

KONA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

December 20, 2018

Directors Present: Greg Hendrickson, Jeff Knowles, Tom Greenwell, Rick Robinson

Associate Directors:

KSWCD Staff: Mary Robblee

NRCS Staff: Jessica Schmelz;

Guests:

MSCU* (J. Knowles/ T. Greenwell) Minutes for the November 15, 2018 meeting approved with noted changes. *P. Miranda motions for a resolution whereby the Kona SWCD is to apply for RCPP (Regional Conservation Planning Program) as a sponsoring organization for Kealakekua Bay with NRCS planning assistance.* **MSCU* (P. Miranda /J. Knowles)**

1. Reports:

- A. **Treasury Report:** **MSCU* (T. Greenwell /J. Knowles)**
- B. **NRCS Report:** Approximately 24 applications for assistance with livestock, approximately 24 applications for assistance with forestry and about 17 applications for assistance with crop land. This year we have the Spittle Bug Initiative. The Spittle Bug is a pest on ranch land and destroying kikuyu and pangola grass pastures and paddocks though Kikuyu is their preference. The initiative includes assistance with pasture/hay planting, herbaceous weed control & prescribed grazing. Mulato grass is thought to not host spittle bug. Spittle bug takes out above ground growth as well as the root systems. The results of this pest include no available forage for livestock but also erosion and additional invasive species concerns. Currently spittle bug is only in N. and S. Kona. No Farm Bill info yet. Monday, Dec. 24th is a holiday for state. A DC was hired for Waimea though J. Sternfels does not know who that person is yet. There was someone hired for the Maui office, but they changed their mind. Tony Ingersoll is carrying three roles, Water Quality Specialist, Agronomist and Cultural Resource Specialist.
- C. **NACD/HACD Report:** Discussing HACD conference call, M. Robblee has not been to boot camp. M. Robblee does not present information to the State Historic Preservation Office in the same manner as other district planners. Knowles asks if NRCS signs off on district plans, no they do not.
- D. **BIRC&D Report:** No Report Available
- E. **Monthly & Conservation Assistant's Report:** One of our cooperators has scale, a bad case of scale, on his tropic lalo. Samples were sent to the State Dept of Ag and this is a new scale pest for the state (there are thousands of scale species worldwide but this is a new one for Hawaii.) Robblee thinks district patch of tropic lalo is affected, she will start an insecticide program using dish detergent, advised to Dawn, not Palmolive.
- F. **New Cooperators:**
 - TMK: 8-8-016:034, 9.16 ac, Macadamia Nut and Avocado most plentiful crop on this parcel. It was left unmanaged for several years (4) and the new owner is slowing working the farm out of the weeds. They have even had an avocado harvest and sold it. At this point they want to bring the farm back then make decisions regarding crops, what to keep, what to add, what to get rid of. There is also banana, papaya, pineapple and citrus crops on this land.
 - TMK: 8-1-009:020, 5.1 acre coffee farm with a new owner who wants to continue with the coffee. Seeking local soil knowledge.

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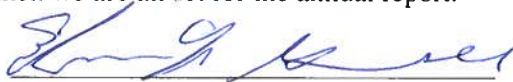
TMK: 7-8-010:016, a 6.22 acre macadamia nut and coffee farm. They grow other orchard crops, citrus, papaya, avocado, etc. They want to continue with that but with improved soil.


TMKs: 8-9-001:033 (7.8ac) & 017 (15.86 ac) Currently they have forest with pasture and coffee with pasture, they want to improve & expand the coffee, keep the forest and establish more fruit trees in the pasture, though they want to keep some pasture.

MSCU* (R. Robinson/J. Knowles)

G. Subdivision Reviews: CON-18-000382, SUB-18-001855; 001856.
SUB-18-001856 has water courses on either side of it.

2. **Old Business:** Long range work plan: What do we want to see different 5 years from now? J. Knowles would like to see a more financially stable district. He would also like to see a better educated public. We should continue what we are already doing like support NRCS programs. G. Hendrickson see being part of RCPP would be beneficial and help us develop a template for watershed level assistance. Need greater connectivity between private landowners. Knowles to start an email chain sharing thoughts on a five-year plan that can be discussed at the next meeting. T. Greenwell sees educating people on the proper use and application of herbicide.
3. **New Business:** Cooperator of the Year: Robblee nominates Earthly Delights Farm. NRCS has been notified that the district is looking for nominees. Have the tour in March, decision in April, picnic in May then we are all set for the annual report.


Secretary


Date

*MSCU – Moved, Seconded, Carried Unanimously