

# KONA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 8, 2010

**Directors Present:** Greg Hendrickson Rick Robinson Virginia Isbell  
Kawika Marquez Skip Cowell

**Associate Directors Present:** Joachim Oster

**KSWCD Staff:** Mary Robblee

**NRCS Staff:** Jessica Sternfels

**RC&D** Joachim Oster; Kawika Marquez

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

**MSCU\* (K. Marquez/G. Hendrickson) to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2009 meeting as circulated.**

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

1) **Reports:**

**A. NRCS Report:**

- a) Currently taking applications for 2011 ranking cycle for EQIP and WHIP
- b) Conservation Security Program (CSP) deadline extended to 6/25. Historically underserved farmers will get a minimum of \$1000/year. For those that are successful applicants to this program initial payments are not likely until sometime late 2011. Maximum total pay-out for the program is \$40K.
- c) More NRCS outreach is anticipated for the year. Director Hendrickson recommended an informational clinic to assist filling out applications.

**B. HACD Report:**

- a) Director Marquez is attending the entire conference. M. Robblee attending on Friday for conservation planning training.

**C. NACD Report:** No report provided.

**D. Big Island RC&D Report:**

- a) Forty Proposals submitted for HADP grants. It appears this may be the last year these monies will be available
- b) Next meeting will address some issues between NRCS and RC&D. NRCS is providing RC&D with 25K to hire a part-time person and grant-writer. This is a partnership agreement to combine efforts, reduce duplication and concentrate on the most important issues.
- c) RC&D had a short telephone conference with Lokahi Pacific in an effort to obtain the expertise of that organization to train RC&D staff on the intricacies of administering over 500 small business loans to ranchers, farmers and rural development organizations.
- d) RC&D will be the umbrella organization for a 100K grant for a Hilo Watershed Education Program involving a Charter School in the area.
- e) Co-Sponsored a very successful annual PowWow, that was held in Hilo, Memorial Day weekend
- f) RC&D is planning to establish its own website separate from NRCS.
- g) RC&D is recommending that the six SWCDs on the Big Island collaborate on developing a grant proposal that would benefit them all.

**E. Conservation Assistant Report:** Report available upon request.

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

- 2) **New Cooperator(s):** There are no new cooperators at this time.
- 3) **Correspondence Review:** Available upon request.
- 4) **Kealakehe Dump update:** KSWCD received a letter from Bobby Command, Executive Assistant to the Mayor, regarding our concerns about the dump. It should be noted that his letter refers to it as a **landfill** when it is clearly not lined, continues to burn underground and has toxic waste from prior years of “dumping”.
- 5) **Sept. 2010 Conference:** Waiting for the online registration website to be created by the Kohala Center. Draft agenda complete. Robblee to create an activities list for the “Auxiliary” members of NACD (spouses, significant others). There may be some changes in the Kealakekua Heritage Ranch Tour as there are ongoing negotiations for the sale of a portion of the ranch lands.
- 6) **Laptop Computer Purchase:** Robblee requested board authorization to purchase a NRCS-approved laptop computer so that we can expand our capacity. This could also accommodate an office volunteer. The price budgeted is \$1500. **MSCU\* (S. Cowell/V. Isbell) to approve the purchase of a NRCS-approved laptop.**
- 7) **Volunteer Qualifications:** Robblee to develop volunteer qualification criteria for Board approval.
- 8) **Hawaii Grazing Land Conservation Initiative:** A request for financial assistance was received for the purchase of bumper stickers. No Board approval.
- 9) **Meeting Adjourned:** Next Meeting July 13, 2010

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Virginia Isbell, Secretary

\*MSCU – Moved, Seconded, Carried Unanimously