

KONA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 17, 2019

Directors Present: Greg Hendrickson, Jeff Knowles, Tom Greenwell, Pepe Miranda

Associate Directors:

KSWCD Staff: Mary Robblee

NRCS Staff: Jessica Schmelz;

Guests: Barbara Anderson

MSCU* (P. Miranda/J. Knowles) Minutes for the December 20, 2018 meeting approved with noted changes

1. Reports:

A. Treasury Report: MSCU* J. Knowles/T. Greenwell

Employee Compensation: In the November meeting the board approved a bonus for M. Robblee. Being on the agenda for the January meeting is to ratify 1A from the November minutes and the board's approval for an employee bonus.

B. NRCS Report: NRCS is one of the few federal agencies open during the shutdown with staff getting paid. This should last one to two more pay periods. Once the government is open hiring will begin, NRCS will post over 400 jobs nationwide when the shutdown is done. Currently there are no changes in deadlines anticipated but because the Farm Service Agency is not working it is expected that there will be delays in getting their work done whenever it is they return to work. Many applicants to do not even farm and track number yet. Land control has changed, all someone has to do is say they have land control. NRCS does not have to ask for paperwork regarding signatory authority with entities. There is a new payment limitation, but it is not known at this time. Two trainings coming up, Two Line Spittle Bug Pasture Walk and Soils training. The Pasture Walk is over Wall Ranch land and we are meeting at Extension Service at 9:30. Seventy-two total applications, 2 are Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) Program applications. Feb. 15th deadline for EQIP Spittlebug Initiative and 3/15 for eligibility.

C. NACD/HACD Report: No report Available.

D. BIRC&D Report: No Report Available

E. Monthly & Conservation Assistant's Report: Robblee finished up quarterly report to the county, published 2nd newsletter for the fiscal year. We have a new armored scale pest identified. It was discovered on a coffee farm in Captain Cook on tropic lalo. Other host grasses are St. Augustine and Bahia grass. Robblee to help survey the parcel about the farm with the pest. What the affect farmer has done is burned (using a "flame thrower"). State DOA has been on site and discussed pesticide use with the land owner. Applaud is the recommended pesticide but because of the armor nature of this scale it will take multiple application. This is the first time this species of scale has been identified in the state. The producer will apply Round-up to kill the rest of his grass and eliminate the food supply. Robblee also working on a conservation plan for land down south (just south of Papa Bay Rd.) what will be a 100 acre coffee farm on a 200 acre parcel. Three other site visits done during this reporting period as well.

F. New Cooperators: None for this period


G. Subdivision Reviews: CON-18-000388; SUB-18-001867; SUB-18-001868, none with water courses.

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2. **Old Business:** Long range work plan, need a usable format with focus points representing categories. We could create something to refer to in order to stay on track. Per Knowles we can apply for grants to do the work related to our focus points. Knowles will not be available for our February meeting.
3. **Cooperator of the Year:** Robblee nominate Earthly Delights Farm, Schmelz nominates Cheryl Carden, also a joint nomination of Don Davis and John Koontz. Tour to be scheduled at our March meeting.
4. **New Business:** Nonc.


Secretary _____ Date 2/21/19

*MSCU – Moved, Seconded, Carried Unanimously