Natural Resources
Conservation Service
Pacific Islands Area

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East Hawai`i Local Work Group Meeting
October 2, 2019 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Hilo Field Office Conference Room
154 Waianuenue Ave., Room 302
Hilo, HI 96720

Minutes

1. In Attendance: Kori Hisashima (NRCS), Destiny Abilla (NRCS), Kamran Fujimoto (HDOA), Mike DuPonte (CTAHR), Oliver English (Puna SWCD and GLC), Colleen Cole (Watershed Alliance), JB Friday (CTAHR), Doug Beaton (Hamakua SWCD and GLC), Les Takayama (Waiakea SWCD), Randy Cabral (Hawaii Farm Bureau), Atto Assi (Puna SWCD and Pork Producers), Donna Ball (USFWS), Kirk Derasin (Forest Solutions), Susan Literral (Waiakea SWCD), Meghan Mulley, Ryan Belcher, Kanoe Malani (SWCD), Amy Koch(NRCS).
2. Role of the USDA Local Work Group (History and Expected Outcomes)
   - State is buying Ag. lands in Honolulu. Why can't it tie into ACEP program?
3. Overview of 2014 Farm Bill in East Hawaii
4. Review
   - 2014 EQIP Fund Pools
     i. Hilo Crop
     ii. Hilo Pasture/Range
     iii. Farmstead/Animal Feeding Operations
     iv. Forest
     v. High Tunnel System
     vi. National Water Quality Initiative (Hilo Bay)
     vii. Wildlife
5. Discussion and Action Items FY 20:
   - Break Out Session
   - List 5 resource concerns in priority for each Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Ka'u

1. Fire management. Tolerance, resilience, prevention, water sources + protection, add tree pruning to tool kit?
2. Pest pressure. Emergent pest TLSB, QLB (Work on BIISC Partnership & HDOA)
3. Pest pressure. Weed Control. Changes in land use causes major weeds.
4. Wind and water erosion. Feral animals.
5. Terrestrial Habitat

Puna

1. Field Sediment, nutrient, and pathogen loss. (Water quality for wells, catchments, etc.)

2. Pest Pressure. Pigs, fire ants, and weed trees.
3. Access Road
4. Livestock production limitation
5. Fire Management

Waiakea

1. Wind and water erosion. Feral animals.
2. Weather resilience. Ponding and flooding. Climate change, large rainfall events. Impervious structures, water structures.
3. Pest pressure (Humans)
4. Pesticide loss. Transported to ground water.
5. Field Sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss
6. Hamakua

Hamakua

1. Wind and water erosion
2. Fire Management
3. Soil quality limitations
4. Pest pressure. ROD Management
5. Weather Resilience

EAST HAWAII LWG PRIORITY RESOURCE CONCERNS FOR FY2020

1. **Pest pressure – plant pest pressure**
2. **Wind and water erosion – sheet and rill erosion**
3. **Fire management – wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation**
4. **Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss – pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications transported to groundwater**
5. **Weather resilience – ponding and flooding**

Attachment H

LWG Feedback Sheet

LWG: Hilo East Hawaii

SWCD(s): Waiakea, Puna, Ka'u, and Hamakua SWCDs

			Land Use									
Priority	**Resource Concerns**	Resource Concern Cause	Crop	Pasture	Range	Forest	Associated Ag Land	Farmstead	particpants?	partners?	practices	notes
1	Pest pressure	Plant pest pressure		x	x	x				BIISC, HDOA	Brush Management, Herbaceous Weed Control, Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	Other pest pressure to include noxious weeds, pigs, fireants, three lined spittle bug, queensland longhorn beetle, rapid ohia death, and humans.
2	Wind and water erosion	Sheet and rill erosion	x	x	x	x					Various structural and vegetative practices.	In relation to water quality and feral animal disturbance.
3	Fire management	Wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation		x	x	x				HFD, DOFAW	Fuelbreak management. Add components like biological control (grazing), and tree pruning.	In relation to tolerance, resiliance, and prevention. If installing water system for livestock, include storage for fire supression.
4	Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss	Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications transported to groundwater	x	x	x	x					Waste management practices.	In relation to water quality (surface and ground water). Inproper pesticide use, from piggeries, and concern for food safety.
5	Weather resilience	Ponding and flooding	x	x	x						Various structural and vegetative practices.	Increased concerns over climate change, high volume rainfall events, increase in impervious structures, and blocking of or removal of water courses.

6. National Water Quality Initiative – Hilo Bay
   - Continue with Hilo Bay NWQI
   - LWG will be integral part of watershed assessment

7. FY 21 Payment Schedule
    - Access Road – need concrete component
    - Brush Management – chemical components low, need helicopter component
    - Conservation cover – need native component
    - Conservation cover and Conservation crop rotation – need more of an incentive (target producers are ginger, sweet potato, and turmeric growers)
    - Fence – tariffs cause significant increase in cost of materials
    - Forage and biomass planting – mechanical seeding too low. Price of grass seed has increased
    - Forest stand improvement – chemical components low
    - Fuel Break – need biological component and tree/shrub pruning component
    - Herbaceous weed control – chemical components low
    - High tunnel system - tariffs cause significant increase in cost of materials
    - Land clearing – change to square feet or acres instead of each. Need land smoothing component i.e. For on the ground water harvesting catchment
    - Multi-story cropping – non-native too low. Cannot even purchase the plant
    - Pond sealing and Lining – too low. Add component with felt + liner
    - Pumping plant – too low
    - Silvopasture establishment – plant protection is low. Does not cover cost of material.
    - Tree/Shrub Establishment - non-native too low. Cannot even purchase the plant
    - Tree/Shrub site prep - chemical components low
    - Add practice to decommission old piggeries
    - Water harvesting catchment - too low. Add component with felt + liner
    - Windbreak - non-native too low. Cannot even purchase the plant
    - Bring back filter strip practice for erosion control
    - Ensure square footage for liner needed to bury for pond liners and water harvesting catchments are included in calculation

8. Any other suggestions
    1. SHPD – more expedient process needed for both programmatic and CTA projects.
    2. Concerns with food safety in relation to water quality. E. coli contamination of well in Puna
    3. Mulch availability – getting more difficult to find
    4. Land use operation – Grazed cropland
    5. Lack of education in more populated areas in relation to vegetation and dumping in streams, pesticide use.