

The meeting was opened at 3:04 pm at NTBG Education Center and online using Zoom Meeting

**I. PRESENT: Directors:** Umi Martin

**Online:** Howard Greene; David Smith

**Others:** Jenni Scotti, Conservation Specialist; Lu Bai, Taiwan Gu; Tiffany Parker; Roger Jensen

**Online:** Jenna Dunn, NRCS District Conservationist; John Nelson, HACD Conservation Specialist; Paul Togioka, County of Kauai; Devin Martinez-Orengo, NRCS Soil Conservationist

**II. REVIEW OF AGENDA (ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES):** No changes

**III. REVIEW OF MINUTES: Motion:** David made a motion to accept the minutes from July 26, 2022 Umi seconded. Motion was accepted unanimously.

**IV. TREASURER’S REPORT:** David shared the treasurer’s report for 9/20/2022. Jenni shared that East Kauai credit card statements were missing for some months so request for check will be in soon.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE:** Information and flyers were e-mailed

**VI. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. NRCS REPORT:** Jenna Dunn shared her report for 9/20/2022

**a. 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, Kealakekua, 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.

**b. 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 9/20/2022

**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. 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).

**2. John Nelson: gave his report for 9/20/2022****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, 1 CSP, 2 CTA plans 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

C. **NACD Pacific & Regional Meeting Summary:** Howard shared that it was a good meeting and learned a lot as well as interacted with individuals from Pacific and Southwest regions including NACD, SWCDs and NRCS. Noted that there is something like 18 Billion dollars for conservation programs. Field trips included UH CTAHR range lab about pasture grasses and resources, sea level rise and erosion impacts site, native nursery, ranch with axis deer impacts including loss of forage and erosion.

Jenni also shared that it was great to see all the diverse states and backgrounds. She 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 and directors around the state as many have had many directors retiring and need new people to take those roles. This includes a director handbook to educate directors and help them feel more confident in their roles for the state.

#### VII. REVIEW NEW COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS & CONSERVATION PLANS:

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

#### VIII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **Garden Island RC&D:** No Report
- B. **Grading Ordinance:** No Report

#### IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. **Annual Dinner:** Jenni shared that she did not have too much progress, but she requested dates. Umi asked if there were any locations selected yet and asked about last years, Jenni shared that it was hosted on East Kauai business. Several locations for West Kauai were discussed, Jenni will follow up with costs. Jenni asked if there is a preference for a date in December. Howard requested a Friday. December 2<sup>nd</sup> is the first choice, the 9<sup>th</sup> is a back-up

#### X. OTHER BUSINESS:

- A. **Office Space Update:** Shared in Jenna's report.
- B. **New Person** introduced themselves, he requested information regarding what the districts do. Jenni shared that besides the meetings that outreach is another thing the districts get involved with.
- C. **Associate Directors:** Jenni has shared that she has sent feelers out for potential associate directors. She recommends that West Kauai start to recruit as the two associate directors that have not been active in a while. Roger asked if there is anything that keeps directors on tract ensuring that directors are doing what is expected. Jenni shared that there is an old director's handbook that has MOUs and MOAs but otherwise is very outdated. She also noted that a goal that HACD has is to update director responsibility and handbooks.
- D. **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.

- E. **SWCD Banner:** John and Jenni are uncertain where the banner is and possibly look into ordering a new one. Will look into the storage and see if can find the old banner.

XI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS / EVENTS:**

- A. Annual Picnic – October 22<sup>nd</sup> 11 am – 3pm tentatively Niamalu or Lydgate beach park  
1. Families invited – will request headcount for food.
- B. **Arbor Day:** is November 4<sup>th</sup>
- C. **District Assistant:** position has been posted and can look at Indeed or e-mail the district email [ewkswcd@gmail.com](mailto:ewkswcd@gmail.com) if they would like to apply.
- D. HACD quarterly meeting October TBD

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 3:47 pm, written by Jenni Scotti, Conservation Specialist.