

KONA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 19, 2023

MEETING HELD: In-person & Zoom

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jeff Knowles, Greg Hendrickson, Jennifer Anderson,
Keli'ikanoe Mahi, Steve Foelber, Mark Petersen,

KSWCD STAFF: Mary Robblee, Robin Hill

NRCS STAFF: Laura Nelson

I. **WELCOME:** The KSWCD Board Meeting called to order 8:04 am by Chairman Knowles.

- Quorum present.

II. **MINUTES:** Thursday, December 15, 2022, KSWCD Board Meeting Minutes.

- ✓ *Motion to approve November and December Minutes. Moved. Seconded. Approved unanimously.*

III. **REPORTS:**

A. **TREASURER (KSWCD):**

- ✓ *Motion to approve November and December Minutes. Moved. Seconded. Approved unanimously. Not necessary to approve financial statements but to review and ask questions if any.*

B. **CONSERVATION ASSISTANT (KSWCD):**

- NRCS / USDA: Conservation Technical Assistant (CTA):** CTA Reports due this month and reimbursements being worked on.
- National and Hawaii Associations of Conservation Districts (NACD & HACD):** No updates.
- County of Hawai'i:** FY 21-22 Final Program Accomplishments Report done, need edits, and signature.
- District Annual Work Plan:** Feedback needs to be incorporated.

C. **DISTRICT PLANNER (KSWCD):**

- Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) / Conservation Plans:** 3 site visits. Required NRCS Training. Conference call Kiilae Stream flooding – drainage damaging cultural resources at Puuhonua O Honaunau. Participated in the Leo KES planting Day. Continue to work on plans: 6 equip, 1 csp. Site visits coming up.
- Consolidations & Subdivisions:** Reviewed. No action required on floodways.

D. **REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP):**

- Project Manager resigned. Potential Natural Resource person for RCPP project manager through Hiki Ola. Experience with agroforestry, plantings, outreach, UH degree, etc. Project Management certificate underway. Details and structure to be worked out. Deliverables to be coupled with hours. Attached to contract. Categorically or section of activities are RCPP. Build worksheets from deliverables, starting with a dashboard, and portal through Dropbox. Project Manager to be the hub of information. Contract to be re-worked with more detail, and structure.
- RCPP national news release to be sent out tomorrow application period is open and closes February 28, 2023. Nick Saumweber point-of-contact now for RCPP. Ranking questions being reviewed. Deliverables are acres with limited dollars - so less dense plantings. Would like to have more participants and focus is bird recovery area.

E. PARTNERSHIPS:

i. HIKI OLA:

- Jan activity is an RCPP event based on community and family-friendly format. Saturday, January 28, 2023, 9am – noon is the event Gifts from the Āina: Ohana Experience. Activity centers will include pounding poi, giving 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. Mailers didn't work. 36 signed up for this one.

ii. Weed Steam Hawai'i:

- Demonstration in Waiki'i on Monday, January 30, 2023, 10:30am (leave about 9:00 am) (Keli'ikanoe, Greg, Jeff, Steve, Mary & Robin).

F. NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS):

- i. General NRCS:** JB Martin who has been Acting Director has been selected to be permanent PIA Director. Lots of retiring and hiring going on. Lele promoted to higher planner level. Over-seeing more planning. Selection made to replace Zephyr's position. Zach is moving to be DC on Oahu.

ii. 2022 Farm Bill:

- EQIP – 31 applications moving forward. And more money coming through Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). IRA is tied to climate smart agroforestry. National list all are soil health practices.
- CSP Steward Conservation Program will also close February 24th.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS:

i. OUTREACH:

- Kona Conservation t-shirts and caps coming soon from CG Tees keeping \$ local. Promotional material to board and staff and remainder for fundraising.
- Bumper sticker promotional material being seen around town. Remainder of bumper stickers going to KCFA Annual Conference on February 24th.
- 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 Konawaena Elementary principle last week for plant signs.
- Thank you, Mary, Steve, Jennifer, and Robin, for attending the KES weeding and planting. 20 native species there. Looking to get more native varieties.
- Next installation of Kona Conservation Newsletter soon – article ideas?
- Kona Conservation is secured as our domain. Revisions needed as well as feedback.
- Kona Conservation business cards to be ordered and will include a QR code.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

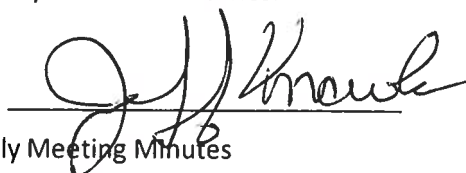
i. 1ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR KONA COFFEE FARMERS ASSOCIATION:

- \$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. Friday February 24, 2023 from 9 am-4 pm at the Outrigger Kona Resort & Spa, 78-128 Ehukai Street, Kailua Kona, Hawaii, 96740. Setup starts at 7am and take down its 4 pm-5 pm.

✓ *Motion to approve KCFA expense. Moved. Seconded. Approved unanimously.*

VI. NEXT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING: Thursday, February 15, 2022 @ 8:00am.

VII. ADJOURN: KSWCD Board Meeting adjourned at 9:38 am by Chairman Knowles.



Secretary

Date

BOARD MEETING ACTION ITEMS:

TASK	PERSON OR COMMITTEE MEMBERS	DUE DATE
File for Kona Conservation DBA	Greg H.	