

# EAST KAUA'I SWCD MONTHLY MEETING

**East Kauai**  
Soil & Water Conservation District



DATE: Monday, August 12, 2019  
TIME: 2:00 PM  
LOCATION: State Department of Health Conference Room, 3040 Umi St., Lihu'e

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## AGENDA

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- I. **ROLL CALL/CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **REVIEW OF AGENDA** (Additions/Deletions/Changes)
- III. **REVIEW/ACCEPT MINUTES:** 7/8/19
- IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** 8/12/19 – Leonard
- V. **CORRESPONDENCE**
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. NRCS Report – Jenna Dunn, District Conservationist
  - B. Conservation Specialist Report– Jenni Scotti & John Nelson
- VII. **REVIEW NEW COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS & CONSERVATION PLANS**
- VIII. **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
  - A. Garden Island RC&D (in correspondence file)
  - B. Grading Ordinance – Paul
- IX. **UNIFINISHED BUSINESS:**
  - A. Ted Kornecki, USDA
  - B. Ag Summer Series & Future Workshops
- X. **OTHER BUSINESS:**
  - A. OED Grant
  - B. Local Working Group (LWG) – September
  - C. Rotating Chair
  - D. Annual Work Plan – Leonard
  - E. Cooperator of the Year 2019
  - F. Water Conservationist of the Year 2019
- XI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS**
  - A. OED Grant Deadline – 8/15
  - B. Kauai Farm Fair – 8/15-8/18
    - a. Rainfall Infiltration Training & Farm Fair Talking Points – Wednesday, 8/14 TBA
  - C. Invasive Species Conference – 8/22-8/23
  - D. Ag Summer Series – Agroforestry: Diversifying Your Farm with Trees – 8/22 TBA
  - E. Annual Picnic – 9/14 at Niumalu Park at 3PM
  - F. Make a Splash and Project WET – 9/20
- XII. **ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, September 9, 2019 2:00PM at Dept. of Health Conference Room**

INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING SPECIAL ASSISTANCE OR AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES (e.g., sign language interpreter, wheel chair accessibility, or parking designated for the disabled) AT THE DISTRICT SWCD MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT STAFF AT LEAST 72-HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT (808) 245-9014 +3 SO THAT ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE.



The meeting was opened at 2:10 pm at the State DOH Conference Room in Lihue.

- I. **PRESENT: Directors:** Ed Kawamura, Jr., (Presiding); Leonard Vierra; Arryl Kaneshiro (late), Eric Hansen  
**Associate Directors:** Darren Tamekazu, Jerry Ornellas, Brad Seymour  
**Others:** Jenna Dunn, District Conservationist; Jenni Scotti, Conservation Specialist; John Nelson, Conservation Specialist; Rebekah Magers, District Assistant
- II. **REVIEW OF AGENDA: (ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES):** Ed wanted to add a closed session meeting for the Board of Directors at the end of the normal public meeting session. The closed session meeting will have to be added to September's meeting agenda with a 2/3 vote at the beginning of the meeting.
- III. **MINUTES:** Ed made a motion to approve July's meeting minutes, Leonard second. The vote was unanimously accepted.
- IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Leonard did not have a treasurer's report at the time of the meeting.
- V. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Ed distributed the correspondence folder.
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **NRCS Report:** Jenna Dunn gave her report for August:  
To: East Kauai SWCD Board of Directors  
From: Jenna Dunn, Lihue Field Office, District Conservationist  
Date: August 12, 2019  
RE: Lihue Field Office Monthly Report for July/Aug 2019
    1. **General**
      - a. Maui DC- Jill Ficke-Beaton has been selected to permanently fill the position.
      - b. American Samoa DC- To be announced. Brandon Todd has assumed the role of Acting DC.
      - c. Oahu DC- Brandon Todd has accepted a position in Utah and will be 9/15/19. No word on who will act in the interim.
      - d. State Agronomist- No word on who will be acting next or when position will be filled.
      - e. Assistant Director of Technology- Matt Walker from Tennessee is Acting ADT. No word on when the position will be advertised.
      - f. Assistant Director for Management and Strategy- Edgar Lopez has been selected for the position and started on 8/18/19.
    2. **Farm Bill Programs**
      - a. EQIP FY19-
        - i. Kauai had 5 additional applications selected for per-approval totaling approximately \$159,948 in additional funds. This will bring the Kauai FY 19 total to around \$627,052.00
      - b. CSP FY19
        - i. 3 eligible. Pre-approval selections will take place this week.
    3. **Local work group**
      - a. September 19 @ KCC. 6-7:30 approx.
      - b. Prioritize funding for NRCS FY20 funds
      - c. Need to get ag producers to come in
      - d. Other details (resource maps, facilitator, door prizes, food, etc.)

Jenna emphasized the importance of the Local Work Group (LWG) meeting and her concern for past participants not being farmers or producers that apply for NRCS programs. It was agreed that a good time for the meeting would be 6:00pm at Kauai Community College. Invitations and resource maps will be sent out to a list of attendees. Food and door prizes were also suggested to entice attendees. The Local Work Group meetings are typically District led but Jenna will help lead this year since it has been a couple years since the last Local Work Group meeting. Susan Kubo from NRCS partnerships will be the facilitator for the meeting. The Districts will be responsible for the future Local Work Group meetings. Ed suggested we ask for donations and get gift cards for prizes. Eric suggested more ag related prizes like T-tape and irrigation materials. After the letters are mailed the office and Directors will need to make phone calls as reminders 1 week prior to the meeting. Leonard proposed making a \$500 donation to support the meeting and see if the West Kauai SWCD would match their funds. Brad will share the meeting with the County Council. Eric mentioned that the LWG meeting date is also the second to last day for the GoFarm program so it would be convenient to bring 7-8 new farmers to the meeting. Arryl came in during the conversation of the LWG meeting. There was a discussion about how to best support Thai farmers who would like to give input at the meeting. Emilie Kirk from CTAHR will be asked to help translate for the Thai farmers. Leonard made clear that funds used for the meeting would come from the County funds and approval from both Districts would be necessary. Arryl made a motion to use \$500 of County funds for food and door prizes for the LWG meeting. Leonard second. The vote was unanimously accepted. Rebekah will communicate with the West Kauai SWCD and get a vote about using \$500 of County funds.

#### **B. Conservation Specialist Reports:**

1. Jenni Scotti gave her report for 8/12/19:
  - Trainings / Meetings / Learning
    - o NRCS Quality Assurance Reviews
      - Site visits throughout the week
  - Plans / field visits
    - o Planning
      - Site visits with 23 clients
      - Planning and follow-up with 32 clients
      - Worked on 4 practice completion check-outs
      - Completed 2 plans and mostly finished 1 plan
    - o NRCS Engineer on island
      - The whole office met with 5 clients in office and went to 17 sites for 2019 and 2020 contracts/applicants throughout the week
  - Outreach
    - o Summer Outreach Series
      - Agroforestry: Diversify your farm with trees – August 22<sup>nd</sup>
      - Soil Health – September 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>
        - 3 days, Students, Farms, Livestock
    - o Farm Fair this weekend
      - Soil Health Demonstrations!
    - o POSTER CONTEST
      - Letters sent out first week of August
      - Deadline is September 23<sup>rd</sup>
      - Theme – Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper
    - o CAP CONTEST (LAND JUDGING CONTEST)

- 1-2 Directors are needed to help
  - Directors that are interested in helping should contact Jenni
  - Letters sent out first week of August
  - Teacher training August 29<sup>th</sup> at KCC
  - Soils Day for High School students September 11<sup>th</sup>
  - CAP contest October 11<sup>th</sup>
  - State Contest in Molokai
- Misc/News/upcoming events/future projects/goals
    - o Working on CTA and new clients
    - o Finishing with CSP applicant for 2019
    - o Outreach
2. John Nelson gave his report for 8/12/19:
- Obtaining signatures for completion of projects for payment
  - Following through with my other clients and their projects
  - Completing my first Conservation Stewardship Program sign-up
  - Continue to work with my clients and their projects
  - Confirmed bootcamp in Lincoln, Nebraska in October
  - Spearheading and continuing "FEDS FEED FAMILIES" outreach
  - Kauai Fair outreach Aug 15<sup>th</sup>-Aug 17<sup>th</sup>

## **VII. REVIEW & APPROVAL OF CONSERVATION PLANS & COOPERATOR AGREEMENTS:**

### **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Garden Island RC&D Report:** None. Their meeting was postponed until September.
- B. Grading Ordinance:** None

### **IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. Ted Kornecki, USDA:** Rebekah gave a brief budget for bringing Ted Kornecki to Kauai. Dr. Kornecki is available Nov. 3-30. Ed brought up a Young Brothers' 30-day return policy that could be used for transporting the equipment. The budget came out to be about \$2000, on the high end, for Dr. Kornecki's flight, hotel, food, and equipment. Leonard made a comment that from the Youtube videos the equipment looked like it was small walk behind equipment. He asked how many or the percentage of clients that the equipment would benefit. Jenni let him know there are several beginning and new farmers. The equipment is coming from HARC on Oahu. Darren asked if HARC could do the demonstration instead of flying over Dr. Kornecki. Rebekah will contact Jayme from HARC to see if she would be available to come to Kauai and do the demonstration with Dr. Kornecki's equipment. The Districts feel comfortable with covering about \$600-700 for the workshop. Eric mentioned a tool library that the Farmers Union is trying to create to loan out equipment.
- B. Ag Summer Series & Future Workshops:** Rebekah presented the idea of recording workshops (audio and/or visual) for future use to save on repeating workshops and travel expenses for experts. The use of Hoike Kauai Community Television equipment was brought up to use, but Eric said there may be a long training process before anyone can rent. He thought a good way to save and share the videos could be by creating a YouTube channel. Different types of equipment were discussed: phone, store bought video camera, renting equipment from Hoike, or using just an audio recorder with PowerPoint presentations. Ed said a camera could be bought if necessary but bringing the topic up to the West Kauai SWCD would be the next step. Leonard thought it would be a good idea to make an archive on the website. It will be added to the agenda for next month.

**X. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- A. OED Grant:** It was decided that the Districts defer the OED grant for Agribusiness workshops with GoFarm as the deadline is approaching on 8/15. Arryl brought up the fact that OED is hiring an Ag Specialist that will be focusing on Agribusiness. He suggested the Districts ask the OED about what they are doing for farmers and ag business innovation.
- B. Local Work Group (LWG) - September:** Much of the LWG topic was covered during Jenna's report.
- C. Rotating Chair:** Some of the Directors were interested in the rotating chair idea so the Districts won't become, as Ed said, "stale". It will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- D. Annual Work Plan:** Leonard has not had access to this computer. He will bring to the next meeting.
- E. Cooperator of the Year 2019:** The Cooperator of the Year is not needed until November or December.
- F. Water Conservationist of the Year 2019:** We will need to finalize the Water Conservationist of the Year 2019 by the September meeting for the article and invitation to our annual dinner.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

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There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm, written by Rebekah Magers, District Assistant.