

# KONA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 17, 2022

**MEETING HELD:** Office and ZOOM

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Jeff Knowles, Greg Hendrickson, Barbara Anderson, Keli'ikanoe Mahi, Steve Foelber, Mark Peterson,

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

**NRCS STAFF:** Laura Nelson, Lele Kimball

**GUESTS:** Chris Corley

- I. **WELCOME:** The KSWCD Board Meeting called to order 8:02 am by Chairman Knowles.
- i. Welcome guest Chris Corley of Puna Soil Water Conservation District and VP of Big Island Resource Conservation & Development Council
  - ii. Agenda items to add: County Green Waste to New Business
- II. **MINUTES:** Thursday, February 17, 2022 KSWCD Board Meeting Minutes.
- ✓ *Motion made to approve Meeting Minutes from February 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:** Big Island Resource Conservation & Development Council (BIRCD) Annual Dues \$200
  - ii. **Statement of Financial Position:** General Checking: \$10,948.85 / County Funds: \$33.47/ Savings: \$56,878.15 (Total: \$67,860.47)
  - iii. **Statement of Financial Income and Expense:** \$10,949.53 Total Expenses. \$1,252.69 Total Income
- ✓ *Motion made to approve Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Income and Expense from February 2022. Approved.*
- B. **CONSERVATION ASSISTANT REPORTS:** Robin
- i. **NRCS / USDA Reports (SF-425, SF-270, etc.):** Working on current reporting period.
  - ii. **National and Hawaii Associations of Conservation Districts (NACD & HACD):** Reports are current. 3 Senate Bills to be aware of, and HACD/Farm Bureau's Legislative Committee supported all 3:
- SB 2288 proposes a reimbursement to farmers for applying compost and the State DOA would provide program direction and reimbursement guidelines.*  
[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2022/CommReports/SB2288\\_SD1\\_SSCR3025\\_.htm](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2022/CommReports/SB2288_SD1_SSCR3025_.htm)  
[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2022/Testimony/SB2288\\_TESTIMONY\\_AEN\\_02-04-22\\_.PDF](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2022/Testimony/SB2288_TESTIMONY_AEN_02-04-22_.PDF)  
[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2022/Testimony/SB2288\\_TESTIMONY\\_WAM\\_02-24-22\\_.PDF](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2022/Testimony/SB2288_TESTIMONY_WAM_02-24-22_.PDF)
- SB 3005 proposes a reimbursement to farmers for applying cover crops. Like SB 2288 the State DOA would provide program direction and reimbursement guidelines.*  
[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2022/Testimony/SB3005\\_TESTIMONY\\_AEN\\_02-02-22\\_.PDF](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2022/Testimony/SB3005_TESTIMONY_AEN_02-02-22_.PDF)

**HB 1804 proposes that the State DOA establish a healthy soils program that will address climate change.**

**HB1804 is dead, companion SB2989 SD1 crossovered.**

[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2022/CommReports/SB2989\\_SD1\\_SSCR3144\\_.htm](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2022/CommReports/SB2989_SD1_SSCR3144_.htm)

[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2022/Testimony/SB2989\\_TESTIMONY\\_AEN\\_02-02-22\\_.PDF](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2022/Testimony/SB2989_TESTIMONY_AEN_02-02-22_.PDF)

[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2022/Testimony/SB2989\\_TESTIMONY\\_WAM\\_02-18-22\\_.PDF](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/Session2022/Testimony/SB2989_TESTIMONY_WAM_02-18-22_.PDF)

- iii. **County of Hawaii Report:** Financial reporting caught up (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter FY 2020-2021/1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021-2022/2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY 2021-2022) technical reporting during those periods almost complete.
- iv. **Big Island Resource Conservation & Development Council (BIRCD):** Chris reports they just had their meeting, and Larry proposing to expand by getting grant to help housing homeless Veterans. Also, ownership of the mobile processing unit turned over to Hawaii Meat Council. Barbara will remain member month-to-month for the time being. Not sure of the next meeting. It is problematic since not offering Zoom and only physical meetings are located on Hilo side. Need more members. No information coming from our RC&D unlike other places where it is a hub to come together and coordinate activities. We don't have the forum to bring all SWCD together except for BIRCD. Potential for our RC&D - could be a great opportunity to communicate, advance soil health initiatives, coordinate activities and work with other agencies, such as Oahu RC&D. With a staff in addition to board, RC&D could apply for grant opportunities, receive funding, facilitate, and provide resources to common initiatives instead of a fiscal intermediary driving own agenda. In response to Chris' inquiry on grants: SWCDs are quasi-government entities organized under state law and have same rights and abilities as government entity to apply for grants, and under tax code essentially same status as 501.3 for contributions. KSWCD thanks Chris for coming to our board meeting, for being proactive, her leadership role and hope for continued conversations.

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

- i. Conservation Plan for TMK 8-8-003:001 (88-1575 Hawaii Belt Rd.): Jeff sent letter to Cancino Family Farms (CFF) they don't have an exemption and no response received. Nothing done with Phase II, and maybe going with County. Mary will follow up.
- ii. 8 plans submitted for ranking. 6 funded
- iii. Annual Flood Control Structure Tour – usually a half day tour with County. (PIG: Jeff, Mark, Steve and Keli'ikanoe). Need to add the lower side of Hokuano (aware of grading). Usually, 3-4 week lead time enough for Dale Gomes.

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

- i. **General NRCS:** Good news USDA opening to public. 3/26 mask optional.
- ii. **Targeted Conservation Proposal (TCP):** TCP was accepted \$900,000 first year bumped up to \$1,150,000.
- iii. **2022 Farm Bill: General EQIP** 21 applications, 20 funded. Lots of next steps. Soil Health Management Templates. Soil Health Testing (labs available). Mulch program – commercial hauling – almost everyone signed up. We need to work closely with County. **Climate Adaptation National Workshops** 2 days next week go over trends expected – Soil Health Management Plans. Climate Smart Proposal. Heavy year for outreach – focused on technical and will be using partners for workshops. **CSP** (conservation stewardship program) (8 new / 5 renewals) end of 5 years, can be renewed and sign-up for more. **EQIP** **CIC** (conservation incentive contract) focus water source protection areas. Plenty people eligible.
- iv. **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP):** Training year with a few applications. Nature Conservancy partner. Supplemental agreements need to be finalized (Robin's time, as well as Accountant and Project Management – contracted people). District Chair to oversee Project Manager who will coordinate projects with staff. District Office Manager is a goal we are working towards.
- v. **Grant:** various grant opportunities. Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities. Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG).

**IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

- i. **LEO'S CLUB:** Jeff reports continued plantings - Middle School 4/2. Elementary School 4/16. Thank you Hiki Ola for native plant donations. \$2000 West Hawaii Today (WHT) ad to run 5 weeks starting 3/22. \$2000 KAPA (Pacific Media Group) and \$2000 KAOY/KWXX (New West Broadcasting) :60 spots to run for approx. 2 weeks. Fostering partnerships: Hale Kii, MG distributing 1300 seed packets for Earth Day to Big Island libraries, and Ma'ona Community Garden cardboard shredding with Evan Lam.
- ii. **HIKI OLA:** Keli'ikanoe is going back and forth with revisions on the outreach grant opportunity. Once accepted, proposal copy will be distributed to Board. Beginning work to serve the community will be gathering information to find barriers, focusing on Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Hiki Ola connects with the community, and engaging with Kealakekua Mountain Reserve (KMR) in transparency. Tour with Jeff K. on 3/31 @ 9am for planting sites and reforestation. Please let Keli'ikanoe know if you are interested. Tree donations to Leo Club.
- iii. **OUTREACH COMMITTEE:** (Jeff, Keli'ikanoe, Lele and Robin) will draft a plan following the NRCS outreach plans with Laura's help. Meanwhile working with Leo Club for PSA (WHT and radio spots). Website updates on hold as webmaster is recouping from serious accident and still in hospital. Forming partnerships with Master Gardener Board, and Ma'ona Community Garden Board.
- iv. **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE:** (Jeff, Barbara, Robin & Project Manager) to coordinate District and RCPP work with Laura on 2022-2023 District Annual Work Plan.
- v. **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 the May Board Meeting and will be part of the Agenda (1-hour). We will decide how to proceed at the May Board Meeting.
- vi.

**V. NEW BUSINESS:**

- i. **Country Green Waste/Mulch:** Chairman Knowles requested item to be added to the Agenda. County Green Waste Effective April 1<sup>st</sup> will no longer serve commercial trucks (except Waikoloa). Colin (commercial hauler) currently charges \$300 and will be increasing to \$500 per load and he is trying to arrange a meeting next Tuesday. NO transparency from the County. Jeff has received no response from the Mayor's Office. This is a potential problem. Jeff will compose a letter and share TCP. District Outreach Education to address potential problems with homegrown mulch, and yard waste disposal.

ii. **NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, April 21, 2022 @ 8:00am

VI. **ADJOURN:** KSWCD Board Meeting adjourned at 9:16 am by Chairman Knowles.

**BOARD MEETING ACTION ITEMS:**

TASK	PERSON	DUE DATE
BIRC&D follow-up with Chris Corley about Next Meeting	Barbara and Robin	
Follow up on letter to Rey Cancino and Phase II	Mary	April 21st Board Meeting
Local Working Group for TCP Flooding	Jeff, Steve, Lele	More to come....

Annual Flood Control Structure Tour (1/2 day) along with Hokukano (Laura will provide details) – need to schedule date and arrange with Dale Gomes	Jeff, Mark, Steve, Kel'ikanoe & Robin	April 21st Board Meeting
Outreach PSA  Also need to draft an Outreach plan based on Field Office model.	Jeff, Robin, Lele & Keli'ikanoe	March 22 WHT Radio Spots run 2 weeks
Cardboard Shredding possibly working with Leo Club and Evan Lam / Ma'ona Community Garden – first Saturday of the month at Hale Kii Market	Robin	April 2nd
Kealakekua Mountain Reserve (KMR) Tour  <b>Please RSVP with Keli'ikanoe!</b>	Keli'ikanoe, Jeff	March 31st @ 9am Choicemart.
District Annual Work Plan: - e-mail to coordinate meeting to work on integrating District and RCPP plans	Jeff Knowles, Barbara Anderson, Keli'ikanoe Mahi and Robin Hill.	No date set
2021 Cooperator of the Year Nominees	5 Presentations (1 by each Planner – 10 minutes each)	May 19th Board Meeting Presentation. Will decide how to proceed with votes. <b>Add to agenda</b>
County Green Waste / Mulch letter along with TCP; contact commercial haulers; coordinate with landscapers for homegrown mulch	Jeff	More discussions at April 21st Meeting. <b>Add to agenda</b>