

The meeting was opened at 2:08 pm at National Tropical Botanical Gardens and online ZOOM

- I. **PRESENT: Directors: EAST:** Ed Kawamura, Jr. (Presiding); Emilie Kirk; **WEST:** David Smith, Kalaniumi Martin **Online: EAST:** Brad Seymour; **Associate Directors: Online: East:** Darren Tamekazu
Others: Jenni Scotti, Conservation Specialist; John Nelson, HACD Conservation Specialist, Tiffany Parker, Cathleen Cooley **Online:** Devin Martinez-Orengo, NRCS Soil Conservationist, Logan Motas, Oahu RC&D, Sally Rizzo
Note: West Kauai will only discuss as there is no quorum
- II. **REVIEW OF AGENDA (ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES):** None
- III. **MINUTES: Motion:** Emilie made a motion to accept the minutes 5/9/2022. Brad seconded. Motion was accepted unanimously
- IV. **TREASURER’S REPORT:** East: Sent through correspondence West: No report
- V. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Information and flyers were e-mailed as well as provided at the meeting.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. **NRCS REPORT:** No Report
 1. **Devin Martinez-Orengo:** Introduced himself as the Lihue Field office Soil Conservationist
 - B. **CONSERVATION SPECIALISTS’ REPORTS:**
 1. **Jenni Scotti** gave her report for 6/21/2022:
 - a. **Trainings / Meetings / Learning**
 - i. NRCS Acting Director and ADFO island visit about office space
 - ii. Oahu RC&D Kauai soil health cohort meeting
 - iii. National Conservation District Employee Association (NCDEA) meeting with NCDEA executive director and pacific region representative and Hawaii district employees
 - iv. Meet with NACD pacific region representative
 - v. Meet with NCDEA pacific region rep
 - vi. NRCS all employees meeting
 - b. **Plans / field visits**
 - i. Planning
 1. Planning and follow-up with 19 clients
 2. Worked on 2 practice check-outs
 3. 12 Site visits/online meetings
 - c. **Outreach/Education**
 - i. POSTER CONTEST
 1. Theme is “Healthy Soils, Healthy Life”
 2. Goal is to get letter drafted and sent in the summer
 - ii. CAP CONTEST
 1. NO state contest
 2. Working on letter for teachers to gauge interest
 - d. **Misc/News/upcoming events/future projects/goals**
 - i. Level III planner certification
 - ii. EQIP Planning

- iii. CSP applications through the 24th
 - iv. CSP Planning
 - v. Annual Report
 - vi. CTA Planning
 - vii. New Clients
2. **John Nelson:** gave his report for 6/21/2022
- a. **Trainings / Meetings / Learning**
 - i. Multiple Trainings and Practice Updates.
 - ii. Continue PSS/BOX and RMS Plan for Conservation Planner Certification III
 - b. **Plans / Field visits**
 - i. 2 Check-outs (4) EQIP for 2022
 - ii. Multiple Site Visits for 2023 Clients.
 - c. **Outreach / Education**
 - i. None Planned
 - d. **Misc/News/upcoming events/future projects/goals**
 - i. New EQIP Plans 2023
 - ii. 1 CSP plan
 - iii. Begin 2023 New Client Contact and Site Visits
- C. **ORC&D Soil Health Cohort– Logan Motas:** Logan shared the soil health innovators grant that is for statewide but will be held on Kauai soon. The Oahu cohort is almost complete and Kauai will be next. Goal is to train 40 producers across the state to create a network of farmers with a focus on soil health concepts in which farmers in the community can work with outside of ORC&D. 8-week cohort with training and on farm demonstration and Kauai has \$2000 for a demo site and looking for 10 producers on Kauai. Selected farmers will receive a soil test and the top two selected farmers will receive a full soil health plan (not conservation plan but concepts to improve soil health on the site). ORC&D will have a \$500 stipend for a soil health champion. Contact: logan.motas@oahurcd.org website for Oahu’s cohort for more information: <https://learn.oahurcd.org/>
- D. **Office Space discussion:** Letter was sent to NRCS PIA acting director. Looking for partners to submit a letter as well. Looking for a future meeting that will have discussion with NRCS leadership. David asked about office locations, Jenni shared that currently only one location so far which is at UH CTAHR research station in Wailua. NRCS is looking for a 2-to-3-year long-term temporary location in addition to a permanent location. David asked about the bid process, Jenni wasn’t sure but shared that there was someone within NRCS who managed and contacted potential locations. Jenni recommended that if there are any options to share, that they should get in touch with Jenna with NRCS.
- E. **Grant opportunities:** County of Kauai FY 2022 was submitted, and FY 2023 will be submitted in the next couple months. Jenni shared that we are behind in submissions. The NRCS reimbursement is being worked on next. Jenni shared that the grant will be up next year and discussion for a new submission should take place. Ed asked if it was needed, Jenni shared that yes grants are needed. Umi asked what the grants cover, Jenni shared that it is primarily employee positions. Jenni shared that there may be other grant options that can be discussed. Jenni shared that West Kauai previously requested to look into a grant writer to help with getting grants written and put together. Ed agreed that should look into a grant writer. Pricing research will continue.

- F. **District Manager for Kauai open discussion:** Jenni shared that this was discussed last year and she discussed with NACD representatives about this position in how it would fit our needs. Jenni shared that she feels that the biggest need from a District manager is for employee management and grant management. Jenni reminded the districts that the NRCS District Conservationist is not responsible for management the employees and a District Manager would fill this need. Jenni asked for a committee to discuss the position moving forward as well as how to fund it. David clarified that it would be a paid position, Jenni confirmed that it would need to be funded, hence the potential need for an initial grant writer for getting it started. Umi asked if there is enough for this position, Jenni shared that initially, there may be enough for a hybrid position due to being short staffed, but long-term funding will need to be secured. Committee will be discussed at next meetings.
- G. **Local working group meetings:** Jenni shared that the Conservation Districts are responsible for hosting and organizing these meetings. 2019 was the last large meeting, last year there was an online meeting with NRCS. Umi asked what the deadline is, Jenni wasn't sure but probably in the Fall. Umi asked about long-range plan and targeted conservation delivery. Jenni requested a committee to spearhead this discussion in developing local priorities in addition to the long-range plan. Jenni shared that other districts secured grants with NRCS to have a facilitator to work on thier long range plans. Ed and Emilie offered to help with this.

VII. REVIEW & APPROVAL OF CONSERVATION PLANS & COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS:

New Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Cooperators: Several cooperative agreements for both East and West Kauai were signed.

Conservation Plans: None

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **Garden Island RC&D:** No Report.
B. **Grading Ordinance:** Nothing to report

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. **East Kauai Term Ending 6/30/2022:** Edward Kawamura Jr. (*Elected*), Arryl Kaneshiro (*Elected*)
- B. **NACD Pacific & Southwest regional meeting Maui September 8-11th / HACD quarterly meeting:** Jenni shared that the registration will be between \$300-600, but final cost has not been determined. Hotels are \$319/night. HACD is still attempting to set up a director's meeting and she is not sure if it will also be through ZOOM. Ed feels that there should be enough to send a few people. Voting on how many to send will take place next meeting. The date changed to September 7-10th
- C. **Vehicle and vehicle insurance discussion:** Jenni reminded that vehicle insurance still needs to be figured out. That Jenni is covered through liability insurance, but John currently is not. She offered that an option is to have personal vehicles be covered through a per mile basis. Jenni requested more information on insurance increase to help determine what this reimbursement would look like. Jenni shared that she would prefer not to have to use her own vehicle for certain visits especially off-road visits. Jenni shared another option could be purchasing a vehicle. HACD is looking into insurance options for the state. Ed asked if NRCS vehicles will be up for purchase, Jenni shared that the districts do not want to invest in that vehicle as there are a lot of issues with it. Short term the district requests to pay-by-mile and long term possibly look into a vehicle. A calculation for pay-by-mile needs to be figured out. Jenni requested insurance difference from John.

X. OTHER BUSINESS:

A. **General updates from around the island:** discussed in previous topics.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS / EVENTS:

A. No announcements

NEXT MEETING: **East Kauai:** Monday July 11, 2022 at Kauai Community College: Learning Resource Center room 130. **West Kauai:** Tuesday July 19, 2022 at National Tropical Botanical Garden. **See online schedule for changes in location and date information:** <https://calendar.ehawaii.gov/calendar/>

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm, written by Jenni Scotti, Conservation Specialist