



Natural Resources Conservation Service

2019 Local Work Group Meeting Minutes

Kauai Soil and Water Conservation Districts in partnership with the USDA-NRCS
 Kauai Community College OCET Building, Room 106; September 26, 2019; 6:00 p.m

The Kauai Local Working Group (LWG) met on September 26, 2019 at the Kauai Community College Office of Continuing Education (OCET) Office in Room 106 in Lihue, HI at 6:00 p.m. The minutes were taken by Rebekah Magers, East and West Kauai Soil and Water Conservation Districts' (SWCD) District Assistant.

Present:

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Jerry Ornellas
Cooperative | East Kauai Water Users | 32. Phaison | P.S farm |
| 2. Laurie Ho | Kalepa Wu/KCFB | 33. Sompianig | Farmer |
| 3. Eric Hansen | Go Farm Hawaii | 34. Thanawat | Farmer |
| 4. Bailey Clay | Becks | 35. Bunlai | Farmer |
| 5. Arryl Kaneshiro | EKSWCD/Grove Farm | 36. Nophadon Seechacet | Farmer |
| 6. David Smith | WKSXCD | 37. Sarah Thompson | Farmer |
| 7. Richard Loero | WKSXCD | 38. Helen Raine | Pacific Birds JV |
| 8. Domingo Loero | WKSXCD | 39. River Young | Omao Lands |
| 9. Ueli Muller | B??? Farms | 40. Samantha Hughes | Farmers |
| 10. Anny Bruch | HFUU | 41. Adam Killermann | Koloa |
| 11. Carolyn Lum | GIRCD Inc | 42. Felicia Cowden | Kauai County Council |
| 12. Megan Talley Wonble | Omao Lands/Nalu Homi | 43. Wirat Yothachai | Lihue Farmer |
| 13. Will Pavao | Rancher | 44. Taworn Panyamee | Lihue Farmer |
| 14. Bill Fleming | Cattle | 45. Savannah Katulski | CTAHR |
| 15. Don Okuao | D&D Farm | 46. Camille Pakchong | Rainbow Roots Farm |
| 16. Melissa Fisher | TNC-KWA | 47. Joshua Brown-Clay | nothing related |
| 17. Sandi Kato-Klutke | ADC Chair | 48. Sakda Meephol | Farmer |
| 18. Emilie Wedekind-Balualua | HDOA | 49. Darren Tamekazu | Dept. of Health |
| 19. Ned Whitlock | Farmer | 50. Pi ? | None |
| 20. Robert Siemers | Cartographer | 51. Yuki Roiss | DOFAW/Water |
| 21. Paul Russell | Farmer | 52. Weeraphon Phokhee | Farmer |
| 22. Tiffani Keanini | KISC Natural Resouce Manager | 53. Lelan Nishek | KNL |
| 23. Blaise Boyle | Becks | 54. Paul Massey | Regenerations |
| 24. Miguel Chrisman | Farmer | 55. Michelle Clark | USFWS |
| 25. Justin Allen | Hemp Farmer | 56. Spencer Kashiwa | Conservation Field Tech - KRCP |
| 26. Don Heacock | Farmer/? | 57. Tony Brun | Farmer |
| 27. Umi Martin | Farmer | 58. Mark Bogner | Hartung |
| 28. Dirna Graybosh | Wd be Farmer | 59. Sheri Mann | DLNR |
| 29. Nakai'elua Villatora | Farmer | 60. Bryna Storch | Lanipo Farm |
| 30. Fletcher Parker | Farmer | 61. Brad Seymour | SR Hawaii/Irrigation |
| 31. Jeremy Campbell
Committee | Logger/GIRCD Forestry | 62. Rick Lhamon | Flower Farmer |
| | | 63. Treston Caberto-Raco | Palakiko Farm |
| | | 64. Yoshi L'Hote | Aina Hookupu o Kilauea |

65. Jesse Brown-Clay	Zero Waste Kauai	71. Genoa Starrs	NRCS Soil Conservationist
66. Emilie Kirk	CTAHR	72. John Nelson	HACD Planner
67. Jenni Scotti	SWCD Planner	73. Gary Ueunten	Dept. of Health
68. Rebekah Magers	SWCD District Assistant	74. Howard Greene	Chair of WK SWCD
69. Susan Kubo	NRCS Ass. Dir. of Partnerships	75. Ed Kawamura Jr.	Chair of EK SWCD
70. Jenna Dunn	NRCS District Conservationist		

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. A slide show presentation was projected in the front of the room for all attendees to see.

A. Housekeeping, Ground rules, & Expectations

1. Housekeeping: bathrooms, food, door prizes: Jenna went over where the bathrooms were, when food will be served and that everyone should hold onto their raffle tickets for prizes.
2. Ground rules: set and additions: Jenna went over the ground rules for the meeting and showed the group where they were posted on the wall.
3. Expectations: Jenna went over the expectations of the meeting – top resource concerns and priority issues, and funding allocations.

B. Introductions and Purpose

1. Kauai Soil and Water Conservation Districts introduction: Ed and Howard introduced themselves and explained what the Soil and Water Conservation Districts do and when meetings for each District are. Susan spoke briefly about how the SWCD started during the Dust Bowl in the 1930s.
2. United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) introduction: Jenna gave an introduction of who NRCS is, what they do and how they are not regulatory.
3. USDA-NRCS Programs introduction: Susan spoke briefly on some programs that NRCS has available.
4. Purpose of meeting: Jenna went over what the purpose of the LWG meeting was.

C. Review Resource Data

1. Past NRCS fiscal year funds on Kauai: Jenna went through the list of NRCS resource concerns and showed the attendees how the overarching topics were taped up on the wall.
2. Resource data and maps: Jenna and Susan went through the Kauai resource maps and Farm Bill data from NRCS. The data included:
 - i. 2014 Farm Bill summary for Kauai by resource concern categories (pie chart)
 - ii. 2014 Farm Bill summary for Kauai by resource concern categories (percentages)
 - iii. Resource concerns summary for Kauai by count
 - iv. Resource concerns summary for Kauai by dollars
 - v. Resource concerns summary for Kauai by acres
 - vi. Top practices for Kauai by count
 - vii. Farm Bill 2014 – Value of practices installed on Kauai
 - viii. Kauai crop summary – UH Hilo and DOA
 - ix. 100 year floodplain map
 - x. Hydric Soils map
 - xi. 303D Listed Watersheds Map
 - xii. Elevation map
 - xiii. Highly erodible land map

- xiv. HUC 12 watersheds map
 - xv. US Fish and Wildlife service wetlands inventory map
 - xvi. Annual precipitation map
 - xvii. ALISH land map
 - xviii. Large landowners of Kauai map
 - xix. Hawaiian Islands Kauai priority landscapes – courtesy of USFWS
 - 1. Michelle Clark explained the importance of the map
3. There was a quick break before beginning the break out exercise.

D. Identify and prioritize resource concerns/priority issues (RC/PI)

1. Group break-out session for prioritization exercise: Jenna told the attendees to think about priority issues and resource concerns individually before beginning the exercise.
2. There was a question about how the data will be used. Susan explained that the state had an algorithm. Jenna said that it would help determine funding and outreach priorities.
3. Attendees formed pairs and then small groups to discuss their ideas.
4. The small groups came back together to share their ideas to the whole group. Jenna and Genoa wrote each idea onto the large easel and Jenni and Gary helped to put the ideas under the appropriate resource concerns or priority issues heading on the wall. Some ideas that were similar to existing ideas were added or grouped together on the wall. Any ideas that fell outside of the resource concern headings was written up on the Parking Lot list by Rebekah.
5. The group had been given pink sticky notes at the beginning of the meeting. After all ideas were up on the wall they used the pink stickys to vote for their top 3 resource concerns or priority issues. Jenna let them know that they could vote more than once for a topic.
6. Genoa and Jenni tallied all of the votes on the wall while the group took a dinner break.
7. The group identified the following as the top resource concerns:
 - i. Soil health – crop and grazing
 - ii. Water supply – limitations/issues, clogged upstream ditches, ditch/water system management, piping ditches
 - iii. Water Quality Degradation - sediment, produce washing pollution, organic, nonorganic
 - iv. Invasives on Agland that affect aquatic and terrestrial
 - v. Livestock - inadequate feed and forage
8. The group identified the following as the top priority issues:
 - i. Support for new farmers
 - ii. Public perception of ag
 - iii. Lack of soil conservation plans
9. Susan categorized the top resource concerns to:
 - i. Invasives on agland
 - ii. Soil health
 - iii. Water supply limitation

- iv. Water quality
- v. Livestock

E. Solutions and actions for top RC/PI

1. Group break-out session for solutions and actions to address RC/PI: The whole group broke out into five groups, each addressing a specific resource concern. The groups brainstormed actions/solutions for the group's topic. The groups and their ideas discussed were as follows:
 - i. Invasives on agland
 1. Agland loss to housing
 2. Pastureland weeds
 3. Albizia on all land uses
 4. Invasives in watershed – affects plants and rangeland
 5. Water quality
 6. Ditch maintenance
 7. Parrots/pigs – pastureland and forests
 8. Out compete invasives
 - ii. Soil health
 1. Amendment/fertilizer Hui to cut shipping costs
 2. NRCS cost share programs to help with amendments?
 3. Bioenergy/Green Energy by-products – Can they be used? Where is it going?
 4. Build cover crop interest – demonstration farms, access to equipment (roller crimper), small machinery
 5. County of Kauai green waste – can it be used for mulch? Decentralize pick up stations, community compost
 - iii. Water supply limitation
 1. Small reservoirs – retention “how-to”
 2. Appropriate technology to apply water
 3. Use of tailwater
 4. Supply system maintenance
 5. Sediment basins
 6. RCPP – needed island wide
 - iv. Water quality
 1. Irrigation water quality – sediment, bacteria, FSMA
 2. Ground water quality irrigation
 3. Water sediment – run off control and mediation, riparian zone habitat, design and information, erosion control
 4. Testing of water and soil – ID problems
 5. Keeping in stream water quality high for native aquatic species and farmers downstream
 6. Treatment – UV/ozone/filtration
 - v. Livestock

1. Funding allocation – 100%
2. Marketing, economic, feasibility – workshops
3. Certified kitchens, slaughter facilities
4. Help with fencing, cross-fencing
5. Over/under grazing
6. Unwanted plants/weeds invading pastures/paddocks
7. Water storage for irrigation during drought
8. Beginning youth education in livestock (K-12)
9. Restoration in corrals/holding pens
10. Establishment of water source, streams, rivers, upkeep of ditches
11. Allocation to remove invasives (co-op)
12. Money for shredding tree tops (forage for animals)
13. Cleaning/clearing brush (100% cost share)
14. Forage restoration/reseeding
15. Low/lack of water for ag farms
16. Lack of and need for pig farms
17. Cost share – keeping ag alive on Kauai
18. Labor included into fence cost sharing

F. Local funding allocation, summary and parked items

1. Group recommends funding allocation (%) for RC/PI: The group was not able to discuss funding allocations together but some groups suggested allocations during their solutions/actions break out session.
2. Summary/report of meeting, future meeting?: Not addressed at this meeting because of time constraints.
3. Parking lot items addressed: The group did not have time to go over each item that was put into the parking lot. The items will be emailed out to outside organizations and partner agencies for feedback. A collective list will be given with the meeting summary to all attendees and made public.
4. Door prizes: prizes were raffled off for attendees still present.

G. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.