

Na Ala Hele (NAH) Maui Advisory Council

Minutes of September 23, 2020

Present: Tom Cannon, Nick Saussy, Donna Clayton, Russell Reinertson, Sue Guille, Dave Brown

Absent: Kevin Jenkins, Bob Hobdy, Terry Quisenberry

Ex-Officio: Scott Fretz, Torrie Nohara, Corey Rosa, Jeff Bagshaw, Aaron Lowe, Mike Millay

Guests: Bruce Faulkner, Kris Moniz, Kyle Paredes, Cole Sulenta, Rick Paillett, Mike Millay, David Krum, Glenn Armstrong, Ben Heinlein, Stuart Kretzer, Glenn Armstrong, Daryl ?, Ashley Seaward, John Alford, David Nash, Moose Reichert, Don Guzman, Bali McNellis, Robb Cole, Vince Newman, Rob Weltman

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 August 26, 2020

The minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

NAH Staff Reports:

Corey Rosa/Trails and Access Technician

**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry and Wildlife
Maui District
September 23rd, 2020,
MEMORANDUM**

Trail Counter Info

Waihe'e Ridge				Waihou Trail to Spring				Waihou Spring Trailhead			
Month	Daily Average	Highest Day		Month	Daily Average	Highest Day		Month	Daily Average	Highest Day	
February	439	Feb, 16	65 9	NA				NA			
March	324	Mar, 10	61 7	NA				NA			
April	209	Apr, 19	43 2	April	107	Apr, 26	21 5	April	153	Apr, 26	43 2
May	329	May, 17	70 1	May	104	May, 25	25 2	May	483	May, 31	91 0

June	272	June, 6	69	June	68	June, 6	15	June	484	June, 13	82
July	200	July, 12	54	July	40	July, 11	11	July	361	July, 12	60
August	224	Aug, 16	53	August	28	Aug, 5	46	August	342	Aug, 1	57
Kahakapao Trailhead				Kahakapao Secret Trail				September	322	Sep, 7	58
September	164	Sep, 13	28	September	37	Sep, 20	69				

Work Done from August 26th - September 23rd

The Na Ala Hele crew has been doing general maintenance and brushing of all Na Ala Hele trails. The crew has also been working on the skills area at Kahakapao replacing worn boards and reshaping of dirt features in the Akahi Akahi Track, Akamai Track and Pauma Track.

Looking Forward

The Na Ala Hele crew will be doing aerial scouting and ground surveying of Kamehamenui looking for viewpoints and possible routes for trails. Na Ala Hele will also be doing tread work on Mamane Trail to mitigate water damage.

Kahakapao Recreational Area – No Report

Maui Mountain Bike Coalition Volunteer Coordinator – No Report

Torrie Nohara – NAH Specialist

Old Business:

1. West Maui Greenway Update – Donna has joined the Vision Zero focus group which has a goal to eliminate fatalities and serious injury due to traffic crashes by 2040. She is pushing for greenways as one step toward increased safety.
2. Maui Motocross Park – Nick said they are planning to do a revamp of the track and hope to start races in January. They are replacing the water pump on the pump truck.
3. E-bikes Continued Discussion
 - a. Torrie reminded all that NAH is an advisory council only and will give advice on which trails and which E-bike classes if any to move forward with. Also, if the definitions for E-bikes accepted by the federal

government should be considered. Currently Kahakapao and Kula Forest Reserve have bike trails.

- b. A PowerPoint showing the ways NAH is announcing the request for input, location of posters, photos of the posters and survey questions, discussion of results received to date from survey and written testimony, bike classes, and the current trails allowing bikes was shown. DLNR is reaching out for community comments via social media, posting on DLNR and DOFAW calendars, notifying the Lt. Gov., and 21 posters asking for input have been placed on trails.
- c. Torrie summarized the community comments to date:
 - i. 81 comments
 - ii. 58 of these favored Class I E-bikes on all bike trails
 - iii. 7 disapproved of all E-bikes on forest trails
 - iv. 5 approved all E-bike classes on bike trails
 - v. 3 suggested more study needed before allowing E-bikes
 - vi. 6 simply approved E-bikes without mentioning where
 - vii. Those in favor gave reasons such as fun, health, disability, age, ease, sports evolve, environmentally ok
 - viii. Those who disapproved gave reasons such as safety, overuse, too fast, hard to regulate, stress on trails, peace
- d. David Brown – How will DLNR reach folks for comment who are currently not on trails?
- e. Tom Cannon – Feels the federal classes for E-bikes need more clarity. Suggests that if classes I, II and III have fat tires they should be allowed on bike trails.
- f. Jeff Bagshaw – discussed survey results - 67 completed the survey online, 4 emailed the survey and 3 mailed it in. Results:
 - i. Are Kahakapao and Kula Forest Reserve ok for E-bike users?
 - 1. Yes – 37; No – 31; Abstain – 1
 - ii. Which E-bike classes should be allowed:
 - 1. Class I – 38; Class II – 11; Class III – 11; None at all – 34
 - iii. What brings you to the trail?
 - 1. Really long answers which he has saved.
 - iv. Are there adequate trails to support hikers/bikers?

1. Yes – 41; No – 31; Abstain – 2
- v. Reason you do or do not use trails?
 1. Multiple answers like too busy, too far from home, dogs or bikes or horses on trails.
- vi. How often do you hike the trails?
 1. Long answers that he has saved.
- vii. What other trails do you hike or bike regularly?
 1. Long answers that he has saved.
- viii. What other suggestions do you have?
 1. Dog owners should pick up poop, do not like to hike with bikes, horses, E-bikes.

New Business:

1. Suggestions for new Na Ala Hele Trails: New lands acquired Kamehamenui Forest
2. Agenda items for next meeting: Same
3. Date of next meeting: 10/14/20.

Public Testimony on All Agenda Items, Public Comments – Open Forum: See above under discussion on RPs.

The following public comments are all related to Old Business, Item 3 –E-bikes:

Dave Krum – Works in bike industry and approves of E-bikes on trails. They do no more damage to trails than regular bikes.

David Nash – Member of Oahu NAH Council also working on E-bikes on trails. As a mountain biker, he encourages people to use E-bikes and tries to get users to work on the trails. He feels Class I is OK on bike trails. More users help keep trails clear.

Bali McNellis – Business owner in favor of Class I E-bikes on bike trails. Feels trail etiquette training is important. E-bikes are great for old and disabled.

Don Guzman – Supports Class I E-bikes with fat tires on bike trails. E-bikes allow him to ride with his 2 sons even with a knee injury. He questioned how enforcement would work and if it is possible to distinguish between E-bike classes easily. Suggested riders pre-register and get a license or sticker with their class number. He suggested any decision start as a pilot program.

John Alford – he is from Oahu and the author of Mountain Biking the Hawaiian Islands. He is a tour operator on Oahu and is in favor of Class I E-bikes especially helpful to older folks. He requested a coordinated statewide decision on E-bikes.

Moose Reichert – Bike shop owner said E-bikes are a great tool. 20% of U.S. bikes sold last year were E-bikes and a larger percentage in Europe. This review is a good idea to get a plan in place ahead of the curve. There will be lots of opportunities for trails with new land opening up.

Vince Newman – physical therapist biker/surfer. All 3 E-bike classes are the same danger. It is up to the individual to ride safely. Good for old and disabled and health. Fat tires are a great idea.

Cole Sulenta – It is not “if” but “when” E-bikes will be allowed. He liked the idea of registering each bike owner. He feels Class I is OK on bike trails, but we should roll this out slowly. Good chance right now during Covid while rider numbers are lower to have a trial. Need to regulate.

Kyle Paredes – Builds, repairs and races E-bikes and mountain bikes. E-bikes are great for older and disabled. Claims that riders who retool their E-bikes are not a problem because it will not change the speed the bike can go. Statewide rules are a good idea.

Kris Moniz – he is from Honolulu and a trail builder. He supports E-bikes but says signage and trail maintenance are key. Oahu needs more trails.

Rob Cole – He rides Kahakapao on E-bikes. It is not crowded, and any interactions are always positive. He rides in a social group for fun and safety. He supports trail etiquette training as many bikers don't slow down or pull over for hikers and horses. When you have to pull over, E-bikes help with starting up. Favors Class I E-bikes and possibly other classes.

Mike Walker – works in fire protection and favors Class I E-bikes on programmed trails.

Sue Guille – Moose and Sue are planning a clinic for trail etiquette for bikers and horses soon. She asked for a plan on moving forward on this discussion. Torrie had planned 3 public meetings for comment. So, at our October meeting we will take comments on E-bikes again and discuss our recommendations with the goal of having recommendations in place by our November meeting.

Adjournment: 3:10 pm