

Na Ala Hele (NAH) Maui Advisory Council

Minutes of May 17, 2017

Present: Russell Reinertson, Tom Cannon, Donna Clayton, David Brown, Kevin Jenkins, Sue Guile, Nick Saussy

Absent: Bob Hobdy

Ex-Officio: Torrie Nohara

Guests: Bruce Faulkner and Terry Quisenberry

Call to Order, Public Notice, Quorum

Russell called the meeting to order. Public notice was posted and quorum was met.

Review of Meeting Minutes of April 19, 2017

The April 19, 2017 minutes were unanimously approved with the following correction: Under Public Testimony on All Agenda Items, Public Comments – Open Forum: Jimmy Gomes reported BLNR is looking for potential candidates from Molokai, Lanai or Maui for the new State Game Commission.

NAH Staff Reports:

Jon Han – Volunteer/Intern Update: Joshua Pinheiro (KUPU Intern) has completed 843 hours out of 1700 hours since he rejoined Na Ala Hele as an intern on Nov. 7, 2016. Mykah Bailey, who completed 900 hours of service last year through MEO, has currently completed 568 hours of his second term of MEO internship. MEO intern Christina Wine has completed her 450-hour internship on April 21, 2017. The Na Ala Hele trail crew is very grateful to get the extra help from these three interns.

From April 19-21, the crew spent time brushing and doing light mechanized trail work on the newly proposed Upper Waiohuli (lower section) Trail. On Monday, April 24, five members of the Na Ala Hele crew along with Tom Cannon conducted a trail survey for the Waia'ilio Trail in the Kanaio District. The crew started at Puu Pohakea and finished at the Hoapili Trail and were able to locate and track most of the trail using a GPS and also made sure to waypoint areas where the trail seemed to disappear. For the remainder of the month, the crew completed daily trail maintenance projects including weed eating and brush and tree removal. They also spent time making improvements on the bottom section of the West Loop Trail at KRA by widening the trail slightly due to the trail becoming narrowed by slough. At the end of the month the island received heavy rain over the weekend with some areas receiving 9 inches of rain. Due to this rain the crew spent time inspecting and accessing trail damages and following the inspections the crew will meet and plan on doing trail repairs caused from the heavy rains.

Looking ahead for the month of May the crew will be doing trail repairs after making assessments of damages. The crew is also hoping to start on the retaining walls at Waihee Ridge Trail as well as install cable railing to replace the temporary wood railing on the two viewing platforms. Four members of the crew will be attending a 2-day mini excavator operation workshop put on by Nathan “Woody” Woodruff of Progressive Trail Design. The workshop location will be on the lower portion of the Upper Waiohuli Trail.

Kahakapao Recreational Area Maintenance Report: Update on maintenance work – Adam is working with youth volunteers on a berm turn near the skills area.

NAH Specialist Report -Torrie Nohara –Torrie circulated a listing of 2017 House bills that have passed final reading. The rest of her comments fall under Old Business items.

Old Business:

1. West Maui Greenway “WVG” Update – Donna reported the Love the West Maui Greenway Day held on Saturday, April 22 went well but attendance was lower than hoped for. Approximately 450 attended. Na Ala Hele provided great support monetarily and sent 5 volunteers to the event. Donna and Saman are busy finalizing all the reports required by Hawaii Tourism Authority for their grant. The County of Maui has not yet started work on the greenway design work funded in the current budget; however, monthly meetings at the County are underway to keep communication open. Donna is applying to National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program for another year of support for the greenway planning efforts and events. Kaanapali Golf Courses Revitalization Environmental Impact Statement Prep Notice is out for comments. Donna and Saman will request inclusion of the West Maui Greenway trail along the existing train tracks route.
2. Nakula Potential Access Routes – No response to date on the letters sent to Suzanne Case by Bruce and Russell. Torrie reported the Maui Forest Bird Recovery newsletter just out has photos of Nakula. She will email it to the council.
3. Waia’ilio Trail Complex – Tom circulated his written report on the site visit on April 24 (see attached). Kevin suggested it might be helpful to hire a drone expert to fly over the area.
4. Maui Motocross Park – Still working on approvals and board approval needed for the Memorandum of Understanding as part of NAH housekeeping. A 5-race series is underway with the 4th race on Jun 6 and the last one on Father’s Day, June 18. Water is still provided by HC&S to the site. Na Ala Hele has paid for the race trophies, t-shirts, and hats. Volunteers are increasing. They decided to remove all garbage cans as they seem to attract trash and the result is the park is much cleaner.

5. Waihee Ridge Trail – Torrie passed out copies of an article in the Maui News stating that the Waihee Ridge Trail has reopened.
6. Makena to Ulupalakua Trail – Torrie passed out copies of the Hugh Howell Map of Proposed New Road from Makena to Kula dated April 1896 and the TMK map of the area. David believes the proposed road/trail now crosses a Makena golf course.
7. Haleakala Trail – David sent the GPS of the trail to Torrie but will resend as Torrie did not receive it.

New Business:

1. Suggestions for new Na Ala Hele Trails: David suggested contacting the Sierra Club and/or Maui Tomorrow to attend the next meeting to discuss their joint lawsuit on the Makena Trail to Ulupalakua to determine whether an environmental assessment or an environmental impact report will be allowed. Donna will contact Al Perez, President of Maui Tomorrow.
2. Agenda items for next meeting – No changes.
3. Date of next meeting: June 21, 2017 at the DLNR conference room if available.
8. Public Testimony on All Agenda Items, Public Comments – Open Forum: Terry Quisenberry has been invited to rejoin the council. He will apply.
9. Adjournment: 3:20 pm