

# KONA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 16, 2019

**Directors Present:** Pepe Miranda (via conference call), Jeff Knowles, Greg Hendrickson, Rick Robinson

**Associate Directors:** Barbara Anderson

**KSWCD Staff:** Mary Robblee

**NRCS Staff:** Jessica Schmelz; Alex Beaton

**Guests:**

### MSCU\* (J. Knowles/P. Miranda) Minutes for the April 21, 2019 meeting

#### 1. Reports:

**A. Treasury Report: MSCU\* (J. Knowles/R. Robinson)**

**B. NRCS Report:** So far 13 contracts, out of approximately 60, have been funded. Additional funds for 21 more have been requested. A new Cultural Resource Specialist should be on board in the couple of weeks, being officed in Honolulu. J. Schmelz is the Training Chair for NRCS/PIA. PIA is hiring a consultant to assist in developing a strategic plan for the future. There will be some RFPs in the future related to controlling feral swine. Another change related to feral swine, NRCS will begin providing financial assistance for trapping and there will be RFPs in the future.

**C. Big Island RC&D:** The reprint of our natural resource booklet for Kona is being reprinted.

**D. HACD/NACD:** J. Knowles and his wife; R. Robinson are going to the HACD conference. Registration is \$260/person. Knowles to reimburse the district for his wife's costs.

**E. Monthly and Conservation Assistant Reports:** Newsletter was distributed, did not participate in the Saturday evening event at Lanihou Plaza. Multiple site visits. Nomination papers provided directors whose terms are ending this June.

**F. New Cooperators**

a. TMK: 7-8-016:012, a 9.3-acre coffee/mac nut farm

b. TMK: 8-9-007:017, 3 acre parcel of mixed ag production. Wants to improve soil health.

c. TMK: 7-9-009:007, a 7.25 acre parcel of mixed ag production. Wants to get control over grasses.

d. TMK: 8-6-007:043, a 26 acre parcel with 1 acre currently in coffee. Owner wants to expand the coffee. There is also a great framework for forestry work.

e. TMK: 8-3-008:034, a 6.5 acre parcel producing mostly coffee and mac nut, new lease, will be organic, looking for soil and weed control tips, showed him where he had tropic lalo on the farm.

f. TMK: 8-2-014:040, a 4.5 acre parcel with mixed ag production. The land had been left unmanaged for some time so the new owners are still discovering new crops. Also provided info on composting.

MSCU\* (J. Knowles/R. Robinson) to approve these cooperators.

#### 2. Conservation Plans:

**A. TMK: 8-1-021:040:** a five acre coffee/mac nut operation, will be doing mulching and cover cropping.

**B. TMK: 7-4-006:003:** a 10 acre ranch, runs horses on the property, uses 6 acres for grazing. The plan calls for catchment, and a pipeline to troughs to resolve some ongoing erosion issues caused by the animals trailing. Brush management with a skid steerer with follow up treatments.

**C. TMK: 7-6-001:003:** a 300 parcel unmanaged poorly grazed, bulldozed a number of years ago and all that was done was to push guava. Now there is heavy guava and due to it being poorly managed there is a lot of weeds and a great variety of weeds. There will be a stock water system developed and cross

# KONA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 16, 2019

fencing installed. There will be some forage plantings and brush management going to be done. This parcel is in the middle of spittlebug lands.

**MSCU\* (R. Robinson/J. Knowles) to approve these conservation plans.**

- a. Discussion around spittlebug, ranchers who have been flash grazing are seeing fewer numbers of spittlebug so that is looking promising. Discussion also around seeding, and there is a point were using a helicopter to seed is cost effective, but it does require hundreds of acres to be seeded.

### 3. Old Business:

Long Range Work Plan: Knowles advises Council Members Eoff and David would like to see a one page right up for each resource concern. Robblee to provide photos to go with text. Robblee also to create a Kona SWCD Account on Google and locate the draft long-range work plan there so that all directors can have access to and be able to make their own edits and suggestions. R. Robinson to discuss social media pros and cons with PR firm working for Kona Coffee Festival.

RCCP application on hold until NRCS finishes revisions to the program.

Cooperator of the Year update: Picnic to be later in the summer, one of the award winners is in Alaska for the summer. The signs have been ordered.

### 4. New Business:

NRCS Cooperative Agreement: Robblee distributed a budget for a planner to be hired for a three period. G. Hendrickson wants to work toward two planner positions, one that would specialize in ranch/pasture land use and one who would specialize in forestry. This is something else Robblee is to put on the Google account so that everyone can work on it.

**MSCU\* (R. Robinson/J. Knowles) to approve Barbara Anderson as an Associate Diretor.**

  
Secretary

8/15/19  
Date

\*MSCU – Moved, Secoded, Carried Unanimously