff by Monday and circulated for additions/changes to be completed by Thursday.
    - iv. **Big Island Resource Conservation & Development Council (BIRCD):** Meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Will re-visit at end of meeting.
  
  - C. **DISTRICT PLANNER REPORTS (KSWCD):**
    - i. Conservation Plan: TMK (3)8-5-001:001 Siglo Tonewoods, LLC, a subsidiary of Paniolo Tonewoods presented by Aviva Gottesman, forester at Forest Solutions. Please see attached documents and maps. Large scale Native Forest improvement project. Practices: access road; forest trails & landings; tree and shrub establishment; herbaceous weed treatment; brush management. Available for additional questions. Aviva has been working with Laura on developing conservation plan. Greg was in the initial meeting. No grubbing and/or grading planned – historically was already cleared – just removing the

weed trees – Nick can answer more questions about the removal process. This conservation plan focuses on the Big Hill. Collaborations for eradication of feral species. Mulch. Materials.

✓ *Motion made to approve Conservation Plan for Siglo Tonewoods, LLC. **Approved.***

ii. Consolidations & Subdivisions Reviews:

TMK (3)7-2-032:001&002 (PL-CON-2022-000014) no water issues near this parcel.

TMK (3)7-5-003:023 years ago the District sent letter to County regarding this parcel and recommended not to approve request to subdivide since in a flood zone. We will be visiting the flood structure on our tour. **District's role is to notify the County if parcel is in flood zone.** Public Park, Community Garden or something with minimal hardscape but not subdivisions for this parcel.

iii. Annual Flood Control Structure Tour: rescheduled for Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> (PIG: Jeff, Mark, Steve and Keli'ikanoe).

iv. Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Reporting – reimbursement requests need quarterly reports before payments processed – waiting for confirmation from NRCS/USDA.

**D. NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS):**

i. **2022 Farm Bill: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** +19 EQIP contracts worth about \$1mil for Kona's Soil Health Targeted Conservation Proposal (TCP); + 1 Beginning Farmer + 1 Organic + 1 Climate Smart + 3 Wildlife; **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)** +10 CSP worth about \$360,000; **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)** +1; new program **EQIP-CIC** +2 applicants funded; Another round of CSP and due June 24<sup>th</sup>. **Coronavirus Agricultural Relief Payments (CARP)** - financial assistance deadline extended to December 31, 2022.

ii. **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** job listing for WHT \$1900 (3weeks). Ad can't be paid from RCPP monies but can be paid with unrestricted District money and would go towards our contribution. Board allocated responsibility of contract and job perimeters to Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) and scope of work/job description was based on the RCPP submission. The hiring process will be brought to the Board. Posted on HireNet. Sent to Cooperators. Approved to post in local newspaper. PIG will move us through the candidate application process and bring screened applicants to Board.

✓ *Motion made to approve expense of West Hawai'i Today ad for RCPP Project Manager. **Approved.***

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS:**

i. **OUTREACH:**

- **Leo's Club** Public Service Announcement went well with Radio and Na Leo Public TV. Would like to continue to do that for the upcoming year. New officers start in June.
- **Partnerships** developing with Rustic Pathways, Ma'ona Community Garden (Giving Garden and USDA's registered People's Garden), West Hawaii Master Gardeners, Ka'u Seed Library.
- **District's Outreach Plan** to be drafted from NRCS Outreach Plan.
- **Website** updates have resumed.
- **Expenses** to be approved \* Planting Flags \* Bumper Stickers \* Hats/T-shirts \* Cover Crop Seeds

✓ *Motion made to approve expenses of Cover Crop Seeds \$500, Planting Flags \$200, and District Swag \$1,000. **Approved.***

- **Logo** need high resolution of the finalized logo.

✓ *Motion made to approve Kona Conservation Logo. **Approved.***

- ii. **HIKI OLA:** updates next meeting.
- iii. **COOPERATOR OF THE YEAR 2021:** Each Planner will present a 10-minute presentation of their Nominee (total of 5 plans – 10 minute each) part of July Board Meeting.

**V. NEW BUSINESS:**

- i. **Country Green Waste/Mulch:** Petition sent around to community and wanting 500 signatures. District assisting Avocado Association and Hawai'i Fruit Growers Association.
- ii. **Local Working Group (LWG):** need to confirm committee members for LWG flooding issues (Jeff, Steve, Lele & Robin) and how to proceed with meetings.
- iii. **Grant Opportunities:**

- USDA-NRCS-UAIP-22-NOFO0001178

**FY 2022 Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (UAIP) Competitive Grants Program**

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?opId=340885>

- USDA-NRCS-NHQ-CFWR-22-NOFO0001179

**FY 2022 Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) Pilot Project**

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?opId=340906>

**VI. NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, July 21, 2022 @ 8:00am.

**VII. ADJOURN:** KSWCD Board Meeting adjourned at 9:38 am by Chairman Knowles.

**VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO FOLLOW.**

## BOARD MEETING ACTION ITEMS:

TASK	PERSON OR COMMITTEE MEMBERS	DUE DATE
Local Working Group for TCP Flooding	Jeff, Steve & Lele	More to come....
FY 2022-2023 Outreach Plan based on Field Office model.	Jeff, Robin & Keli'ikanoe Laura to provide NRCS model	TBD
FY 2022-2023 District Annual Work Plan	Jeff, Barbara, Keli'ikanoe & Robin	Project Manager
2022 Annual Flood Structure Tour	Jeff, Mark, Steve, Keliikanoe, Robin & Mary	June 22, 2022
FY 2022-2023 County Grading Ordinance Application, as well as Conservation Assistant Annual Work Plan	Jeff, Barbara & Robin	June 30, 2022
Website: photos in landscape orientation of Native plants and past events	Keli'ikanoe & Mary	On-going
2021 Cooperator of the Year Nominees	5 Presentations (1 by each Planner – 10 minutes each)	July 21, 2022