

## West Maui Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting

Thursday, March 30, 2023, 10:00 AM

Meeting to be held in-person at: 77 Ho'okele St., Suite 202 Kahului, HI 96732

- **Meeting Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order at 10:09 AM 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
  - Associate Director(s)
    - Wes Nohara, Associate Director
    - Daniel Ornellas, Associate Director
  - Watershed Coordinator
    - Tova Callender
  - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)
    - Gerald Gregory, District Conservationist
  - Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
    - Michelle Watkins, HACD Executive Director
  - Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Staff
    - Kelly Butler, Maui SWCD Conservation Planner
    - Micaela Hogger, Conservation Specialist
    - Leilehua Low, Administrative Assistant
  - Members of the Public
    - None
  - Board Members Not Present at the Meeting
    - Ian Swezey, Secretary
- 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 March 24, 2023
- Physically posted at the Soil and Water Conservation District Office located at 77 Ho'okele St., Kahului, HI on March 24, 2023
- Filed with Lt. Governor's Office on March 24, 2023
- Mailed or emailed to persons requesting notifications of meetings, postmarked March 24, 2023 *(Please note that at this time there is no one requesting notification of meetings)*

- **Approval of the Minutes from January 25, 2023**

- A motion to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2023 meeting was made by Kimo Falconer
  - The motion was seconded by Kainoa Casco

- The motion to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2023, 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
- **Amended to add:** Wes Nohara requested an accurate and clear statement of unrestricted funds, so the board can make proper decisions based on the funds available
- **Open positions to the West Maui Soil and Water District Board of Directors**
  - Discussion of the position of Director (elected) that is currently vacant
    - Daniel Ornellas recommended reaching out to Amber Starr regarding serving as an Associate Director
    - Kimo Falconer contacted Pomaikai Crozier, who has expressed interest in re-joining. Kimo Falconer will follow up regarding the vacant position.
  - **Nominations, Elections, and Length of Terms**
    - Discussion pending - board requested an updated list of the current board members approaching expiration of terms during next board meeting

WEST MAUI SWCD		
TITLE	NAME	TERM EXPIRATION
CHAIR	James J. Nobriga	Jun-25
VICE CHAIR	Kainoa Casco	Jun-24
TREASURER	Kimo Falconer	Jun-25
SECRETARY	Ian Swezey	Jun-24
DIRECTOR	VACANT	TBD
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR	Wes Nohara	N/A
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR	Daniel Ornellas	N/A
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR	Kristi Ono	N/A

- **Increasing Delivery Capacity**
  - What’s going well in your district?
    - Financially secure
    - Experienced board members with strong community ties
    - Annual work plan in place
    - Temporary Flood Control Project
    - Ridge to Reef Project (R2R)
  - Please highlight a recent win
    - None highlighted
  - What’s not going well in your district?
    - Need for new/younger board member recruitment
    - Lack of staff to execute work plan
      - Associate Director, Wes Nohara stated that he thought adding an Executive Director position would help to execute work plan

- Refocus conservation efforts to include Kahoolawe
  - Community outreach
- What has limited the capacity of the district?
  - Lack of follow-up regarding reports, conservation plans, contract management at higher level to organize follow-up protocols
  - Board member training
  - The need to build stronger capacity with other boards in county, Lanai/Molokai
- Where would you like your district to be in 1 year?
  - Puamana Channel Project – the board would like to begin discussion regarding stormwater maintenance with the county and the region’s representatives for the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) to address the deterioration of the stormwater outlet
  - Kahoolawe Work Plan – the board would like to refocus conservation efforts on Kahoolawe and discuss adding a potential PKO advisory member. Daniel Ornellas to extend invitation out to Paul Higashino
  - Lahaina Temporary Flood Control Project – repairs and increased capacity of structure post flood made, or underway
- Where would you like your district to be in 2 years?
  - Lahaina Temporary Flood Control Project – repairs and increased capacity of structure completed, or underway
  - Puamana Channel Project – the board would like to address deterioration concerns and repairs to the Puamana Channel Project
  - Honolua Ditch Plan – the board would like to discuss long term maintenance with Maui Land & Pine to ensure maintenance be done to prevent failure of Honolua ditch
  - West Maui Basin Project– the West Maui Basin Project includes 40 plus basins. The board would like to address run-off basins that are not maintained by the County. The board would like to establish who will take over long-term maintenance and where funds can be set aside to maintain the private basins.
    - Kimo Falconer made the motion to adopt recommendations made by Wes Nohara
      - The motion was seconded by Kainoa Casco
      - The motion was then voted on and passed unanimously

- **HACD 2023 Annual Conference**

- Dates: June 21-23 2023
- Location: Kilauea Military Camp (KMC) in Volcano, HI
- Deadline for conference registration is May 19, 2023
  - Kainoa Casco made motion in support of Wes Nohara attending the first day of the conference
    - The motion was seconded by Kimo Falconer

- The motion was then voted on and passed unanimously
- **West Maui Ridge to Reef (R2R) Initiative Updates by Tova Callender**
  - A summary of the Watershed Coordination activities since 1/25/2023 includes:
    - Ms. Callender will be geographically expanding outside of her current 5 watersheds.
    - Discussed Honolua watershed basin improvement as suggested by Army Corps, recommendation to add chitosan to aid with settling out of fine particles. Study to be conducted by EPA for water quality, EPA to provide guidance
    - Ongoing study of pesticide detection being conducted, pending findings
- **New Soil and Water Conservation District Administrative Assistant**
  - Ms. Low introduced herself to the board
  - Discussion and vote about the need for the Administrative Assistant to have access to the bank account to perform bookkeeping duties
    - Kainoa Casco made the motion to grant access to banking information for bookkeeping duties
      - The motion was seconded by Kimo Falconer
      - The motion was then voted on and passed unanimously
- **New Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Specialist (Planner)**
  - Ms. Hogger introduced herself to the Board
- **Maui Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Specialist Updates by Kelly Butler**
  - Discussed upcoming outreach event - Ag in the Classroom
    - Event to be held April 24, 2023 at Haleakala Ranch
    - Ms. Butler and Ms. Hogger will collaborate on presentation for outreach
  - Land Judging
    - Ms. Butler stated that she would like to reinstate land judging this year in collaboration with: CTAHR, NRCS
- **NRCS Updates by Gerald Gregory, District Conservationist**
  - Mr. Gregory stated that NRCS is currently working on Farm Bill Allocations
    - Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds were delivered to State late.
      - Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds will double next year, and double again the following year.
        - The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds will need to be fully used spent the year 2031.
  - Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds for 2023 are allocated for Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry, which focuses on carbon sequestration practices
  - Mr. Gregory discussed the need for NRCS to increase their presence in West Maui to address eligibility and land control issues in order to get landowner or producer applications approved for contracts
    - This year, there are at least 3 West Maui applications approved for contracts

- Mr. Gregory to present conservation plans for the 3 West Maui contracts to the board in the future
  - There are plans to host 3 local work group meetings in June or July: West Maui, Hana, and combining Olinda-Kula and Central Maui districts to set priorities for the federal fiscal year of 2024 contracting
  - Mr. Gregory is collecting data points to identify the effects of inflation on materials to implement conservation practices
    - Mr. Gregory plans to present findings to the board in the future
- **Annual Work Plan**
  - Lahaina Watershed
    - Discussed 2/2/2023 inspection post-flood
      - The water did breach over the crest of the berm and the spillway was in use
        - Maxed out the capacity of the system
          - Importance of maintenance to structure to protect lives and property
            - Report to County upon completion by Kainoa Casco
              - Discussion to reallocate funds to Temporary Flood Control Project for repairs and increase capacity once report of scope of work is completed by Kainoa Casco
  - Honolua Watershed
    - Discussed basin and ditch maintenance
    - Wes Nohara has reached out to Maui Land and Pine to discuss the need for basin and ditch maintenance
  - Water Systems Upgrade
    - No updates
  - Lahainaluna
    - Discussed 2/2/2023 inspection of recent football field flooding.
      - Wes Nohara recommended the plan to open the dam and build diversion to culvert to mitigate future flooding
      - Daniel Ornalles stated that the Department of Education (DOE) is going to contract the work to be done, they have hired an engineer
  - Tri-Isle RC&D
    - The project has been completed
  - Forestry
    - No updates
  - Kahoolawe
    - Discussed refocusing efforts to include within district

- Associate Director, Daniel Ornellas to contact Paul Higoshino for involvement in next meeting
- West Maui Land Company Drainage Plan
  - No updates
- West Maui Mountains Watershed (Mauna Kahalawai)
  - Discussed interest by DLNR to purchase watershed and County to potentially purchase system
- Kamehameha Schools Land
  - Associate Director, Daniel Ornellas to invite Amber Starr via email, to join Board as an Associate Director
  
- **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
  
- **Adjournment of the Meeting and Move to Executive Session**
  - A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kainoa Casco
    - The motion was seconded by Kimo Falconer
    - The motion was voted on by the board and approved unanimously
  - The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 PM by James J. Nobriga, Board Chair

Submitted by



Jay Nobriga  
Chairman