

Puako Community Association

Board Meeting

July 16, 2010 Hokuloa Church 6:30 PM

Present: Michael Budd, Malia Chow from the Hawaii Island Humpback Whale Marine Sanctuary Oahu, Steve Eitel, our State Representative Cindy Evans, George Fry, Sara Fuller, Peter Hackstedde, James Heacock, James from Pacific Island Trees, Ed Lindelof from The National Marine Sanctuary Washington DC, Petra MacGowan from Division of Aquatic Resources Oahu, Narand Patel, Robert Pfau, Ric Rapp, Robby Robertson, Annarie & Rob Shallenberger, Mary Vandamm, Justin Viezbicke from the Hawaii Island Humpback Whale Marine Sanctuary Big Island, Chad Wiggins from The Nature Conservancy, Bernice & Leonard Wolf, and numerous others from other environmental organizations and the community.

Peter opened the meeting

George approved June's minutes and Rob Shallenberger second them.

Firebreak: Peter said that Ron will be arriving from Colorado with his equipment to get rid of the stacks of downed dead trees along the firebreak. He will work for 5 weeks and use water to keep the dust down.

Speed Hump Progress: Mary told us so far we have received 52 signed yes petitions for the humps and 18 no's. We need 54 more yes's in order for the County to give us speed humps and the condos may not be counted however they do have 3 TMK's.

JK Graffiti: Peter reported that the Police know who the JK graffiti vandal is and is hoping to match fingerprints from a spray can found near some of the graffiti with the guy.

Cindy Evans, our 4 term State Rep, said they just ended a difficult and stressful term 1.2 billion behind in revenue. The legislature had no involvement in the "furlough's" but what positive action they could do was to put additional monies into the "hurricane fund" for the State to use to stop the furlough days.

-Cindy is involved with child custody rights especially for military women.

-She's for putting caps on what small businesses need to pay for unemployment.

-The Kawaihae small boat harbor renovation is slow to progress due to environmental hurdles with all the healthy growing coral. Perhaps a relocation of coral to other areas would allow the boat ramp to be built.

-The State Highway Division will soon be finalizing their Kawaihae By-Pass plans. If the Puako community has any opposition to having it connect with the Queen K at the top of Puako instead of Hapuna or elsewhere they better get in touch with the State DOT to let them know soon. The new lanes at the Kawaihae intersection have been delayed 1 year due to cultural finds.

-Our UHHilo Marine Center is moving along. It has been surveyed and the EIS is done.

-With the economy down more students are enrolling in college. The new West Hawaii campus being built North of Keahole airport is moving ahead. The State released funds.

- Kona airport will be modernizing with plans to move the Onizuka center out by the rental car area.
- They are working on agriculture sustainability and putting a lot of money into protecting irrigation systems and creating hydropower.
- They have rehired laid off agriculture inspectors.
- With lack of funds no new hiring is taking place to fill positions vacated by retirees.

Peter had a question about why the bathrooms at Hapuna and 69 last week were unusable. They were shut down because they needed pumping. So many tourists come to these 2 beaches and the condition of the bathrooms was reported in The West Hawaii Today. Cindy said she would give Peter the name and number of who to call if this happens again.

Peter introduced Chad Wiggins of the Nature Conservancy who spoke on community concerns with lack of enforcement. He said we are the eyes and ears of the reef and there will be opportunities for community volunteers to help out. He introduced Petra and Malia.

Petra from Division of Aquatic Resources spoke with us about working with our community with assistance from Federal and local organizations and foundations to address threats to our reef. She calls it the "Coral Reef Task Force" and hopes that by addressing our local threat priorities to result in positive healthy changes for our reef, that this will impact State wide changes everywhere. Part of this involves the Makai Watch which is a partnership with DLNR. This is where community volunteers interact with reef users on education as well as observation and compliance, human use and biological monitoring, and DOCARE's placement of 52 new day use moorings.

Malia from Hawaii Island Humpback Whale Sanctuary told us there are 5 sanctuaries in the State and only 13 marine sanctuaries nationwide. Ours is from the Northern tip of the island to above Kona and is co-managed by Federal and State. They are hoping to extend this further South of Kona. They have authority over protection of many species not just whales. **August 11th in Kona** at the Keahou Outrigger there will be an outreach public meeting to hear input from the community on what we would like to see happen to help better protect the health of the reef, the ocean and its inhabitants. This is a great example of how we can make a difference. Ed said these partnership agencies are here to take 90 days of public comment to hear us ask for improvements in protection and enforcement to help bring back and keep a healthy reef. Justin said if we would like to hold a meeting locally in Puako he would schedule it. Input drives decisions and they need our input. There's a 1 year plan to review and compare current data with 1982's data and to strategize and start volunteer Makai Watch training.

Questions: Currently there is lack of "enforcement"- The Castle Foundation has sponsored an accreditation program for DLNR to assist them in training. The Makai Watch will use community volunteers to educate as well as report illegal activities.

-Our local County and State enforcement organizations are not working "together". They try to brush off responsibilities to another and put up obstacles- for instance the problems in allowing education signage at

accesses. Justin said there are positive changes on the horizon. Ed said that in some states all enforcement agencies work together. This needs to improve in the State of Hawaii.

The community and Board felt honored to have these people from the National Marine Sanctuaries, the Division of Aquatic Resources and The Nature Conservancy attend our meeting and to assist us in managing our reef. To contact them here is their info:

Malia Chow- malia.chow@noaa.gov
Petra MacGowan- 808-721-6487 petramacgowan@hawaii.gov
Justin Viezbicke- 327-3697 justin.p.viezbicke@hawaii.gov
Chad Wiggins- 756-2080 cwiggins@tnc.org

Other community business:

Chris Kopra said he was interested in asking the association if we would like to sponsor a "Michael Morris Memorial Roi Spear Fishing Competition" around the 1st of the year. Roi was introduced back in the 60's and has overpopulated the reef causing concern. There currently is a statewide roi eradication program.

James from Pacific Island Trees asked why they were not asked for a bid to do the firebreak dead tree removal. He said they have been putting a lot into maintaining our firebreak and have heart in this community. Now a chance comes by to make some real money and we bid it to an out of state contractor. He said they now have a fire truck to keep the dust down.

Peter thanked all for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Next PCA board meeting August 4th 6:30 PM at the real estate office next to Puako Store