

WEST HAWAII FISHERY COUNCIL

<http://westhawaiifisherycouncil.org>

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MISSION STATEMENT OF THE WEST HAWAII FISHERY COUNCIL

“To effectively manage fishery activities to ensure sustainability; enhance nearshore resources; develop and implement management plans for minimizing resource depletion and conflicts of use; per legislative mandate to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to provide for substantive involvement of the community in resource management decisions; and encourage scientific research and monitoring of the nearshore resources and environment from Upolu Point to Ka Lae.”

Minutes for Thursday, August 20, 2015
West Hawaii Civic Center Community Hale
(Building G, farthest Makai building next to Pavilion)
Presiding: Tina Owens

Call to Order: 6:35pm by Tina Owens

Reading and Interpretation of WHFC Mission Statement by Donna Goodale

- To me the mission means that the community has an opportunity to have a say on nearshore issues.

Reiteration by the Chair of the meeting protocols from WHFC Policies and Operational Guidelines.

- *All questions from Council members must be recognized by the Chair
- *All questions/statements will be limited to topic oriented statements. Note that a short time has been added after each agenda item to discuss that item.
- *Proxies: Each person asking someone to represent them by proxy will have to notify the administrator before the meeting as to who is going to represent them. There will be no call for proxies from the floor at the meeting.
- *Introductions of Visitors – there were no visitors

Attendees:

- o Tina Owens (Proxy: Chad Wiggins), Dale Sarver, Donna Goodale, David Dart, Damien Kenison (Proxy: Charlie Young), Linda Preskitt, Pat Cunningham, Bill Walsh (DAR) and Malia Kipapa.

Approval of Agenda –

- o Donna would like to add to the agenda – no take areas.
 - Added to New Business under Ka’upulehu and Ho’okena item

Move to approve Dale Sarver, Linda Preskitt second, motion carried and approved by council

Approval of Minutes

- o Bill Walsh – made a suggestion – pages 3 add a “;” after taape and add “also” after use.
- o Donna made a motion to approve, Dale second motion, motion carried and approved minutes.

New Business:

- ☐ Recap of Conservation Council meeting held in Hilo (Chad Wiggins)
 - Bill and Dave both attended
 - Bill – update – a thousand attendees; lots of interesting talks, I gave a talk about the FRA's; quite a bit of planning talks, a lot of terrestrial things from all over the state. It was amazing to see how much people working on conservation ideas.
 - Tina – it's interesting to now know that there are a lot of people to go to talk about conservation.
 - Dave Dart – did you notice that NOAA is starting to insert themselves a lot more.
 - Bill – stock assessments
 - Bill – might be more WEST PAC
 - Tina – closing the Tuna catch they say national marine fishery.
 - Damien – what was the goal?
 - Bill – didn't really have a goal, just to get people together to talk about their research, it was mostly terrestrial topics with
 - Damien – why don't they just give the money to DLNR instead of having this conference?
 - Bill – Hawaii Conservation Alliance
 - Dave – a lot of the organizers were from Hilo was easier for them to do the conference.
- ☐ Revisit Ka'upulehu and Ho'okena CBSFAs status and what, if anything, needs to be done by the WHFC.
 - Ka'upulehu - Tina – do you know what decision was made?
 - Bill – DAR waiting on Ha'ena, need to have one more meeting before approval. They had stations at the Kaupulehu meetings; this was good at separating cultural, science, and WHF council board. This helped in the sharing of information, effective approach.
 - Dale – why have a meeting?
 - Bill – it's a political motion
 - Dale – so just a meeting for people to say how they hate it?
 - Donna – so will they have stations at this meeting?
 - Bill – they may
 - Tina – we want to have a meeting where people can ask questions and get information.
 - Ho'okena – Tina – update on this
 - Damien – will have a meeting next week, to see how we can work with restaurants; opelu fisherman are not entrepreneur they just catch fish and sell it; we tried to lease a property from Kamehameha schools and try to make a market area for fisherman, didn't really work out that well.
 - Tina – how can we facilitate this? Maybe start a coop? go to one person and set a price.
 - Pat – don't fisherman take the opelu to KTA or different stores?
 - Damien – yes they do, they only freeze it if they can't sell it. Maybe a coop may help them to package and sell off island?
 - Dale – coop would help with the marketing part and maybe it'll grow to talk about more ways
 - Bill – chop chop?
 - Damien – everyone uses it; no enforcement so why have

fishing rules, you can't even look into the coolers. If you sell the fish to the market and they cut the stomach open and see the chop chop in the stomach.

- Pat – enforcement is offering more on parking and expired boating license are more of the citations they've been giving at Keauhou Bay. Focus should be more on resources then boat trailers and cars.
 - Damien – I made a complaint about a cave in Ho'okena to DOCARE and I didn't get a call back till one month later
- Damien - How do you folks feel about Ha'ena's fishing rule s?
 - Tina – we sent an official letter in support, but would like to add scuba fishing to it.
 - Damien – what do you folks think of the concept?
 - Tina – I agree with it and support it, not sure about everyone on the council.
 - Dale – our jurisdiction is limited but yes we do support it
- Damien – why have fishing rules if we can't enforce the rules we have already?
 - Bill – we don't have the ability to make DOCARE do what we want them to do; Puako is a good example on how they've hired a warden to do similar work like DOCARE officers and work closely with them.
 - Damien – they say they don't have money
 - Dale – that is why you talk to your representatives to get the money to fund more enforcement
 - Tina – need to start by making something illegal, then we need to get the community involved.
 - Donna – we need to get the community involved, example is the no smoking efforts at Kahalu'u Beach Park; need to have the community there so they can remind and tell people not to do certain things.
 - Damien – just you and your daughter that's not sustainable.
 - Donna – yes that's why community is important to be involved.
 - Damien – Puako hired someone?
 - Linda – Randi from Waimea; “Ranger Randi from Kiholo”
 - Damien – there are different ways; people need to make money, money is a motivator. People are shy to approach folks unless they are getting paid.
 - Tina – could ask one of the non-profit organizations to help with funding
 - Damien – not sustainable to ask for funds
 - Pat – I have a comment – I've listened to this like 20 times already – it's all coming back to licensing – I've fished in Alaska, all over the west coast, New Mexico – you will hear I'm a Hawaiian and I can fish here – Bill why don't we have a fishing license.
 - Damien – does the fees go to the general fund.
 - Bill – it goes to the federal government and

the State; if there were a fishing license, it would stay in a fund for fishing related expenses.

- Linda – so that would be able to be used for enforcement?
 - Bill – no it can't be used; excluded explicitly; it would be a violation and the Federal government will cut the 3 million they give annually;
 - Donna - a federal decree?
 - Bill – yes!
 - Donna – where does the commercial fishing money go to?
 - Bill – I remember asking I don't remember.
 - Damien – state income tax?
 - Bill – a lot of special funds, I don't know all of them, substantial amount of money given to agencies.
- Tina – is there anything you would like to highlight or share about Ho'okena?
 - Damien – just feeling our way through here; older fisherman are not fishing anymore and we are trying to get the younger generation to fish more, it takes time and we are trying.
 - Tina – well you have a representative on the council, Charlie!
 - Damien – Charlie has a lot of ideas but we want to try and get the next generation on the opelu canoes.
 - Pat – any quota for opelu
 - Damien – no quota for opelu, no limits- you have hook and net that's all; not too much opelu fisherman.
- **Add on “No Take Areas” – added on by Donna Goodale**
 - Donna – there continues to be a conflict in Kailua bay between folks fishing, those that enjoy the water, and other users. There is a zone A – Thurston to the old Hilton – maybe thinking about making it a no fishing area. There were fishermen fishing with bamboo poles in shallow waters and also with people swimming in the area as well. What happened last week there was a huge barracuda and there is a school of akule in this area, someone caught the barracuda and ruined it for those that will not be able to view and enjoy it because it's gone now.
 - Dale – fishing baby goat fish
 - Damien – ooma?
 - Dale – no take areas are not for entertainment reasons; it's to protect the fish.
 - Donna – wouldn't it be a win win?
 - Dale – no take zones, it's not for tourism, it's meant for the reproduction of fish.
 - Donna - a very dynamic rich marine environment and heavily used.
 - Damien – poles not nets correct?
 - Donna – I didn't see nets only poles
 - Damien - don't hear of akule in the Ho'okena area
 - Pat – Akule is gone in Keauhou – two or three years ago a large boat

- came in the bay and killed off school of akule.
- Donna – pole and line no more than 2 hooks – allowed fishing in Zone A.
 - Dale – do you we want to let the community select it or do we want to select the places as no take as a council?
 - Linda - I didn't hear about resilient areas
 - Tina – a conference in Honolulu by people that focus on no take zones, it was a giant failure because they didn't consult the community, definitely a lesson learned from this example, I agree with Dale we need to make a decision and announce it to the community. A couple months ago talked about having a symposium to provide the public with information about marine reserves and fish sanctuaries. If we had several reef talks that will show positive support and get those people
 - Linda – I didn't mean just science and I think that we definitely need to look at community support for success; goes both ways, the science and community involvement essential for it to work. So we can make sure we are selecting the right location. Do the areas need to be in an FRA?
 - Bill – does not need to fall in an FRA
 - Tina – if we pick areas that are more likely to be abundant its better.
 - Dale – FRA's is a good place to start, but don't have to be there, but if the community wants to do it outside of the FRA then they should go for it.
 - Linda – we need to show success stories
 - Dale – we have a lot of success stories just not here
 - Tina – we have a lot of success stories but slices of successes.
 - Tina – do you want to make a motion, Donna?
 - Donna – I will talk with my constituents first and let them know that they need to come to the council to bring it up as a concern.
 - Dale – I contacted the Sierra club and they said they would be willing to help get the word out, but they are mostly mountain people.
 - Donna – we need them to come out and talk about it
 - Dave – I think a good place for it is at the national park, close place and within an FRA; good place to start
 - Dale – should we need to make a list?
 - Linda – Puako – community has a responsibility, Mauna Kea Beach reef is gone – tipping point from storms and fertilizers it's gone.
 - Tina – Mel Malinowski has been pushing the Mauna Lani sanctuary, will probably be problematic because it's a private area and they won't want to look at people fishing. Kaupulehu, the natives from this area are pushing for the 10 year closure.
 - Linda – how about Honaunau? I know that Nani has been doing some work in preserving area. I'm thinking about the community.

- Damien – Bill did a lot of studies there
- Bill – interestingly what the national park said, they weren't too supportive of fishing at the park. Not sure how they would view this; they were supportive of our WHF rule package.
- Pat – I recall the north side of Honaunau being a protected area – no boating area?
- Tina – go on our website and see the fishing area restrictions
- Bill – if we weren't monitoring some areas at least we can try to if it's a possible location on the list.
- Donna – do you have Kailua Bay? Bill do you monitor there?
- Tina – I will add it.
- Bill – yes we do but not specific to just Zone A.
- Dale – do we have a reporter?
- Donna – where would it be published?
- Tina – West Hawaii Today
- Dale – I make a motion to contact West Hawaii Today to start the discussion – Donna Second motion
 - Bill - one comment; put together a consensus summary from the scientific community; a call to action for the protection of areas. It's not a stand-alone; hopefully there is a legislation motion to move this forward.
 - Tina - I think we are in a nebulous state; and seeing how slow our process takes, maybe being part of the ground swell it may help legislation move; I don't think it's too early to start putting out a feeler.
 - Tina – Discussion is it done? – all in favor say aye
 - Unanimous aye
 - No nays!

☐ Nominations for election of Chairs for next year and after (skipped this agenda item)

☐ Discussion of Budget and Funding for next year and after

- Tina – had a conversation with Carol (handles the Malama Kai Foundation Budget) – they don't like to be sole supporter for groups but plan to continue their support for record keeping and willing to do something more expansive as long as it's not forcing things down people's throat. Big Island Reef Fund – established from volunteer donated money, got by the waist high and now there is \$10,000 in the fund. What do you think we should do about this?
 - Bill – money is accumulated, this fund really needs someone to overlook it. Need to explain the whole program and an accountant is needed to manage the books.
 - Tina – if we paid a percentage to the person?
 - Bill – there were no real coordination – there was a fund created here and one on Maui.
 - Tina – one of the uses of this funding was to help support the West Hawaii Fisheries council
 - Charlie's email read by Tina Owens:

Aloha Mai Kakou:

I will be off island Aug 20-21 and will miss this months' scheduled WHFC meeting. Damien will proxy for me.

I would like to have the following entered into the record re discussion on possible 2016 grant funding for WHFC.

I have spoken to two possible funders regarding 2016 funding for WHFC. KUA and the Castle Foundation. Both are receptive and will need to receive a written proposal.

KUA provides fiscal sponsorships, small sums ie \$ 5k. The WHFC mission is consistent with KUA's mission and purpose. I could introduce a proposal at KUA's Jan board meeting.

Castle Foundation has the ability to give out discretionary grants of up to \$25K. As Tina stated, Eric Co would like to see our current grant fully utilized by the end of 2015 before considering further funding opportunities.

(Added by Tina – most funding was used up by paying for Malia for note taking and minutes).

Eric/Castle Foundation sees the benefit of having a strong and well-functioning WHFC. The fact that our mission includes references to community input and that the WHRFMA is already established is consistent with and in support of Castle's mission on marine resource management. Eric is aware that the current funding was primarily for administrative expenses. However we also discussed a need for the WHFC to conduct more community outreach aimed at increasing participation and membership.

With Haena moving forward we can expect that Kaupulehu will eventually go to public hearing. Given WHFC supports both community's initiatives the council can and probably should provide a public forum for that discussion at a community level. I would envision having at least 6 of our 12 meetings in our outlying communities ie. South Point to Upolu point.

Mahalo

Charlie

- Tina – if you would over the next couple days if any of you have ideas on what we can add to the dream budget.
- Dale – I think we will need money for the no take efforts
- Tina – we will need to do more media outreach, I believe that the ad campaign was very effective, no new membership but received good feedback. We should be keeping the council in the public view. We will put together a budget and present it to Carol for Castle Foundation.
- Donna – how much was the shark banner?
 - Tina – we got some bonus posters for free, don't have it with me.

☐ Begin discussions and start nominations for no-anchoring areas

- Tina - no time for this agenda item should be move to our next meeting
 - Dale – this is just a comment – this is just like the buoys. We need to come up with a good reason to show that this is ecologically important
 - Tina - I personally agree with you, we should not make the chosen areas known until there are buoys out there. See if DOBOR/Army Corps of engineers/ Malama Kai

- Dale – this goes around the community
- Tina – true, should we sit on this? I would like make a motion to sit on it, Dale second the motion, motion carried.
- Dave - I have a comment – the county can afford air conditioning enough to store milk in these meeting rooms.

Announcements: No announcements

Adjourned at 8:28pm