

KONA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 15, 2022

MEETING HELD: In-person & Zoom
DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jeff Knowles, Greg Hendrickson, Keli'ikano'e Mahi, Steve Foelber, Mark Petersen (Zoom),
KSWCD STAFF: Mary Robblee, Robin Hill
NRCS STAFF: Laura Nelson
GUEST: Ferrell Daste

I. WELCOME: The KSWCD Board Meeting called to order 8:06 am by Chairman Knowles.

- Quorum present but Agenda not posted to State Calendar (Sunshine Law).
- Welcome guest Ferrell Daste, acting CEO of Kona Hills. *Project getting back on track with original vision of a collaborative effort with the community to create a sustainable coffee farm providing jobs, education, and other agricultural opportunities. This management change allows the investors, Michigan Employment Retirement System, to move forward with a remediation plan, transparency, collaborative efforts, and right sizing. Working with County, SHPD, CTAHR, and working with engineers on stormwater mitigation plans. Kona Hills has a desire to work with the schools, and able to supply SUV vehicle usage for some of these outreach partnerships. Kona Hills might be a good candidate to host the site of Hawaii State Conservation Awareness Contest in October. Working with the Konawaena Leo Club may be another good fit. Tools to capture these voices and the integration at the end of the project is something to look at. Kona Hills looks forward to working with KSWCD and hosting a bigger session with a conceptualized agenda.*

II. MINUTES: Thursday, November 17, 2022, KSWCD Board Meeting Minutes.

- *November Minutes to be approved at next Board Meeting.*

III. REPORTS:

A. REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP):

- Project Manager did tour at KMR and exposure on projects being approached.
- Talked about reporting templates and other processing elements being put in place.
- Project Manager will have more availability in new year to attend KSWCD Board Meetings, etc.

B. FINANCIAL (KSWCD):

- *November Financial Statements sent to Board of Directors via e-mail prior to meeting, and to be approved at next Board Meeting.*

C. CONSERVATION ASSISTANT (KSWCD):

- NRCS / USDA: Conservation Technical Assistant (CTA):** New 3-year CTA contract/agreement request sent. NRCS drafted but KSWCD had a few adjustments to budget.
- National and Hawaii Associations of Conservation Districts (NACD & HACD):** No updates or news on board development training, districts handbooks nor 75 years of SWCD in Hawai'i, and 18-month calendars featuring each 16 districts marketing piece.
- County of Hawai'i:** FY 21-22 Final Program Accomplishments Report almost complete.

- iv. **District Annual Work Plan:** Edits are slow but being worked on - implementing suggestions as submitted on original draft last year and incorporating in this year's newest draft.

D. DISTRICT PLANNER (KSWCD):

- i. **Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) / Conservation Plans:** Gearing up for contracting season and 10 clients in queue for eligibility.
- ii. **KSWCD:** Inflation Reduction Act e-mail sent to cooperators and directors. 10 producers provided e-mail comments.
- iii. **Consolidations & Subdivisions:** No action required on floodways.

E. PARTNERSHIPS:

- i. **HIKI OLA:**
 - New NRCS grant manager.
 - Oct/Nov attempt at workshop format doesn't work. Barriers identified through interviews and surveys.
 - Jan activity is RCPP. New format quantified in reaching targeted audience of N. Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders is relationships. Mailers sent to the residents of area. **Saturday, January 28, 2023, 9am – noon is the event Gifts from the Āina: Ohana Experience.** Community activities include pounding poi, Native Hawaiian carver talking about relationship with the forest, living garden with Hawaiian foods will have a make-n-take food box with recipe, and a hands-on experience. Talk story with people as exposed to farm bill programs.
- ii. **STEAM MACHINE:**
 - Demonstration **Monday, January 30, 2023, 10:00am** (leave about 8:30am) (Keli'ikanoe, Greg, Jeff, Steve, Mary & Robin).

F. NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS):

- i. **General NRCS:** Susan Kubo retires from NRCS and last day is 12/30/22. Nick Saumweber new program head.
- ii. **2022 Farm Bill:**
 - CSP Renewals 2018 - 5 signed up but only 2 funded. Other 3 can sign up for regular CSP – announcement will be made in February.
 - EQIP – about 40 applications and moving through eligibility.
 - TSP – draft allocation is subject to change \$1million
 - Locally led pool \$255,000
 - Others bills and funding coming...
 - Soil Health Management Plans on hold while Soil Health team is reviewing.

iii. **LWG Resource Concerns:**

2022 LWG Priority Resource Concern Categories	2023 LWG Priority Resource Concern Categories
1. Pest Pressure	1. Pest Pressure
2. Soil Quality Limitations	2. Degraded Plant Condition
3. Terrestrial Habitat	3. Soil Quality Limitations
4. Degraded Plant Condition	4. Weather Resilience
5. Field Sediment/Nutrient Loss	5. Wind and Water Erosion

- **Resource Concern Booklet:** is 40 years of experience and what we know are our concerns in Kona. LWG are required every year but adopting a hybrid model on survey every 5 years before farm bill, and yearly focus on targeted plans (e.g., stream restoration / which stream are we working on this year?) This keeps priorities going while addressing different areas.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS:

i. **OUTREACH:**

- Bumper sticker printed – 500 qty.
- Leo Club invoices sent to County \$12,500. Joint project with Lion and KSWCD. Radio ads and social media. Plantings continue as well as maintaining the three school sites.
- Met with District 7 Council Member Rebecca Villegas and will be working with Steve at County Management for a Pilot Project for Residential Property and the current herbicide usage. Make it a win-win for everyone.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

i. 1ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR KONA COFFEE FARMERS ASSOCIATION:

- \$200 for table and two chairs. KSWCD and NRCS to arrive 7am. This event to be added to Annual Budget along with the Expo (if it is ever to be resumed). Anticipate 100 attendees.

✓ *Expense approved by quorum but to be voted on at next Board Meeting.*

VI. NEXT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING: Thursday, January 19, 2022 @ 8:00am. Merry Christmas. Happy New Year. Happy Holidays.

VII. ADJOURN: KSWCD Board Meeting adjourned at 9:42 am by Chairman Knowles.


Secretary

1/19/2022
Date

BOARD MEETING ACTION ITEMS:

TASK	PERSON OR COMMITTEE MEMBERS	DUE DATE
RCPP Templates	Greg & Tanya	January 2023
FY 22-23 District Annual Work Plan	Robin	Edits from feedback
FY21-22 County Final Program Accomplishments	Robin	overdue
HR Manual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to get to Altres ASAP for 2023 	Board Executive Session	December 15, 2022
CTA Application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend contract for Mary 	Robin, Jeff & Jennifer (Barbara)	Submitted.
Cooperator of the Year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulations Letter • Signage (confirm/order) • Picnic 	Robin & Mary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sent • December 31, 2022 • January
LWG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you letter & results, • PIA NRCS website 	Robin & Laura	overdue
Website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kona Conservation.org • Review updated verbiage created last year 	Robin	on-going
Kona Conservation Promotional	Robin & Jeff	on-going