

## West Maui Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 25, 2023, 1:30 PM

### Meeting to be held via Zoom


- **Meeting Call to Order**
  - The meeting was called to order at 1:36 PM by James J. Nobriga, Board Chair
  - Roll Call of Those Present at the Meeting:
    - Directors
      - James J. Nobriga, Chair
      - Kainoa Casco, Vice Chair
      - Kimo Falconer, Treasurer
      - Ian Swezey, Secretary
    - Associate Director(s)
      - None present
    - Watershed Coordinator
      - Tova Callender
    - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)
      - Gerald Gregory, District Conservationist
    - Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Staff
      - Kelly Butler, Maui SWCD Conservation Planner
      - Millie Wagner, Maui SWCD Administrator
    - Members of the Public
      - None
  - Board Members Not Present at the Meeting
    - Wes Nohara, Associate Director
    - Daniel Ornellas, Associate Director
  - Determination of Whether a Quorum has been Established
    - It was determined that a quorum had been established
- **Public Notice of Meeting**
  - Electronically posted to the state calendar ([calendar.ehawaii.gov/calendar](https://calendar.ehawaii.gov/calendar)) on January 19, 2023
  - Physically posted at the Soil and Water Conservation District Office located at 77 Ho'okele St., Kahului, HI on January 19, 2023
  - Filed with Lt. Governor's Office on January 19, 2023
  - Mailed or emailed to persons requesting notifications of meetings, postmarked January 19, 2023 *(Please note that at this time there is no one requesting notification of meetings)*
- **Approval of the Minutes from October 4, 2022**
  - A motion to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2022 meeting was made by Kimo Falconer
    - The motion was seconded by Ian Swezey
    - The motion to approve the minutes from the October 4, 2022, board meeting was voted on and approved unanimously

- **West Maui Soil and Water Conservation District Treasurer’s Report**
    - The receipt of the treasurer’s report was acknowledged, and it will be placed on file
  
  - **Open positions to the West Maui Soil and Water District Board of Directors**
    - Position of Director (elected) currently vacant
      - Follow-up: West Maui Soil & Water Conservation District Board Vice-Chair, Kainoa Casco to reach out to Kaipō Kekona regarding serving as a board member
        - Kainoa Casco stated that he feels we should hold off with approaching him at this time
        - Kimo Falconer will follow up with Pomai Crozier regarding the vacant position
        - Ian Swezey will follow-up with Kelani Kaleopa to find out his level of interest in the vacant position
      - Nominations, Elections, and Length of Terms
        - The Director’s position currently held by James J. Nobriga will expire on June 30, 2023. This position is an appointed position.
          - Mr. Nobriga stated that he was willing and able to fulfill another term
            - Kimo Falconer made the motion that the board move to appoint Mr. Nobriga to another term
              - The motion was seconded by Ian Swezey
              - The motion was then voted on and passed unanimously
              - Millie will complete the paperwork; have it signed and forward it to Michelle with HACD to be filed with the DLNR
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- **State of Hawaii Mandatory Ethics Training**
  - Certificates of completion for the Ethics Training have been received from all directors except for James J. Nobriga
    - Mr. Nobriga has taken the training course and will forward his certificate of completion to Millie as a record once he has received it
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- **West Maui Ridge to Reef (R2R) Initiative Updates by Tova Callender**
  - Highlights since the last board meeting are:
    - Ms. Callender has been able to close out several old DOH/DAR POs
    - Cooperative Agreement held with NRCS for NWQI (C006) has completed and all reporting has been submitted
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- **Maui Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Specialist Updates by Kelly Butler**
  - Poster Contest

- Kelly stated that participation for the poster contest was down a bit this year
  - There were 2 categories represented: grades 2-3 and grades 4-6, with 1<sup>st</sup> place, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Honorable Mention within each category
    - Winners received a certificate and a prize ribbon
    - Prizes for the winners included backpacks, gift certificates and gift cards, and other miscellaneous items.
  - Winners from the State included two of our winners here on Maui
    - Kelly stated that she would like to reach out directly to the Art Teachers for the next Poster Contest held
  - Arbor Day Update
    - Kelly stated that she had participated in the Arbor Day event and that it was well-attended
  - HFUU Convention
    - Kelly stated that she had participated in the HFUU convention held in December, however, it was not as well-attended as Arbor Day, possibly because it was held on a Friday instead of a Saturday
- **NRCS Updates by Gerald Gregory, District Conservationist**
  - Mr. Gregory stated that they are currently in the middle of the contracting period, but he expects to see more conservation plans, EQIP and Farm Bill plans in June or July
  - Mr. Gregory stated that JB Martin, the Acting NRCS-PIA Director had been confirmed as the new NRCS-PIA Director
    - Mr. Gregory is trying to get Mr. Martin to Hana to see the invasive Miconia and Turkey Berry there. He asked what might be concerns on the Westside that he could also take Mr. Martin to see
      - A suggestion of the Lahaina Watershed Project might be valuable for Mr. Martin to see
        - The board agreed that they needed to be brought up to speed on the project prior to presenting this to Mr. Martin
          - Mr. Gregory will reach out to Sharon Sawdey with NRCS to potentially set up small meetings with various board members.
  - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Plan for Approval
    - Please note that due to privacy laws, many aspects of the Conservation plans may not be fully discussed in a public forum. The Board anticipates going into executive session pursuant to section 92-5(a)(3), to discuss and approve the Conservation Plans
      - Since there were no members of the public in attendance, Mr. Gregory shared the plan via screen-share and answered questions
        - The plan is a renewal for another 5 years and is a prescribed grazing plan
          - Kimo Falconer made the motion to accept the plan

- The motion was seconded by Kainoa Casco
    - The motion was then voted on and passed unanimously
  - Gerald Gregory, Natural Resources Conservation Services District Conservationist, asked that the board notify either Kelly Butler or himself about any Westside events supporting the SWCD/NRCS mission so arrangements can be made for joint participation in those events
    - Mr. Nobriga asked if the Land Judging would be happening this year
      - Millie will follow up with Michelle Watkins from HACD for more detail about this year's Land Judging Contest
    - Mr. Nobriga suggested that the Farm Bureau be contacted in order to participate in AgFest this year
      - Kelly Butler will follow up
- **Public Comment and Written Testimony (NOTE: Public comment and/or written testimony is limited to 3 minutes)**
  - No public comment was submitted
- **Proposed dates and times for next meeting**
  - No specific dates were discussed for the next board meeting, however it was agreed that perhaps early March or early April might work the best
- **Adjournment of the Meeting and Move to Executive Session**
  - A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ian Swezey
    - The motion was seconded by Kainoa Casco
    - The motion was voted on by the board and approved unanimously
  - The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM by James J. Nobriga, Board Chair

Submitted by



Ian Swezey  
Secretary

Meeting Recorder: Millie Wagner, Soil and Water Conservation District Administrator