

The meeting was opened at 2:15 pm online using Zoom Meeting

- I. **PRESENT: Directors:** Ed Kawamura, Jr. (Presiding); Arryl Kaneshiro;
Online: Eric Hansen; Emilie Kirk; Brad Seymour;
Associate Directors: Online: Darren Tamekazu;
Others: Jenni Scotti, Conservation Specialist; **Online:** John Nelson, HACD Conservation Specialist;
Paul Togioka, County of Kauai;
- II. **REVIEW OF AGENDA (ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES):** None
- III. **MINUTES: Motion:** Eric made a motion to accept the minutes for 9/12/2022. Arryl seconded. Motion was accepted unanimously
- IV. **TREASURER’S REPORT:** Arryl shared report for 9/12/2022. DLNR sent semiannual allotment, reimbursement from West Kauai SWCD, County of Kauai grant for FY 2022. **Motion:** Emilie made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report, Eric seconded. Motion accepted unanimously.
- V. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Information and flyers were e-mailed as well as provided at the meeting.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. **NRCS REPORT: Jenna Dunn** NRCS District Conservationist provided her report through correspondence.
 1. **General**
 - i. Area Programs Specialist- Joc Bamba has been selected
 - ii. Programs Manager- position was announced on USAjobs.gov.
 - iii. Asst Director for Programs- Nick Saumweber was selected
 - iv. Management Analyst- position was announced on USAjobs.gov. Bobbie Jones is Acting
 - v. Director- position was announced on USAjobs.gov. JB Martin is acting.
 - vi. Public Affairs Specialist- position to be announced on USAjobs.gov
 - vii. Area Biologist- no selection made, to be readvertised- housed on either Big Island or Honolulu.
 - viii. Area Engineer- Honolulu or Guam- selection pending.
 - ix. Program Admin Assistant- Honolulu, American Samoa, Hilo, Kealahou, Waimea, Kahului- recently announced on USAjobs.gov
 - x. Office- not going to have a permanent office for ~3+ years. Looking for temporary space. Will be at least 3-6 months before we get a temporary space. Looking for something to lease. Working on digitizing files.
 2. **Farm Bill Programs**
 - i. EQIP- 7 selected for funding; 1 RCPP funded
 - ii. AMA- 3 applications- none selected for funding
 - iii. CSP- second round ~5 applications, 3 selected for funding
 - B. **CONSERVATION SPECIALISTS’ REPORTS:**
 1. **Jenni Scotti** gave her report for 9/12/2022:
 - a. **Trainings / Meetings / Learning**
 - i. NACD Annual Regional Pacific & Southwest Meeting – Maui
 1. Helped with the event

2. Attended the quarterly meeting
 - ii. NRCS Cultural Resources Discovery Tool Training
 - iii. NRCS Biochar Training
- b. Plans / field visits**
 - i. Planning
 1. Planning and follow-up with 11 clients
 2. Worked on 2 practice check-outs
 3. Completed 2 plans
 4. 8 Site visits/online meetings
- c. Outreach/Education**
 - i. POSTER CONTEST
 1. Theme is “Healthy Soils, Healthy Life”
 2. Goal is to get letter sent in August
 3. State contest will be taking place
 - ii. CAP CONTEST
 1. State contest is in Kona
 2. Working on letter for teachers to gauge interest
 - iii. OTHER
 1. Upcoming:
 - a. Project WET
 - b. Arbor Day
- d. Misc/News/upcoming events/future projects/goals**
 - i. Level III planner certification
 - ii. NRCS Grant submission
 - iii. End of NRCS Fiscal Year Certifications
 - iv. CTA Planning
 - v. EQIP Planning
 - vi. New Clients
 - vii. Annual Picnic and Dinner

Discussion: Jenni shared that she was able to meet many individuals from NACD as well as NCDEA representatives (which is the organization Jenni is representing for Hawaii). If any directors would like to help with Arbor Day let Jenni know and she will share the information, event should be on the first weekend of November.

2. **John Nelson:** gave his report for 9/12/2022:
 - a. Trainings / Meetings / Learning**
 - i. Multiple Trainings and Practice Updates.
 - ii. Biochar and Cultural resource training
 - iii. Soil Health Training with ORC&D
 - b. Plans / Field visits**
 - i. 4 EQIP and 1 CSP plan completed for FY2022
 - ii. 1 EQIP Check-out
 - iii. Working on CTA plans

c. Outreach / Education

- i. Project WET

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

- i. New EQIP Plans 2023
- ii. Begin 2023 New Client Contact and Site Visits

Discussion: Ed asked about what the Soil Health workshop was about. John reminded the board that this was from the Oahu RC&D presentation with selected farmers around the island. Kauai is the second island for the Soil Health Cohort partnership. Ed asked if UHCTAR is still doing soil testing. Emilie shared that the lab in Manoa has had inconsistent access and staff and should be called before submitting samples, and so have been working with a different lab.

C. NACD Pacific Regional Meeting Summary: Ed shared that learned about challenges in other regions. He shared one of Maui's focus around invasive species, specifically the axis deer. Ed shared that there were interesting tours especially around erosion and other concerns, for example one site had lost almost 3 acres of land being near the ocean. He also shared that CTAHR has many goals for Maui management practices and well as monitoring climate statewide. Ed shared that there is funding available, and he would like to see more happen on Kauai and he shared that when meetings come up to attend.

Jenni also shared that the focus of the meeting was partnerships. Another goal is that NACD would like to work with local universities (so UH and CTAHR in Hawaii) to develop both a scholarship and local training programs to have local students that have interest in these careers. Jenni also shared that Hawaii SWCDs may be considering reviewing the state statute, and she hopes that it will be presented at the next HACD meeting. Also, a goal for Hawaii is how to recruit, train and rebuild districts around the state as many have had many directors retiring and need new people to take those roles.

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

New Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Cooperators: None

Conservation Plans: None

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Wailua Park Clean-up:** This will be on hold for now, need additional bids.
- B. Annual Picnic:** The goal will be at Niamalu from 11 to 3 on October 22nd. Jenni will provide invitations to get a head count and will confirm location and date.

X. OTHER BUSINESS:

- A. Office Space Update:** Jenni shared that an update is on Jenna's report. There have been tours with mainland individuals and NRCS will looking for temporary space which would be up to 3 years and as well as a permanent space.

- B. Subcommittee rules follow up:** A subcommittee does not have to have a maximum number of individuals. The goal is to research and provide recommendations to the board and then the board would discuss and vote in meetings. No business is to be discussed or share how the voting will go.
- C. Insurance:** Ed asked about vehicle insurance, Jenni shared that this was discussed a lot behind the scenes during the conference. She shared that HACD is still working on an overarching insurance plan, but having own vehicle seems to be a strong option. Jenni shared that other states can actually get insurance that protects the driver even as they drive someone else vehicle, but the State of Hawaii is a no-fault state, so no insurance company will provide this type of insurance with federal government. HACD has been working to make something happen.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS / EVENTS:

- A. Project WET volunteers September 15th
- B. Since October 10th is a holiday, the meeting will be rescheduled, see online calendar.
- C. HACD quarterly meeting will be in October, information will be e-mailed.

NEXT MEETING DATE: TBD. Information will be posted on the online state calendar.

<https://calendar.ehawaii.gov/calendar/>

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:42 pm, written by Jenni Scotti, Conservation Specialist