

KA'U SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
May 7, 2024

The monthly board meeting of the Ka'u Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Chairperson John Cross at 8:33 a.m. virtual via Microsoft Teams.

Present were: John Cross (JC), Ka'ohi Mokuahali'i (KM), Tyler Johansen (TJ), Directors; Kanoë Lee Loy, District Conservationist; Meghan Mulley, Soil Conservationist; Brittany Camp, Conservationist Specialist; Jennifer Reavis, District Supvr/Conservation Aide;

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes were circulated and placed on file. KM/JC

TREASURER'S REPORT

Given by Ka'ohi. Circulated and placed on file. JC/TJ

CORRESPONDENCE

Sent via email.

CONSERVATION PLAN UPDATE

1. Shelley Millard – 20 acres. Plans for pasture management & native forest. Accepted TJ/KM
2. RHO Naalehu LLC – 211 acres. Plans for macnut farm. Accepted. TJ/KM

OLD BUSINESS

- A. District Employee Report– (1) Given by Meghan. She is working on EQIP & CTA plans, Farm Bill applications. Continuing with intakes and field visits, training and outreach. (2) Meghan spoke about the *Perimeter Fence Grant* (\$400,000) for swine from NACD that the Hamakua SWCD received, but extended the area with the Ka'u, Puna, and Waiakea SWCD's.
- B. Water Revocable Permit–no updates.
- C. Ka'u Flood Study– Jen received an update from John Matthews. This is what he said: “NRCS PIA is working on preparing cost estimates and SOW for Planning Phase for NRCS IDIQ contractor. That said there are several speed bumps in the way currently. NRCS PIA is in region 10 and currently due to unfortunate events no longer has an IDIQ contractor, therefore the planning phase is on hold till until new IDIQ contractor is available for our region. Another hold-up is funds. The Watershed Branch did not receive as much funds this year as last and there is less funds available at the moment. This will change which way I do not know next fiscal year and or after election 2024.”

NEW BUSINESS

A. D.C. Report - (1) Kanoe gave the report for the Hilo Field Office. She gave an update on personnel changes, deadlines, project info, presentation, training, emergency programs, Farm Bill update, outreach, etc. was given. Round 3 has opened up for the Farm Bill program. Pest Management training will be held on Oahu this month.

B. FSA Report - (1) All info that FSA sends via email is forwarded to SWCD directors.

C. BIRCD Report - (1) Nothing to report.

D. HACD Report – (1) The HACD Annual meeting will be held on Kauai @ the Waimea Plantation Resort on June 26-28, 2024. Brenda will be attending. John will give Brenda his proxy vote to act on his behalf on any voting matters at this conference on Kauai June 26-28, 2024. Jen will prepare the delegate forms and proxy memo.

E. Other New Business

1. Insurance Pertaining to the Board – all insurance premiums are up to date.
2. Conservation Planning – nothing to report.
3. Hawaii Island Annual Report – Jen is working on this report for the entire island. Copies will be made and handed out at the upcoming HACD Annual Conference.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tyler Johansen
Secretary

Recorder: Jennifer Reavis