



P.O. BOX 328 KĪLAUEA, KAUAʻI, HAWAII 96754

**MEETING MINUTES
MAY 4, 2021
VIA ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING (DUE TO COVID-19)**

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Zoom Meeting

KNA Directors Present: Yoshito L'Hote, Beryl Blaich, Jeremy Burns, Gary Pacheco, Bill Chase, Stephenie Brown, Thomas Daubert, ~~Emily Dunn~~, Mike Latif, Mike Lyons, Charlie Martin, ~~Don McConnell~~, Ron Paul, Sonrisa Stepath

Community Attendance: 12+ including Water Department representatives Mark Knoff (Manager and Chief Engineer) and Michael Hinazumi (Director of Engineering Department).

Call to Order: Vice President Beryl Blaich called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. There is a quorum.

COMMITTEE / COMMUNITY REPORTS:

Planning Committee: Ron Paul reported the County is still in negotiation on two land purchases with Hay and Bertsch areas. Total may be about 50 acres.

Finance Committee: Gary "Mr P" Pacheco reported we have \$6,250.74 in our bank account. No checks from Maui Circular yet, he will follow up.

Beautification Committee: No report.

Communications Committee: Thomas Daubert reported that while we are unable to post images to our website we can still transmit information on upcoming events in other ways so please contact him at joekilauea@gmail.com with any events or announcements. We are now producing 2 emails per month and posting the upcoming meeting agenda a week in advance on Facebook and on the website. If anyone is not receiving emails from the KNA please let him know. A reminder to please sign up for the email list by sending a note to joekilauea@gmail.com to get on the mailing list. If any community members have any events they want to share please also email to joekilauea@gmail.com.

Fundraising Committee: Stephenie Brown reported that she had a meeting with Kilauea School, which is partnering with Gather FCU and the Aloha Books program to expand art curriculum and fund an art teacher position.

Gary Pacheco has a friend in Honolulu with 5 cases of books to donate to Kilauea School. They just need someone to pay the shipping (checking with Young Brothers and Aloha Air Cargo). Anyone can donate toward the shipping costs; please let Gary know.

NEW BUSINESS / GUEST PRESENTERS:

Water Department: Mark Knoff and Michael Hinazumi attending. They reported that Waipake through Kilauea Ridge subdivision are the boundaries of this system. DOW relies on consultants with specialized local expertise to locate wells. The current system in our area has about 1M gallons of pumping & storage capacity. Usage is fairly consistent across the year (ag helps stabilize). There are some concerns about capacity in the overall system based on usage and planned usage. Each dwelling is about 750 gallons per day. There are plans being worked through to increase capacity. We do not have any excess source capacity at this time – it will depend on when additional sources can be installed. There is a budget to look at 20-30 years of planning and what infrastructure improvements and related maintenance costs will be; this is a multi-agency partnership effort. They are also looking at affordable housing considerations.

The infrastructure to connect to houses is not the most significant issue, it's the locating of the source wells and accessing land to be able to do so. Kilauea Well #3 project is slated to go through sometime this year with a landowner in order to get proper permissions to do this project (2 other landowners have been approached but declined which extends the project timelines). After a test well is drilled and qualified to provide the water, it takes another 2-3 years to bring the well up to full production. Estimated completion of Well 3 is mid-2023.

There is also an option of adding another 1M gallon tank to the existing well as another capacity improvement alternative.

There are currently no water quality issues in the Kilauea area. The Water Department puts out an annual consumer confidence report. They do not add fluoride but do add chlorine which is required for disinfection.

Climate change-related impacts are unknown at this time. The water industry is seeing shifts in topics of concern and the climate change issue has been becoming more prominent especially with regard to resiliency.

The Water Department runs 9 different major water systems across Kauai.

Question: Would adding another 1M gallon tank be a shorter path to improved capacity in a shorter amount of time? Michael responded that this is a partial solution and may not completely alleviate issues because the source supply may not be able to fill the tanks rapidly enough.

Question: How much additional source capacity is needed in gallons? Michael responded that ideally we'd like to have another source well at the same capacity as the current well, but it will likely be half the capacity of the existing wells. There are contingency plans such as multiple wells if the new test wells don't pan out in terms of expected volume.

Question: A couple years ago the KNA met with County about the Lucas estate near Kuhio Hwy to test drill for a well, what happened with that situation? Michael reported that this

is the landowner that they are currently negotiating with. There were two other potentially better areas with other landowners but both of those fell through.

Question: What were the hesitations of the 2 landowners who declined? Michael said this is unknown to him other than they didn't want the Water Department on their property.

Question: Were the other 2 landowners who declined in the Kilauea area? Yes they were in the Kilauea service zone. Mark reported that he has not dealt at all with the 2 landowners who declined, his department is at least 30% under capacity in terms of staffing to work through all the details required to make the process proceed which is not helping the situation.

Question: Would a new water well or storage tank satisfy the projected demand of the new shopping center and other existing demands? Michael reported that an additional 500K gallons per day could serve 650 residential homes, but with businesses it's very business-specific as to how much water they use and any demand for businesses would reduce the amount of home construction service that can be accommodated. Beryl said that we locally have forecasted about 350 additional homes. Ron Paul commented that many existing landowners cannot get additional water meters that are desired for construction / ADU opportunities.

Question: Has the Department of Water leveraged the local community influence to help the discussion with landowners about how to achieve access for water? Mark reported that this is being discussed, that DOW does report to County despite being fiscally separate, and that if discussions begin to stall that increasing community engagement becomes even more important. The biggest hurdle to most of their projects is the land acquisition process.

Question: What is the relationship between the DOW and the County? Mark reported that the Water Board sets the budgeting process, but some functions like HR fall under the County's policies and they work with the Mayor and Planning Division and Housing Agency, but they don't report directly to them fiscally.

Question: From a budgetary standpoint does basic annual revenue cover operating costs? How does DOW do fundraising? Mark reported they seek grants, do bonding, and special funding for projects while they collect basic revenue as a utility. State revolving funds are less than 2%. This year they have \$48M in capital projects budgeted.

Question: Would the DOW ever consider aiding homeowners with the installment of catchment systems to reduce water burdens on the system? Mark needs to consider this one, there are many considerations including spread impact on rate-payers if it's a financial consideration, and to understand what other water departments are doing on the island.

Question: Does DOW have any allocation authority or influence such as to provide water to affordable housing projects? Mark is not sure at this point or what historical precedence has been and will need to research this. New construction has complicated impacts including potential pressure issues and fire control issues that can impact existing housing.

Question: Does DOW look at ways to construct houses that could use less water or reuse water, or guide future development to implement more water conservation technologies? Mark said they don't get involved in development issues, many conservation systems

require more up-front costs and complex systems vs. piping. They do promote water reduction causes.

Question on how much potable water is being used on agriculture uses vs. using surface water for example. Mark reported that surface water also recharges the ground water and thus the wells so if surface water is intercepted then it can impact well production. Wastewater can be cleaned to the point of being potable but it can be very expensive and politically charged.

There is no current decrease in water-demand per residence in the Kilauea area compared to historical norms (such as due to low-flow water heads or catchment systems or irrigation-stoppage, etc.).

Question: Does private wells on private land go through DOW or just the State? Mark says just the State. Michael says they generally discourage private wells in the system but landowners who are adjacent or on the outskirts of the existing system are allowed to place wells. For State Water Commission, one area is agriculture water use and another is potable water use. Kauai has well under 50% projection of sustainable yield for the island over the next 30 years.

OLD BUSINESS:

Phil & Linda Green's Seacliff House Plans: Phil Green provided a review of his previous proposal. There is no hearing date or SMA # set yet, they are hoping maybe in June.

MOTION by Gary Pacheco seconded by Ron Paul to approve the house plans. Beryl volunteered to write the letter. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

UPDATES:

Seniors: No report.

PTSA: Sonrisa will email the Board about the graduation plans. Donna reported that May 28th is the graduation date and a driving parade (with possible starting point at KCAC Ag Park) is planned pending approval.

'Aina Ho'okupu O Kilauea / Kilauea Community Agricultural Center: Jeremy reported on the County OED grants (pigs, farm tech) and on the Pig Share program.

Anaina Hou: Bill Chase reported there is a Gather ATM coming on site which should be stocked very soon. Stephanie reported The Haven has provided excellent after-school programs and to contact them for more information and opportunities to participate. The Farmers Market is also in full swing. They are also attempting to bring back the Night Market and a Maker's Market. Jim Bremen (Cliffs Manager) is the new President. The Fire Show has been restarted and is looking at adding a second night.

Kaulana Kilauea: No report.

Kia'i Kahili: No report.

Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge / Friends of Kauai Wildlife Refuges: Brooke Burrows (Deputy Project Manager) began working 3 days before COVID-19 hit. She works primarily at the Hanalei Refuge site.

Thomas Daubert reported that Sat May 8th is Migratory Bird Day. There is a hike up to Nihoku (Crater) Hill with only 3 spots left. To sign up for the hike: Contact: (808) 635 -0921 or email: KauaiNWRC_education@fws.gov

On Saturday the 29th Kilauea Point will be closed for Memorial Day.

On behalf of the Friends Group they are welcoming any volunteers to help provide interpretation for visitors to the Lighthouse and the store. Anyone who makes an online purchase gets free access to pick up at the store and visit the Lighthouse in the process.

There is a reservation system in place with 10 am – 4 pm visiting hours to visit the Lighthouse with some kama'aina spots available so recommend making a reservation for any groups.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Beryl solicited any input from the group on future agenda topics? Kapua Chandler would like to be on the agenda for the new school.

Ron asked Jeremy about the status of the shuttle out to Ha'ena State Park? Jeremy reported the landslide is a major impediment and that the Hanalei Initiative is working with Hawaii State Parks and Department of Transportation on potential solutions TBD.

Question on Somers recent surveying activity of all the valley boundaries recently? There is an inquiry into Department of Planning about what the plans are behind this surveying activity (potential fencing?) and any SMA requirements. One community member believes Somers is attempting to acquire all the land around both sides of the river. Question on who the property manager is to contact to request access to the Kilauea waterfall? Bill Scannell (sp?) is the manager, this should be captured in prior meeting minutes.

Gary Pacheco reported that April 30th was the closing of the Kauai North Shore Lions Scholarship with \$50K to give out. There were 30 students who applied! The Lions will be meeting on the 11th to review the applications.

Approval of Minutes:

The April 2021 Kilauea Neighborhood Association meeting minutes were approved via unanimous email vote with finalized responses on April 29, 2021.

Adjournment of Meeting:

Upon motion duly made by Gary Pacheco, seconded by Charlie Martin and carried unanimously, it was resolved to adjourn the May 4, 2021 Kilauea Neighborhood Association meeting at 8:57 pm.