



Mauna Kea Soil & Water Conservation District

67-1185 Mamalahoa Hwy. Suite H-148, Kamuela, HI 96743

Phone: (808) 885-6602 ext. 102 | Fax: 855-878-2456

Agenda for the meeting of Mauna Kea Soil and Water Conservation District

Date: Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Time: 3:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Location: USDA-NRCS Waimea Field Office

67-1185 Mamalahoa Hwy Suite H-148, Kamuela, HI 96743

Start: 3:15pm

- I. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Add sub-division review
 - b. Executive session at end of meeting

- II. Approval/Review Minutes- 3/10/2022
 - a. Approve

- III. Treasurer's report Lau
 - a. No change
 - b. Payroll deduction
 - c. Approve

- IV. Chairman's Report von Holt
 - a. None

- V. Committee Report
 - a. None

- VI. Farm Dwelling Review
 - a. None

- VII. Sub-division Review
 - a. PL-SUB-2022-000051- Waikoloa Mauka Land Corp.
 - i. Located above Waikoloa off Mamalahoa hwy.
 - ii. Sub-dividing 1,169.68 acres into two lots: 1) 500.0 acres, 2) 689.6 acres
 - iii. Blue line stream through property on Mamalahoa road side, property considered potentially highly erodible
 - iv. Per board they found no concern with sub-division, stream may flow every few years



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VIII. Agreements/Contract Approval

a. Cooperative Agreement

i. Hamakua Creations LLC

1. Formerly under Crista Costa DBA Hamakua Creations
2. Changed from individual to entity
3. Located in Ahualoa
4. Approved

b. Plan Approval

i. Hamakua Creations LLC

1. Located in Ahualoa
2. Variety of crops, orchard, tea, bees
3. High tunnel for kalo and giant lilikoi
4. Irrigation under high tunnel and irrigation water management
5. Approved

ii. Jessica Middleton

1. Located in Waikoekoe
2. Creating pollinator habitat/forestry in riparian area
3. 5 acres of riparian area will be planted with native plants, no planting in stream. Planner went out to property for 5 days during heavy rain to see if blue line stream filled with water and stream did not fill with water
4. Adding a fence around planting area
5. Removing trees by manual cut
6. Approved

c. Plan Revision

- i. None

d. Plan Update

- i. None

e. Plan Cancellation

- i. None

IX. Reports, Correspondence and Announcements

a. NRCS

i. Program update

1. Alyssa Fujii filled in for Scott Cook on NRCS report

Cook



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2. Obligating contracts- 7 EQIP, 1 AMA, 1 CSP (pre-approved)
 - a. 6 out of 8 are in Mauna Kea SWCD.
 - b. Only funding 8 plans
3. 100% staffing in office
4. JB Martin acting director will visit office next week Thursday w/ James Eller
5. CTA planning guidance document that NRCS sent out pertaining to NRCS and district role in creating CTA plans

- b. Conservation Specialist/Administrative Assistant Fernandez
- i. Intakes to resume June 2022
 - ii. Participated in NRCS program and field office meetings
 - iii. HACD quarter meeting
 - iv. Long range plan meetings
 - v. Beehive insurance was paid
 - vi. County report submitted in April

X. Old Business

- a. P. von Holt asked about the activity level for plan approval on agenda, asked if not getting a lot of people applying or inquiring about NRCS programs.
 - i. S. Cook- NRCS had put off doing intakes until late spring/summer to help with reduce work load during contracting season. Intakes will resume in a few months
 - ii. S. Cook- All FY2021 contracts has been approved
 - iii. G. Cellier- For clarification plan approval is referring to the conservation plan
- b. G. Cellier brought up a concern about grown frustration among some producers about plans not moving fast enough and producers are giving up and take chance if someone files a complaint.
 - i. Understands that SHPD can be a hold up and acknowledges that the plans he has done through HSWCD and MKSWCD went relatively fast and smoothly beside the SHPD hold up
 - ii. NRCS response- Focus is the financial assistance side to the planning which limits the ability for planners to do CTA planning (non-financial assistance). Therefore, districts took over the CTA planning and the



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districts are limited by staffing and available funds. If CTA clients do engineering practices, NRCS engineer will review accept engineering designs to make sure it meets NRCS specifications.

- iii. MKSWCD response- district is a governing body that works with NRCS to approve plans as long as they meet NRCS standards and specification. Board to help make connections between land owners and uses. District does the planning without providing financial assistance.
- iv. Similarly to SHPD, NRCS clients also needs to go through cultural resources and usually this can be the hold up for starting implementing practices on the conservation plan. Clients cannot start without being given the green light by NRCS
- v. W. Rice- Track plans as a board. If on agenda it has a date. Track how long it takes to approve plans.
- vi. Add discussion to next month agenda. G. Cellier to gather more information.
- vii. Not able to add executive session as requested.

XI. New Business

- a. Health insurance increase
 - i. Medical increase by a few dollars and dental decrease
- b. Board of Directors term ending June 30, 2022
 - i. Willie Rice- Elected
 1. Not sure if will renew for another 3 years. Will let Nicole know.
 - ii. Pono von Holt- Appointed
 1. Will re-new for another 3 years
- c. Waimea FO open to public
 - i. board meetings in office
 - ii. Office 3 times a week and telework 2 times a week
 1. NRCS started May 2nd of working in the office 3 days a week and 2 days teleworking.
 2. District staff has been following this since May 2nd
 - a. Board is ok to have district staff follow this schedule
- d. LRP
 - i. MKSWCD will be the applicant?
 1. MKSWCD participating in meetings.
 2. Willie thinks it's a good idea, we've already established connection with community and partners involved in the LRP
 3. Decided that MKSWCD will be the applicant



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- e. HACD meeting
 - i. Still trying to figure out the liability insurance that includes collision
 - 1. waiting to hear back from one company that provides commercial insurance
 - 2. still should not be driving NRCS vehicles
 - ii. Annual HACD meeting will be held in June 2023 in Hilo/Volcano
 - iii. September 2022, NACD pacific region meeting will be held in Maui
 - 1. board members are able to attend and able to use funds received by DLNR

- f. Continuation of discussion from last meeting with G. Cellier about conservation plans
 - i. Plan approval- depends on when NRCS get cultural resource (CR) clearance. Plans that are being approved today are consider non-intrusive so CR gets cleared quicker than if CR were found or are known to be on the property. NRCS CR specialist has been in position for a while able to approve internally if no known CR on property, but if CR is known than CR clearance go through SHPD. NRCS does tech note to document CR and SHPD has 30 days to respond. If nothing is found on property plans get approved quicker, if CR is found it does go a little slower to approve to make sure CR will be preserved while conducting work on property.
 - ii. Hold up on approving plans G. Cellier heard from other people is staffing with NRCS, that its not the process slowing it down but it's the staffing, where there is not enough people
 - 1. NRCS- right now Waimea office has full staff. Things will get reviewed as they get submitted. Non-intrusive plans will get approved quicker
 - iii. NRCS provides financial assistance and MKSWCD has no financial assistance. District works with SHPD and NRCS has internal specialist that can approve plans
 - iv. NRCS works both on contracts and conservation plans and district works just on conservation plans.
 - v. Question asked: conservation plan acts as a form of a grading and grubbing permit, per last meeting can we tract conservation plan approval to determine how long and where the hold up is in approving plans?
 - 1. Response: Nicole can go back 2 years and see how long it took from when they came in to when plans were approved
 - 2. NRCS: keep in mind that from the time when people come in until their plan gets approved there are things occurring in between to get to the approval part



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g. Open discussion

i. Sean Nalemaile from SHPD called in response to the March 10, 2022 board meeting about SHPD hold up on project approval and wanted some clarification about the hold up on SHPD end to clear projects of CR. Nicole mentioned that this was the experience that clients went through when MKSWCD submitted a project on the clients behalf to get SHPD clearance about 2 years ago. Sean mentioned currently, through HICRIS projects get turn around quicker, they are able to go directly into the project request and determine if any other information is needed and send out request for more information. Sean mentioned that there is full staffing, so SHPD clearance and response time is quicker than when it was just Sean reviewing and approving CR clearance. He mentioned that if anyone has any issues or concerns to immediately call SHPD or Sean directly. Sean offered training for the SWCD's in using HICRIS.

ii. Cooperator of the year award to resume?

1. Agreed to start the awards up again.

XII. Adjournment

End: 4:15pm

To provide Written Testimony by Mail or E-mail:

Written testimony to be submitted in advance of each meeting that will be distributed to board members prior to the meeting. Submit written testimony to mkswcd@gmail.com or via postal mail to Mauna Kea Soil and Water Conservation District at 67-1185 Mamalahoa Hwy Suite H-148, Kamuela, HI 96743. Written testimony that is received later than 24 hours prior to the meeting will be retained as part of the record and distributed to board members as soon as practicable, but we cannot ensure that board members will receive it within sufficient time for review prior to decision-making.

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