

**KONA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
May 13, 2008**

Directors Present: Fred Cowell Greg Hendrickson Virginia Isbell
Rick Robinson (late arrival)

Associate Directors Present: Bob Nelson Lionel Kutner

KSWCD Staff: Mary Robblee

NRCS Staff: Jeff Knowles Patra Vindondo

County Staff Nancy Pissichio

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. by Vice Chairman Greg Hendrickson

MSC (F. Cowell/G. Hendrickson) to approve the minutes, as circulated, of the April meeting.

MSC (V. Isbell/G. Hendrickson) to approve Treasurer's Report - available upon request.

1) Reports:

A. NRCS: Still taking signup for 2009 through June 15th. On 5/27 a local workgroup to review what USDA has been doing for the past five years to determine if the major resource concerns being addressed the past five years need revisions. Location of meeting, Kealakekua Field Office conference room from 9am-11am.

B. HACD Report: Annual conference update, 25 people currently signed up for either entire conference or one day. Checks being deposited in savings account. These checks are to cover costs, money that goes to HACD comes from the silent auction. Items are needed for silent auction.

C. Big Island RC& D: Kawika Marquez reports: RC&D zeroed out of agriculture budget. Conference call participation not permitted per the RC&D Bylaws. There is "niche" money available for projects that would be of interest to West Hawaii. It is a matter of how the proposal is written. Marquez would be happy to identify sources but could not write proposal for us. Specific money for a specific action. RC&D will be putting out an RFP (Request For Proposal) for issues related to agriculture. The RFP, if it has not been formerly distributed will be soon. RC&D also looking at resumes for a Project Manager position to manage the projects funded through this RFP. Next meeting 7/24 in Waimea. Marquez believes we would be in a good position to receive grant funding if all the Districts worked together as collaborators on a project. We must have a person on the Council to have a vote. The RFP will be posted within the NRCS office where the public could review it.

D. Conservation Assistant Report: Available upon request.

E. Earth Day Report: Erosion experiment successful, we demonstrated that conservation cover does mitigate run off, mulch does also but not as well. Worst case scenario for runoff is bare top soil. School age children told they could recreate experiment for science fair projects if desired.

F. Fundraising report: Everyone reported have a very good time. There were 25 paying participants and just over \$1500 was raised. Ideas for next year, a hiking tour, advertising through hotel concierges.

G. Monthly Report to the County: MSC (V. Isbell/F. Cowell) to accept the Monthly Report. Available upon request.

2) Conservation Plans:

A. Conservation plan for TMK 8-3-009:047. This land is almost 15 acres with 5 acres involved in this plan. Those 5 acres are an old over grown coffee farm. The current producer, Mr. Parker, wants to remove all over grown vegetation and plant predominantly coffee, avocados and dry land taro. The practices to be installed on this plan are conservation cover, mulching to replace and retain soil, pest management and the development of “wind rows” for the vegetation that is removed. **MSC (F. Cowell/V. Isbell) to approve the Conservation Plan.**

B. Conservation plan for TMK 8-3-008:019 KSBE Lease.. Land lost a lot of top soil during 11/28/07 rain event. Plan calls for conservation cover, St. Augustine Grass (quick grow) and mulching to be installed after new top soil is installed. Planting different varieties of taro. **MSC (F. Cowell/V. Isbell) to approve the Conservation Plan.**

4) New Cooperator(s):

There were no new cooperators for this meeting

5) Correspondence Review:

Correspondence Log available upon request.

6) Subdivision Reviews:

Copies available upon request.

7) Cooperator of the Year:

The Board of Directors has determined the Cooperator of the Year will be held on 8/2.

8) Soil & Water Sampling:

Due to the change in status of our marine waters, and because of our watershed initiative it would be in our interest to have some baseline soil & water quality information. West Hawai'i water is no longer “pristine”. The proposal calls for sampling the sediment from three different streams at three different elevations. The soil testing would be for Ph and Extractable Nutrients (Ca, Mg, P; K), total carbon and total nitrogen and for heavy metals including arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, iron, nickel, lead, selenium, vanadium and zinc. The total cost to test for all of these would be \$59/sample (need 3 tests for each). Need to get a benchmark now. Recommendations: Determine the streams and locations

where the sample would come from. Contact the Board of Water Supply and Department of Health to see if they would like to create a partnership in this collection of data. Make this a 5-year, or longer, range plan. With a long term study we may find out if the vog is impacting the soil that water seeps through and into the aquifer. This data would create a baseline level of knowledge. M. Robblee and J. Knowles to do additional research on which water courses, where within the watercourse and why those spots and will present this information to the board at the next district meeting.

7) **Kona Community Development Plan:**

Kenneth Melrose, chair of Kona Community Development Plan Steering Committee spoke to the Board regarding how the Kona Community Development Plan will affect agriculture and the Kona Soil and Water Conservation District specifically. The plan seeks to encourage a diverse and vibrant economy emphasizing agriculture and sustainable economies. Ecotourism with the use of ag lands but with parameters but not discouraged or eliminated. Farm worker dwellings on property where farm workers work, and for the farm management benefit those workers could work other farms as well. The Planning Commission will retain regulatory responsibility.

There is nothing in the plan affecting the SMA lines. The plan is intended to guide zoning changes. Vision was for Community Plans to implement the General Plan on a regional basis. Conscience efforts were made to not amend the General Plan. There is a policy in the document where the county becomes more involved in near shore water monitoring. This is something the District may want to partner on.

Another area of concern for the county is the rate of water use and implementing policy or education on conservation of fresh water through best management practices for irrigation under agriculture, urban and residential usage. This is another area where the District may be able to partner with the county on or make a contribution in the development of the best management practices.

Another policy in the document is to work on a watershed management plan, which would provide the District with another partnering opportunity. There is also going to be an environmental resource management mapping that could identify areas of open space that could be available to the public and maybe even link them through a trail system. The plan recommends the Department of Water Supply to create an "Ag Use" component in their water system. A water use development plan is being updated by the Department of Water Supply.

8) **Expiring Director Positions:**

Rick Robinson and Skip Cowell's elected terms are ending June 2008. Virginia Isbell's appointed term is expiring June 2008. R. Robinson has indicated he will be completing the election paperwork for another term. Virginia Isbell has advised that if the Board of Directors wants to appoint another individual she will step down. Robblee is to run a public notice in

the paper. Bill Parker advised the Board of Directors he would be happy to be appointed to Virginia's director position.

8) Announcements:

- a) Next Meeting of the KSWCD Board of Directors will be **June 10, 2008** – 7:00 a.m.
- b) HACD Annual Conference, June 18-20th, 2008

Virginia Isbell, Secretary