

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Minutes of the Administration Committee Meeting held Virtually on March 7, 2024

Via Zoom Teleconference and/or In-Person at 235 S. Beretania St., Rm. 204, Honolulu, HI 96813

Pursuant to section 92-3.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), this meeting was held remotely with Committee members, Staff, Applicants, and the Public participating via Zoom meeting venue, and an In-Person meeting location available for public participation at the State of Hawai'i, Leiopapa A Kamehameha, State Office Tower Building, 235 S. Beretania St., Room 204, Honolulu, HI 96813.

Members Present, virtually:

Warren Watanabe, Member-At-Large (Mr. Watanabe)
Lyle Tabata, Kauai County Member (Mr. Tabata)
Jayson Watts, Maui County Member (Mr. Watts)
Dane Wicker, Designated Representative, DBEDT, (Mr. Wicker)

Members Excused:

None.

Counsel Present, virtually:

Delanie Prescott-Tate, Deputy Attorney General

Staff Present, virtually:

Wendy Gady, Executive Director (Ms. Gady)
Mark Takemoto, Sr. Executive Assistant
Ken Nakamoto, Project Manager
Lyle Roe, Asset Manager (Mr. Roe)
Ingrid Hisatake, Secretary

Guests Present, virtually:

None.

Guests Present, physical location:

None.

A. Call to Order

Mr. Tabata called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. and conducted a roll call of Administration Committee (Committee) members. Mr. Tabata, Mr. Watts, Mr. Wicker, and Mr. Watanabe all acknowledged their presence and noted they were alone.

B. Approval of Minutes

1. January 16, 2024 Administration Committee: Motion to approve minutes as presented: Mr. Wicker; Second: Mr. Watts. Motion passed without objection.

C. Action Items

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1. Review and approve updated Request for Land Application Notice and Land Application Form and authorize publication thereof

Mr. Tabata asked for questions or comments from the public. There was none.

Mr. Tabata asked for staff presentation.

Mr. Roe noted that the primary difference between this request for land application (Request) and the prior request was that the parcels are not listed individually. Applicants will instead be directed to ADC's website to review a map of available lands. Additionally, language was included in the Request that stated ADC reserved the right determine location and parcel and does not guarantee requested parcels. It was also noted that there were changes to the application that ask if the applicant was displaced from other ag lands.

Mr. Tabata asked to look more closely at the rating system and the GAP [Good Agricultural Practices] criteria.

Mr. Roe explained the anticipated process included GAP scoring with a minimum score requirement of 300. Mr. Tabata said that he thought the minimum score was appropriate.

Mr. Watts noted that it was a comprehensive application process and asked about farm drawings and layout.

Mr. Roe noted that we do ask for a farm description in the application and that a farm utilization plan must be approved by the board as part of the license approval process.

Mr. Watanabe said he believed that past applications required such information and the financial data provided by the applicants garnered the highest number of possible points.

Mr. Tabata asked, at what point do applicants have to obtain a conservation plan?

Mr. Roe noted that various groups may be able to help expedite plan preparation.

Ms. Gady stated that she anticipated Amanda Shaw being able to help develop a property-wide conservation plan that would help approved farmers begin to start farming immediately.

Mr. Watts said that Mahipono allows tenants to begin farming so long as tenants are actively working with NRCS [Natural Resources Conservation Service] to develop an individual conservation plan.

Mr. Roe noted that the policy and procedure committee struggled with the question. The current license language allows a tenant to begin farming immediately but must be in active development of a conservation plan and that if the approved plan is at variance with existing practices, those practices must be improved to meet the recommendations of the approved conservation plan.

Mr. Tabata said that for Kekaka mauka areas, BMPs [Best Management Practices] need to be employed immediately given the high erosion potential of those lands. BMP/conservation plans would eventually be submitted to the County of Kauai engineering division for final approval so that final approvals could be somewhat lengthy.

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Mr. Roe followed up noting that ADC had entered into a Clean Water Act settlement agreement between Hawaii Department of Health, EarthJustice, and various parties, and that the BMPs as recommended by ADC consultants are mandatory to ensure compliance with the terms of the settlement agreement.

Mr. Tabata asked for any public comments. There were none.

Mr. Tabata asked for a motion to approve staff's recommendations. Motion to approve: Mr. Watts; Second: Mr. Wicker. Motion passed without objection.

Mr. Roe noted that the request for land application would be published on March 18, 2024.

D. Informational Items

- 1. None**

E. Adjourn

Mr. Tabata noted that they were at the end of the meeting and called for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Mr. Watts; Second: Mr. Wicker. Motion passed without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting has not been scheduled.