

KONA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

December 8, 2009

<u>Directors Present:</u>	Virginia Isbell	Greg Hendrickson	Rick Robinson
	Kawika Marquez		
<u>Directors Absent:</u>	Skip Cowell		
<u>Associate Directors Present:</u>	None		
<u>KSWCD Staff:</u>	Mary Robblee		
<u>NRCS Staff:</u>	None		
<u>RC&D</u>	Kawika Marquez		

Meeting called to order at 7:00 a.m. by Chair, Rick Robinson.

MSCU* (K. Marquez/V.Isbell) to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2009 meeting as circulated.

MSCU* (K. Marquez /G. Hendrickson) to approve Treasurer's Report - available upon request.

Beginning in March Altres estimates an increase of \$37.72/pay period. There are 26 pay periods each year.

1) Reports:

A. NRCS Report:

- a) No NRCS staffers available for the meeting. K. Nelson provided M. Robblee with a written report for the meeting. AMA, WHIP; EQIP application deadline is 12/11/09, FSA continuing to take applications for CREP 2010
- b) Denise Light is retiring on Dec. 31st after 19 years with NRCS.
- c) Patra Gerghich's position has gone through the panel process; interviews are to begin within a few weeks;
- d) Jeff Knowles is still in Washington DC -- scheduled to ship out to Afghanistan by the end of the year.
- e) Currently there are 19 EQIP applications.

B. HACD Report: M. Watson has advised that HACD will not be able to discuss the September Conference until its next board meeting.

C. NACD Report: Report has been tabled until S. Cowell is in attendance. The Southwest/Pacific Area Conference is scheduled for September 22-24, 2010.

D. Big Island RC&D Report:

- a) Council is offering support for September conference.
- b) Council met with Gene Kelly regarding Wind/Wing-Water/Wing Alternative Energy which is in the process of confirming a collaborative relationship with Guam and American Samoa. An LLC is being created and the Dept. of Ag is being brought into discussions to find sources of funding for the project. A Council member is meeting with Gene Kelly to discuss development of a prototype to power a water pump that will

include four other small farmers. Discussions with Lokahi Pacific on Maui to collaborate on funding for project.

c) K. Marquez will be attending the Leadership Conference in March. Meeting with NRCS Leadership, Dept of Ag, Secretary of Energy & Undersecretary of Labor and Dept. of Commerce. Board Members are encouraged to contact K. Marquez regarding Board Issues.

d) Two new voting seats have been added to the council that do not require SWCD association. The state of Hawaii receives less federal dollars than we should due to census responses.

e) RC&D has been in contact with Gene Nolin to help develop a community farm/garden program. The University of Nations has indicated they have a portion of land that they may be willing to provide for such a purpose.

E. Conservation Assistant Report: Available upon request.

F. Monthly Report to the County: Available upon request.

2) New Cooperator(s):

7-8-003:016 (11 acres): Coffee and mac nut producer who wants to develop hardwood tree (koa), produce and fruit on the parcel **MSCU* (K. Marquez/G. Hendrickson) to approve the new Cooperator Application.**

3) Conservation Plan(s):

TMK: 7-5-001:098 (5 acres) Practices in conservation cover, tree and shrub planting, windbreak establishment and pest management. There is no grubbing or grading planned on this parcel.

MSCU* (K. Marquez/G. Hendrickson) to approve the new Cooperator Application.

TMK: 7-7-007:047 (2.6 acres) A previously approved plan (August 2007) which did not include grading. The client now indicates a desire to incorporate a grading plan into the conservation plan. The Board requested M. Robblee to notify the cooperator that a full-size engineer's Grading Plan will be required for Board review, including a letter from the Engineer outlining the hydrology of the land and how the grading will impact the hydrology of the land. The Board will need an updated conservation plan and details of the cooperator's practices now installed and those to be installed.

TMK: 7-8-005:052 (8.5 acres) A previously approved plan (December 09). A community member stopped in to express concern over the completed grading of this parcel and the perimeter fence that has been installed. He was provided an opportunity to review the file and letter from the engineer discussing the hydrology of the parcel and the grading plan impact on the hydrology prior to approval by the Board. The concern was with the fencing in that the pigs that used to traverse the parcel would likely develop other trails.

4) Correspondence Review:

Available upon request.

5) Subdivision Reviews:

Available upon request. The Board submitted a letter to the Planning Department advising their lack of support for Subdivision Application SUB-09-000918 due to the fact that most of the parcel exists in a FEMA Zone "A" indicating that it has a 1% chance of being inundated with flood water each year. There is also a County

maintained sediment basin incorporated into one of parcels to be created by the subdivision.

- 6) **Pilot Project Update:** Participants are being advised to wait until the rainy season begins in the spring to purchase and get grass seed going for the conservation cover reimbursement. G. Nolin is noticing severe phosphorous, calcium, potassium, boron deficiencies, some iron deficiencies along with copper magnesium and zinc deficiencies in the soil he has tested. The soil tests, in the past, have tended to indicate the addition of nitrogen "as needed". G. Nolin's process prefers to bring the other nutrients into balance -- then determine how much, if any, nitrogen is needed.
- 7) **Kealakehe Dump update** DLNR responded to the Board's request for an Attorney General opinion regarding bringing suit against the county. DLNR advised the Board to go through the Dept. of Health. R. Robinson to follow up with another letter to DLNR expressing the Board frustration with the lack of movement on resolving the environmental hazards existing as a result of the dump. He will be sending this letter to the other Directors for review, edits and changes. G. Hendrickson advises to articulate that we were previously advised that we were required to go through DLNR if we desired to have issues brought before the Attorney General. Robinson also wants to send a letter to West Hawaii Today to note that all this development is going on which is important to grow our community but you can't have the central core be the dump and we can't continue to ignore the problem. K. Marquez had a meeting with Council Member Brenda Ford. She advised that she and Lono Tyson were submitting a proposal to the EPA for remediation. From his meeting he thinks B. Ford believes this funding will be provided without core studies or a feasibility study which per his experience is not something the EPA will do. Marquez also expressed frustration over what appears to be a denial of the hazards the dump presents to the community.
- 8) **Sept. 2010 Conference** **Site Selection:** The Conference Committee Chair, G. Hendrickson, recommended that the Board accept the quote provided by the Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort & Spa. They are offering Kama'aina rates. The Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort & Spa also offered seven (7) rooms at no cost for the two nights of the conference for directors from the financially depressed Pacific Territories as a way to alleviate some of their challenges in attending the conference.
MSCU* (G. Hendrickson/V. Isbell) to approve the Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort & Spa as the host site for the Conference.
- 9) **Pu`u Wa`awa`a Tour** Scheduled for January 9th. Admission \$100/participant, will include lunch, cost of an ad in West Hawai'i Today and provide an article in the newsletter. Assoc. Director Turner will allow us to use his advertising contract as a cost saving measure. The tour will be limited to 40 people.
- 10) **Meeting Adjourned:** Next Meeting January 12, 2009.

Virginia Isbell, Secretary

*MSCU – Moved, Seconded, Carried Unanimously