Na Ala Hele (NAH) Maui Advisory Council

Minutes of March 13, 2019

Present: Russell Reinertson, Donna Clayton, David Brown, Kevin Jenkins, Nick Saussy, Bob Hobdy, Terry Quisenberry, Sue Guille, Tom Cannon

Absent:

Ex-Officio: Scott Fretz, Torrie Nohara, Trails and Access Specialist

Guests: Jimmy Gomes/DLNR, Jeff Bagshaw/DOFAW, Bruce Faulkner

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 January 23, 2019

Kevin noted on Page 3, paragraph 5 removal of the word “night” in the second sentence and insertion of the word “sweep” would clarify the sentence. The January 23, 2019 minutes were unanimously approved as revised.

NAH Staff Reports:

Trails and Access Technician

Volunteer/Intern Update for two months: Monthly volunteer hours totaled 122; the total annual volunteer hours are 1700.

KUPU

Joshua Pinheiro completed 680 of 1700

Counter on Waihee Ridge Trail Totals: No count due to need for repair.

Counter on Kahakapao Trail Totals:

  Monthly user count (3/7/19) = 335
  Total Annual User Count (3/7/19) = 4250
  Highest count for one day – 3/2/19 = 127

The Na Ala Hele crew has been working to clear fallen/hazardous trees and water damage to trails throughout Kahakapao due to heavy rain and wind storms. All trail counters have been rotated to acquire trail usage information on Waiakea Loop Trail, Boundary Trail and Polipoli Park Trail as of March 7th.
Looking forward, the Na Ala Hele crew will be continuing work in Makawao Forest Reserve. The crew will be doing trail inspections of all Na Ala Hele trails and general maintenance.

Flow Farm Pacific Report:

Adam Lottig reported February weather turned into a more seasonal and incredibly wet pattern. They connected the Ravine Trail and continued to build features to replace the unsafe ones along with adding fun features based on input from the riders who have been most involved in the maintenance of that area. They held a volunteer day on February 9 to continue progress.

The storm that came in the week of February 11 was the most destructive storm he has witnessed since 2011. Dozens of large trees came down along with hundreds of fallen branches and created an extremely difficult mess to clean up. This is still being worked on with the help of the Maui Mountain Bicycle Coalition and many other volunteers.

Work completing the features and trail construction on Ravine Trail will commence once the cleanup of all other trails is complete.

Torrie Nohara – NAH Specialist Report

Na Ala Hele Maui crew is not allowed to do real work on trails per the Federal Department of Transportation until endangered species surveys are completed. Tree removal after the storm was done for safety reasons.

Old Business:

1. West Maui Greenway Update – Donna is working with the Maui Bicycling League on the creation of a Visitor Channel video on biking and hiking on Maui’s multiuse trails as part of the Hawaii Tourism Authority grant. Also as part of the grant, monthly bike rides led by Maui Bicycling League are going well. Public Works received TAP funding to continue the design of the Phase I of the West Maui Greenway and Unemori Engineering is moving ahead. Donna was invited to join a Maui contingent to the Walkability Action Institute in Georgia April 22-25 with Pam Eaton, County Long-Range Planner, Lauren Armstrong, Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization, Mayor Victorino, Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura and others.

2. Maui Motocross Park – Nick reported track changes completed with the help of Hawaiian Cement equipment have changed the track completely. Attendance has doubled and they just completed the area qualifier for the national event that included contestants from other Hawaii islands and other states. Instagram is his main outreach resource. He circulated photos taken before and after the changes.

3. Waipoli Rd. Gate Update – Lance DeSilva provided scoping info for the proposed gate on Waipoli Rd. for our consideration. He especially wanted input on the
opening and closing times. He proposed opening the gate at 4am and closing the gate at 8pm daily. The gate would be located above the switchback just above Ali‘i Kula Lavender Farm. Those trespassing are on Kaonoulu Ranch land below the line of the forest reserve but the state access road creates the problem for the ranch. The group suggested the next steps for Lance:

a. Review hunters’ logs for the number of folks arriving at any given time.

b. Research how the sweeps affect the use.

c. Consider potential for providing legal camping in the area.

d. Fencing both sides of the road for about one mile and installing no trespassing signage.

4. Honuaula Area Trail Potential – Moana is working on the Onau abstract. Kevin provided the following to help with Moana’s research:

a. Survey of Portions of the Government Land of Kanahena

b. F.E. Dodge and E. D. Baldwin survey of Honuaula

c. Patrick Cummins survey map of old road from the Ocean up mauka

d. Photos of the intersection of Onau Alanui and Makena-Keoneio Road #1, #2 and #3 (showing stone wall across the road built by Roland Jacinto.)

e. Photo of the old redwood tank and an old stone corral

Bob located an old road bridge with culverts under it and he researched an 1885 map that shows part of the trail starting at the Charlie Young Beach up to and above the winery. He also brought a 1925 map that shows the same trail that now goes through Maui Meadows and other developments.

5. Makawao State Forest Reserve Updates

a. Access Road Boundary Gate Installation – 4-T Fencing was selected to do the work. Torrie is waiting for the approved purchase order. A solar gate at the boundary of Makawao Forest Reserve will eliminate the need for the $2,000/month now spent to sweep folks out daily and open and close the gate. This will be a key pad gate with one year warranty.

b. Jeff Bagshaw – Signs at Kahakapao, Waihee Ridge Trail and Kula State Forest Reserve – Jeff has reviewed the signage and put together his dream package that he plans to propose to the Hawaii Tourism Authority for a grant for signage for these trails. The proposal for funding would be for 2020.
c. Jeff showed examples of various signs for different sections of the trails and asked for our input. Some signs are for trail rules, others to guide users, tell the history and show emergency locations.

6. Commercial Trail Activity and Capacity Review – Torrie passed out a list of NAH commercial trails and non-commercial trails. Mike Millay, the new NAH administrator, asked the council to reevaluate the commercial activities on Maui trails and add or delete trails and assess capacity limits. The council asked that this be discussed at the next meeting.

New Business:

1. Suggestions for new Na Ala Hele Trails:
   a. Tom asked about the Waia‘ilio Trail site visit. Torrie said there is a delay as new rules require John Brito to get a license to fly a drone. She will add this trail to the agenda when a date can be set.

2. Agenda items for next meeting:

3. Date of next meeting: April 17, 2019. We will be back at the baseyard.

Public Testimony on All Agenda Items, Public Comments – Open Forum:

Bruce Faulkner requested an update on access to Nakula Trail. Torrie reported Shane is actively working on acquiring public access.

Adjournment: 4:01 pm