

KONA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 16, 2026

MEETING HELD: 81-948 Waena'Oihana Loop, Kealahakua, HI 96750

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jeff Knowles and Mark Petersen

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Greg Hendrickson, Keli'ikanoe Mahi, Louis Putzel

KSWCD STAFF: Mary Robblee, Kelsea Heider, Dan Lais

NRCS: Brendan Brazee, Nicholas Saumweber

- I. **WELCOME:** The KSWCD Board Meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Chairman Knowles.
- **Quorum not present.** Meeting continued, but no motions or actions will be taken without a quorum. There were no additions to the agenda. There was no written or live testimony submitted/taken during the meeting.
- II. **MINUTES:** May 19, 2026, KSWCD Board Meeting Minutes reviewed.
- ✓ *Motion to approve May 19, 2026, minutes. Moved. Seconded. Approved unanimously.*
- III. **REPORTS:**
- A. **TREASURER (KSWCD):**
- Financial Statements for March-May 2026 were provided for review but were not discussed with the Treasurer absent. No questions or comments.
- B. **REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP):**
- RCPP report skipped.
- C. **PARTNERSHIPS:**
- HIKI OLA**
- HIKI OLA update report skipped.
- D. **CONSERVATION GRANT- REPI/DOD (KSWCD):**
- Grant details:**
- Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Initiative (REPI) Grant was approved for a total of \$430,000, over the three years grant period. That includes (24) mini grants, up to \$10,000 each, for a total of \$240,000. The grant also includes enrolling (40) applicants, with incentives of \$1,000 per applicant, for a total of \$40,000 for installation of Johnson-Su compost systems. There is approximately \$15,000 for PSA's and social media advertisement. Dan and Jeff will connect and set up a meeting with Luly Unemori to strategize the next steps with the grant.
- E. **DISTRICT PLANNER Mary Robblee (KSWCD):**
- Consolidations & Subdivisions:**
- Reviewed current publications. No action required.
- F. **NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS):**
- Brendan:**
- 20 CSP and 14 EQIP contracts are being worked on.

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Nicholas:

- Great to have so many CSP and EQIP contracts for the Kona office! NRCS is moving forward with logo and motto changes. “Keeping working lands in working hands” is replacing “Helping people help the land”. Priority focus will also be on easements for Ag-modified wetlands and Ag-land preservation. The RCPP programmatic partnership agreement has been extended. I helped Dan Lais get the requested RCPP Portal access.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS (OLD & NEW):

Hawai’i Association of Conservation Districts (HACD)

- Annual conference is June 24-26, 2026. Three KSWCD staff are attending.

PSA Outreach:

- Recorded two PSAs with the Konawaena Leo Club for the OPE’ APE’A (Hawaiian bat) and the Kona low storm. KSWCD now has six PSA scripts to work from.

County of Hawai’i Agrifood Regional and Statewide Summits

- Kona Regional Summit date is July 14, 2026, at the Imin Center 4:00-7:30 PM
- Island-wide Summit save the date for Resource and Service Providers is August 15, 2026, with more details to come.

V. ADJOURN: KSWCD Board Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm by Chairman Knowles.

VI. NEXT MONTHLY BOARD MEETING: **Tuesday, July 21, 2026 @ 3:00pm.**

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION called by Chairman Knowles.

- Employee insurance discussed. Dan Lais provided a summary of documentation he obtained from ProService, including several emails and cost breakdowns. The Board would like to see improved services and communications from ProService in this regard. Dan Lais requested a ProService representative to attend the next Board meeting via Teams or Zoom invitation to provide a presentation to the Board on insurance benefits and to answer questions. Based on Board understanding of the insurance costs, the Board is unable to increase the employer insurance contributions at this time. Board members Greg Hendirckson and Keli’ikanoe Mahi joined the Executive session and participated in some of the insurance discussions.
- Keli’ikanoe Mahi indicated her seat on the Board is expiring at the end of June 2026 and she will be stepping down from her Board position. A new Board member to replace Keli’ikanoe will be needed. The Board and staff thanked Keli’ikanoe for her outstanding service to the KSWCD and Kona community.
- The Executive session was adjourned at approximately 5:00 pm by Chairman Knowles.

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BOARD MEETING ACTION ITEMS:

TASK	PERSON OR COMMITTEE MEMBERS	DUE DATE
Flesh out REPI Grant Implementation next steps	Dan, Jeff, Luly	Week of July 6, 2026, target date for grant framework next steps
Board member election next steps to determine status of elected vs appointed Board members. Flesh out next steps to replace Keli'ikanoe	Jeff, Dan	July 21, 2026, Board Meeting
Invite ProService Benefits representative to July 21, 2026, Board Meeting	Dan	July 7, 2026