MINUTES
WIR BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FALL MEETING
KAUAI COUNTY, HI
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2011

WIR President, Commissioner Ron Walter called the meeting to order and welcomed the Board to Kauai County, HI [9:06]

Commissioner Walter called the roll. Members present were: [9:09]

- Alaska:
  - Hon. Jerome Selby, Kodiak Island Borough

- Arizona:
  - Hon. Mark Herrington, Supervisor, Graham County, AZ

- California:

- Colorado:

- Hawai‘i:
  - Hon. Nadine Nakamura, Council Member, Kauai County

- Idaho:
  - Hon. R. E. Cope, Commissioner, Lemhi County
  - Hon. Gordon Cruickshank, Commissioner, Valley County

- Montana:
  - Hon. Lesley Robinson, Commissioner, Phillips County
  - Hon. Mike Murray, Commissioner, Lewis and Clark County

- Nevada:
  - Hon. Tom Fransway, Commissioner, Humboldt County

- New Mexico:
  - Hon. Walter Armijo, Commissioner, Sierra County

- North Dakota:

- Oregon:
  - Hon. Tim Josi, Commissioner, Tillamook County

- South Dakota:
  - Hon. Clint Farlee, Commissioner, Ziebach County

- Utah:
  - Hon. Alan Gardner, Commissioner, Washington County
  - Hon. Daron Smith, Commissioner, Millard County

- Washington:
  - Hon. Ron Walter, Commissioner, Chelan County

- Wyoming:

Ex officio board members, and staff present were: Mr. Brent Gardner & Mark Ward, Utah Association of Counties; Mr. Daniel Chadwick, Idaho Association of Counties; Mr. Eric Johnson, Washington State Association of Counties; Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties; Paul Gutierrez, New Mexico Association of Counties; Kathie Wasserman, Alaska Municipal League; Cindy DeLancey, Wyoming County Commissioners Association; Mike McArthur, Association of Oregon Counties; and Ryan Yates, NACo.

Paul Gutierrez provided a brief presentation on behalf of NMAC and Santa Fe County, welcoming the WIR Conference to New Mexico, May 16-18, 2012. [9:10]

Council Member Dickie Chang welcomed the WIR Board of Directors to Kauai County, HI. Introduced HI elected officials in attendance: Council Member Ricky Hokama (Maui), Nadine Nakamura (Kauai), Senator Ronald D. Kochi (Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau), and Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr. (Kauai). [9:12]
Council Member Dickie Chang welcomed Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr., current Mayor of Kauai County, HI to the podium. Mayor Carvalho welcomed the board to Kauai. Noted the importance we collectively have as decision makers to the public – the public depends on all of us to come together to make great decisions. [9:17]

- Discussed Iwaki City, Japan—sister city to Kauai. Detailed recovery efforts following the devastating earthquake and Tsunami.
- Highlighted the importance of meetings like WIR/NACo in making connections with other local governments both nationally and internationally. Using these connections are very important to decision makers. While Kauai may seem very different to other Western Counties, there are significant similarities in governance and public policy issues.

Council Member Dickie Chang welcomed Senator Ron Kochi to the podium. [9:23]

- Senator Kochi welcomed the Board to Kauai. Noted his past participation in WIR conferences. Looking forward to bringing WIR/NACo back to Hawaii in the future. The last conference had more than 600 participants.
- Often time, State Representatives are making decisions that have little understanding of county government. Takes much more effort to educate legislators.
- In Kauai, there are 51 state house members and one Senator.
- All Kauai delegation members have all served in county government. Find it challenging in Honolulu to work with reps that have not been elected at the county level.
- A current issue right now is the hotel room tax deal
  - County needs fair share of revenues. There is pressure for the state to take away room tax dollars from the county.
  - This year the county share was capped.
- Unfortunately, challenges exist in Kauai just like you face in western states

Cynthia MCarthur, USDA Forest Service was introduced by Commissioner Walter. [9:40]

- HI has Forest Service representation via a research station in Oahu.
- HI Wildfire issues – most plants never evolved with wildfire regimes. New risks of wildland fire on the islands.
  Q: How can the counties move the agency toward sustained yield and multiple-use.
  A: no good answer. Thank you for your patience – encourage persistence with policy makers.
  Q: Ward: Conservation definition has been perverted into preservation, comments?
  A: NEPA has been used by “everyone” and agency has to make decisions. Recommend the Myth of Conservation on Harvard Press.
  Q: Wasserman: Problems with changing staff frequency in the FS
  A: 40% of the workforce is eligible to retire. Not much we can do to change agency culture. She moved 11 times so far in her career.


- Kaua‘i National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Goals to protect, restore, and manage seasonal wetland habitats to meet the needs of and promote the recovery of endangered waterbirds. Protect, restore, and manage upland habitats to meet the needs of nēnē, seabirds, and native plants.
- Work with partners to ensure the restoration, protection, and management of habitat on Refuge inholdings. Collect scientific information (inventories, monitoring, research, assessments) necessary to support adaptive management decisions
- Educate students and teachers about the NWRS and the ecology and management of the Refuges. Encourage visitors and local residents to enjoy, value, learn about, and support all 3 Refuges. Protect the educational, scientific, and spiritual values of historical and cultural resources.
- KĪLAUEA POINT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
  - Primary Resources of Concern:
    - Migratory seabirds, including Threatened ‘A’o (Newell’s Shearwater)
- Endangered Nēnē (Hawaiian goose)
- Native coastal plant communities

- Public Uses:
  - 4th most visited Refuge in the entire system (~500,000 people annually)
  - Focus primarily on interpretation and wildlife observation/photography

- HANALEI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
  - Established: 1972
  - Establishment Authority / Purpose: Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1969/T&E species
  - Total Acreage: 918 (owned); 934 (approved)
  - Managed Wetlands Units: 64 ac (wetlands); 29 ac (dikes, ditches) = 93 ac
  - Lo'i Kalo: 141 ac (lo'i); 51 acres (dikes, ditches) = 192 acres

Janice Carter, NOAA (11:01)
- **NOAA’s Digital Coast: Data, Tools, Training, and Partnerships**
- Digital Coast provides information that is used to enable efficiencies, build partnerships and leverage resources
- **Technology from NOAA’s Digital Coast – built to help you make better coastal development decisions.**
  - The Digital Coast is an information resource developed for those who manage the nation’s coasts. This enabling platform provides access to the geospatial data, tools, training, and case studies that can be used by communities to address such issues as coastal hazards, marine spatial planning, and climate change. The Digital Coast Partnership, composed of national-level organizations representing coastal managers at the local, state, and national scales, provides content for the website, guidance on priorities, and feedback on decision support tools. This direct and frequent interaction ensures that the information contained within the Digital Coast is comprehensive and meets the needs of coastal communities.

- Data includes: Benthic, Elevation, Hydrography, Imagery, Land cover, Boundaries, and socioeconomics
- Provides effective and efficient access to coastal geospatial data, tools, training, and case studies
- Facilitates links between elements to enhance utility and application
- Provides opportunity to demonstrate role of geospatial information in decision-making
- Being able to visualize potential impacts from sea level rise is a powerful teaching and planning tool, and the Sea Level Rise Viewer brings this capability to coastal communities. A slider bar is used to show how various levels of sea level rise will impact coastal communities. The initial project areas include Texas’ Houston and Galveston coasts and Mississippi, with additional coastal counties to be added in the near future. Visuals and the accompanying data and information cover sea level rise inundation, uncertainty, flood frequency, marsh impacts, and socioeconomics.
- Technical webinars provided:
  - Upcoming sessions:
    - Community Resilience, Part II: Ecosystem-Based Adaptation Case Studies (Oct. 5, TNC)
    - Mapping and Visualizing Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts (Nov. 2, CSC)
    - Marshes on the Move: Understanding and Using Model Results That Show Future Sea Level Rise Impacts on Coastal Wetlands (Dec. 7, CSC/TNC)
- Throughout the discussions of coastal issues and geospatial challenges, several obvious actions emerged as necessary and desired next steps. There was general consensus that the Digital Coast Partnership offered tangible and intangible benefits to the different organizations in attendance given the degree to which coastal issues and geospatial challenges were shared in common.
  - Send letters of appreciation to participants’ supervisors
  - Develop Pacific Islands Regional Digital Coast one-pager
  - Develop short awareness-raising video clips, and post them on YouTube, and national and local partner websites
- Communicate availability of GIS applications through email lists and presentations
  - Coordination and Communication
    - Stand up an email list server for the region
    - Use the Digital Coast blog will to post information and receive focused technical assistance
    - Reconvene at a future event (e.g. Hawaii Pacific GIS Conference 2012)
- Digital Coast Content
  - Publish more Digital Coast in Action stories (partners discussed identifying and completing these stories collaboratively, and harvesting them from States’ CZM “Section C” reports)
  - Get more data into the Digital Coast (e.g. lidar)
  - Identify priority data sets for the region and enable access to them through Digital Coast
  - Inventory historic aerial imagery for coastal shoreline erosion mapping, land cover change analysis, and development trend detection

Lunch break [12:00]

Jason Hefley, Congressional Western Caucus (via Phone) [1:00]
- House Leadership includes Reps Pearce [NM], Lummis [WY], Noem [SD], and Gardner [CO].
- House Caucus has existed for 20 years
- Senate Western Caucuses was created more recently, Chairs by senator Barasso [WY]
- In 111th Congress, developed War on Western Jobs report
  - Focus on Administration efforts to reduce western jobs, impact western way of life, etc
  - Highlighted both legislation and regulatory efforts.
- In 112th Congress, this was supplemented with a new report with ideas and solutions to help the western economy
  - A positive look forward

Q: Bousman: in WY and UT, how can we effectively help WC put these ideas into law?
A: reference joint meeting today with House Natural Resources Committee to build coalitions.

Q: Josi: Suggested the WC work across the isle – questioned partisanship of the caucus.
A: will work across the isle then we can, however they are a partisan group.

Q: Bousman: Look forward to discussing idea to bring Congressional staff to the west.
A: Lummis and Bishop working on it.

DeLancey, Josi, Ward – partisan ship is a major problem in Congress.

Ryan Yates provided a report on current SRS legislative activities in House and Senate [1:52]

Cope / Fransway motion to support SRS Senate bill and acknowledge need for timber management language. Approved. [2:13]

Commissioner Cope report from executive committee [2:14]
- Coast to Coast vs Caremark update on prescription drug program
- NACo concerns

WIR Board discussion on WIR priorities for next year. Summarized:

- Regulatory relief
  - NEDC vs. Brown – forest roads
  - Clean Air / Clean Water Act
- Reform NEPA / ESA
  - Address frivolous lawsuits via EAJA reform
- Fund SRS and PILT
- Educate lawmakers and the public about western policy issues and concerns
- Economic relief
  - Promote job creation to reduce unemployment
- Expand energy production (including renewable) via tax incentives
- Reduce roadblocks to natural resource development on federal lands

- Oppose top down land use designations developed without local input
  - SO 3310
  - Crown Jewels
  - Wilderness / de facto wilderness
  - National monuments via Antiquities Act
  - LWCF funding

Adjourn meeting [3:30]

Commissioner Walter reconvened the WIR Board on October 7 [9:04]

Kauai County Chair Jay Furfaro, Kauai History [9:07]

- The economy of the Hawaiian kingdom was dominated by trading, especially sandalwood. The Russian American Company had established itself 3 forts on Kauai.
- Cattle production followed in the 1840s. In 1845 Richard Charlton, British consul, leased ranch lands mauka of Kalihiwai and Hanalei for 560 boards.
- Charlton never fulfilled his obligation by 1840 over a 100 head of cattle were exported to Honolulu.
- Fort Alexander overlooked Honoiki Point and the horseshoe reef known as Manulau controlling the entrance. Fort Barkley is to believed to be located in the vicinity of Waioli Park. The locations of the abandoned canon is still a question today.
- By 1806 the Russian/American fur company no longer existed on Kauai. By 1834 – 1842 additional land grants were extended to Joel Deadman from Governor Kaikioewa, on condition of cultivating it with cane and dividing with the grantor the sugar produced from it.
- He did not fulfill those conditions. In 1842 Deadman sold the land to Dr. Rooke for $300. Dr. Rooke expanded the plantation later known as the Rooke Estate and much later is was bought by Albert Wilcox. This may have included portions of the land that lay on the slopes between Hanalei and Kalihiwai.
- The first activity in Hanalei was by John Bernard. Mr. Bernard leased approximately 240 acres in Hanalei and started the Hanalei Coffee Plantation. His lease were dated September 8, 1842. It was signed by chief Haalilio who was a Kauai Prince. The lease was then acknowledged by Ioani II, and concurred by Kamehameha and Kekauluohi.
- His boundaries joined the plantation of Mr. Charles Titcomb which was established in 1842 and eventually became Kilaeua Sugar.
- The banks of the river were lined with taro-patches, which following the watercourses, extended far up into the valleys. Communications with Honolulu by coasting-schooners was uncertain and irregular.
- The Waiole mission house was opened in 1834 although the pier wasn’t build until 1912. Many were happy to have an ever ready source of supplies into the valley.
- Another early foreign resident was a Frenchman, John Brosseau, who owned the lands by the mouth of the river from Kamehameha 3rd on October 10, 1849. This land later passed through the hands of the Rhodes family and became the site of the Roman Catholic Mission.
- There were many agricultural interests in the valley, including developing smaller industries. A small clothing factory was operated in Hanalei. There were sheep that produced wool and other small articles that were manufactured for the port. Mr. Wyllie visited the valley in 1848.
- By 1849, many of those who came to Hanalei dropped out of their land leases heading out to California in the “gold days.” Rice became king in the valley. Irish potatoes and cattle were shipped to California. Sugar production expanded for the northern states during the civil war. Agriculture remains active in the valley.

Presentation by George Costa, Office of Community Development, County of Kauai [9:35]
- **KAUAI’S ECONOMY**: 67,000 residents and roughly 21,000 visitors per day. Visitor Industry accounts for 25% of all jobs. Other large sectors include trade/Transportation/Utilities, Health Care & Education, and other Professional & Business Services.

- 87% of businesses on Kaua’i are “small” (20 employees or fewer). High Technology sector is strong and growing due to PMRF (Pacific Missile Range Facility) and related activities.

- Economic challenges include: Global economic recession, Visitor Industry slowdown – visitor arrivals down 30% from previous year, and High fuel prices.

- Kauai economic engine is the visitor industry
  
  - **Visitor Arrivals** – 2007 – 1.3 Million
    - 2009 – 0.9 Million
  
  - **Visitor Spending** – 2007 – 1.3 Billion
    - 2009 – 1.0 Billion

- **KVB VISITOR STIMULUS – Phase I**
  
  - Wholesaler / OTA Cooperative - $ 250,000
  - Kama’aina / Military Campaign - $ 170,000
  - Radio Remote Shows - $ 20,000
  - South Pacific 50th Anniversary - $ 25,000
  - Pacific Northwest Sales Blitz - $ 25,000
  - KVB Administrative Fee - $ 10,000
  
  - Total $ 500,000

  - Generated $11.7M in direct Economic Benefit
  - Generated $19.5M in overall Economic Benefit

- **KVB VISITOR STIMULUS – Phase II**
  
  - Wholesaler / OTA Cooperative - $ 250,000
  - Kama’aina / Military Campaign - $ 150,000
  - Kaua’i Marathon - $ 25,000
  - Canadian Sales Blitz - $ 65,000
  - KVB Administrative Fee - $ 10,000
  
  - Total $ 500,000

  - Generated $10.9M in direct Economic Benefit
  - Generated $18.1M in overall Economic Benefit


- Current strengths include:
  
  - Strong CIP spending from State and County
  - Visitor Industry – natural beauty
  - Film Industry
  - Good foundation in Agriculture
    - Largest coffee plantation in the United States
    - Seed corn companies have doubled their acreage since 2004
  - Increased use of renewables such as biodiesel, photovoltaic, and solar
  - PMRF (Pacific Missile Range Facility)
  - Kaua’i Made and Kaua’i Grown Programs

Council Member Dickie Chang: Presentation on Waimea Canyon [10:30]

Joel Bousman – motion to further investigate options to use PL Trust to bring staff to western counties. Approved

Jerome Selby – discussed 2012 fall board meeting dates. September 19-26 in Kodiak, AK.

- Possible conflicts with state assn meetings. Yates to work with execs to resolve conflicts and/or propose new dates.

Meeting adjourned [11:19]