

The meeting was opened at 3:08 pm at NTBG Education Center and online using Zoom Meeting

- I. PRESENT: Directors:** Howard Greene; Kalaniumi (Umi) Martin;
Online: Adam Killermann; David Smith,
Others: Jenni Scotti, Conservation Specialist; John Nelson, HACD Conservation Specialist; Justin Brown; Lu Bai, Taiwan Gu; Michael Moefu; **Online:** Jenna Dunn, NRCS District Conservationist
- II. REVIEW OF AGENDA (ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES):** None
- III. REVIEW OF MINUTES: Motion:** Umi made a motion to accept the minutes from April 19, 2022, David seconded. Motion was accepted unanimously.
- IV. TREASURER’S REPORT:** David shared that he updated the sponsorship with GIRC&D. They requested a director for their board, Umi clarified that he is now on board with GIRC&D representing West Kauai SWCD.
- V. CORRESPONDENCE:** Information and flyers were e-mailed
Discussion: Jenni reminded to review information as there is funding opportunities and sunshine law information in the e-mail.
- VI. NEW BUSINESS:**
- A. NRCS REPORT:** Jenna Dunn shared her report for 5/17/2022
- a. General**
- i. Lihue F.O. Soil Conservationists- 2 have been selected, Start dates in June and July
 - ii. Area Programs Specialist- position was announced on USAjobs.gov.
 - iii. Programs Manager- position to be announced on USAjobs.gov- on hold
 - iv. Asst Director for Programs- position was announced on USAjobs.gov. Teri Nehls is acting
 - v. Management Analyst- position was announced on USAjobs.gov. Bobbie Jones is Acting
 - vi. Director- position to be announced on USAjobs.gov. JB Martin is acting.
 - vii. Public Affairs Specialist- position to be announced on USAjobs.gov
 - viii. Office- not going to have a permanent office for ~3+ years. Looking for temporary space. Something to lease or land we can put a mobile unit on.
- b. Farm Bill Programs**
- i. EQIP- 7 selected for funding; 1 RCPP funded
 - ii. AMA- 3 applications- none selected for funding
 - iii. CSP- 1 application deferred – There may be a second application period

Discussion: Jenna shared that one Soil Conservationists (Devin) will be starting in June working remotely. And the other Soil Conservationist (Travi) was an intern in the office and will start in July. She shared that a permanent office will be a minimum of 3 years out. CTAHR is currently the only option right now unless other options presents themselves. Umi asked if NRCS pays for the office space, Jenni shared that on Kauai the NRCS houses the districts though on the mainland there are districts that will pay for their own space. Jenna clarified that GSA is the lease holder and manages the space. Adam asked if FSA was still in the building and if there is mold in their offices. Jenna shared that they haven’t noticed the mold. Jenni shared that two large tenants left the building due to the mold, though that was word of mouth. Umi asked when a temporary space

will be ready. Jenna shared that she wasn't sure but if it is CTAHR and cautiously feels it might be fall, but really there isn't a date yet set.

B. CONSERVATION SPECIALISTS' REPORTS:

1. Jenni Scotti gave her report for 5/17/2022

a. Trainings / Meetings / Learning

- i. NRCS Program's Update Meeting
- ii. NACD Pacific Region Meeting
- iii. Acting PIA Director JB Martin and Assistant Director for Field Operations James Eller were on island to discuss the office situation

b. Plans / field visits

- i. Planning
 1. Planning and follow-up with 11 clients
 2. Worked on 4 practice check-outs, completed 2
 3. 3 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. Will discuss with HACD to discuss contest for this year
 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. AMA Planning
- iv. CSP Planning
- v. Annual Report
- vi. CTA Planning
- vii. New Clients

Discussion: Jenni shared that she recommends if there is a director interested in participating with NACD meetings that they should. Jenni isn't sure if the CAP or Poster contests will be taking place at the state level this year. She hopes to have the contest at least locally though it will be challenging to get participation for the CAP contest due to COVID and uncertainty of current ag teachers. Jenni would like to at least start drumming up interest again for next year.

2. John Nelson: gave his report for 5/17/2022

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. (4) EQIP, (2) CTA
- ii. Multiple Site Visits for 2022 and 2023 Clients.

c. Outreach / Education

- i. None Planned

d. Misc/News/upcoming events/future projects/goals

- i. New EQIP Plans 2022 (4 HIGH Ranking).
ii. Acquired Certified Planner I Status
iii. Begin 2023 New Client Contact and Site Visits

- C. **HACD Quarterly Meeting update:** David attended, the main topic being about vehicle insurance
- D. **Director’s Liability Insurance Discussion:** Jenni shared that the last meeting before Rebekah left, a final vote never took place. She shared the main reason for the insurance is to protect directors for board related activities. She wasn’t sure the amount, but believed that it is \$700 per year. Howard asked if other districts have it and she shared that many districts have insurance, and East Kauai has. Howard requested a quote and summary of coverage and vote on that then.
- E. **NACD Pacific & Southwest regional meeting Maui September 8-11th :** Jenni shared that she recommends at least one or two directors attend the regional meeting especially being that it is close to us whether sponsored through the districts or not. She also shared that HACD is trying to do an in person meeting for HACD directors on one of the days during the conference. Jenni hopes to have the cost of the meetings for next meeting to be able to vote on number attendees and who will go. She emphasized as many that can attend should. Jenni is trying to find more information on costs and details for the conference and the HACD meeting. **Motion:** Umi made a motion to send two directors to the NACD and HACD meeting. Adam seconded. Motion accepted unanimously. David shared that depending upon costs might be able to send more than two. **Rescind vote:** table the discussion until more information is available on cost to next meeting.

VII. REVIEW NEW COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS & CONSERVATION PLANS:

New West Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Cooperators: Hawaii Xing Long Farm and Aloun Farms

Discussion: Mike Moefu, the safety and outreach director for Aloun Farms, introduced himself and his business. They will be farming on the west side as diversified agriculture.

Conservation Plans: Hawaii Xing Long Farms presented their plan for a crop operation in Kaumakani. They will keep areas that are not farmable and near water resources in vegetation and will not use those areas for crop. Howard asked if there would be other practices in the future, Jenni shared that, further practices will be explored once they get started with their operations and have a better idea of the site in 6 months to a year. **Motion:** David made a motion to accept the conservation plan for Hawaii Xing Long Farm. Adam seconded. Motion accepted unanimously. Howard recused himself from the vote.

VIII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **Garden Island RC&D:** no report was shared from GIRC&D. Umi offered that they meet quarterly and that they are facing the same challenges as others since COVID. GIRC&D is looking into what projects are still in progress. One thing brought up was the rose ringed parakeet and that treatment took place while tourists were off island and they have seen a reduction in numbers so looking into how to continue eradication.
- B. **Grading Ordinance:** No Report

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. **Director Term Ending 6/30/2022: Umi Martin:** Jenni clarified that he was voted in last year to fulfil an unexpired term for Jon Ching and this would be his first full term. His position is an appointed spot. **Motion:** Howard made a motion to appoint Umi Martin for a new term as a director for West Kauai SWCD. David seconded. Motion accepted unanimously.
- B. **Combined meeting Discussion:** Jenni requested topic to include, some recommended topics include District manager, insurance, Howard brought up annual dinner. Soil health discussion, NRCS invite, office update and grants. Jenni requested other topics.

Discussion: Howard asked about the possibility of a grant writer for future grant opportunities. Jenni shared that there are grant writers that can be hired. Howard requested more information and costs.

- C. **West Kauai SWCD cooperator of the year:** Pictures were submitted by nominated cooperators. 1. Umi Martin shared about his diversified plantings, high density mango orchard, and trellis system for mangos. 2. Corteva shared their operations, with the emphasis in prepping only land that is needed and removing unproductive or high erosion out of production and changing land prep patterns to follow contour and not having long term open areas. They have been renovating vetiver lines. Jenni shared that you can see on google earth imagery the difference in operations between then and now and how much it has improved. 3. Tony Brun, John shared about Tony's operations. Tony has diversified ag with crop and pastures. Installing high tunnels from crop and he manages haole koa by topping to allow for grass to growth providing diversified forage between the two for cattle. Jenna shared that a paddock was changed to diversified crop including taro to allow for a site for education for students in agriculture. **Motion:** David made a motion to accept Umi Martin as the cooperator of the year for 2021. Howard seconded. Motion was accepted unanimously. Umi recused himself from voting.

X. OTHER BUSINESS:

- D. **Office Space Update:** Shared in Jenna's report.

Discussion: District assistant is desired for at least part time, figure out work locations for at least two times a week in person. Jenna has noted that there is a need for a part time assistant at least.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS / EVENTS:

- A. **HACD Annual meeting June 2023:** most likely in Puna
B. The districts now have a PO BOX 3636, Lihue, HI 96756.

Discussion: David asked about the PO BOX use for the west districts as the bank statements go to his address. Jenni shared it is up to west Kauai if they want a separate po box in the west side. David feels that statements should be moved to the district mailing address. Online statements are an option, David will look into it. Jenni reminded that she can either give a key or bring the mail to David.

Correction to the agenda that the next meeting is June 21st not May.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday June 21st 2022. **Location:** NTBG Education Center. **Additional information will be posted on the online state calendar.** <http://calendar.ehawaii.gov/calendar/html/event>

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:16 pm, written by Jenni Scotti, Conservation Specialist.