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Minutes Regular Meeting

Mauna Kea Management Board
Tuesday, February 19, 2002
Institute for Astronomy, Room 131
640 N. A'ohoku Place
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Attending

MKMB: Arthur Hoke, Chair; Rob Pacheco, 1st Vice Chair; Barry Taniguchi, 2nd Vice Chair/Secretary; Heather Cole and Jim Kennedy

Kahu Ku Mauna: Ed Stevens

OMKM: Stephanie Nagata and Bill Stormont

Others: Richard Chamberlain, Leimana DaMate, Ron Laub, Shirley Metcalf, Andrew Pickles, Sandra Sakaguchi and Debbie Ward.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hoke called the Mauna Kea Management Board (MKMB) meeting to order on February 19, 2002 at 9:35 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Jim Kennedy and seconded by Barry Taniguchi that the minutes, as amended, of the January 29, 2002 meeting of the MKMB be accepted. The motion was carried unanimously.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ranger Hiring

Applications were reviewed to determine which candidates met the minimum qualifications. Interviews are scheduled for February 20 – 22, followed by a hike on the summit on February 23. Four full time, and one or two on-call rangers will be hired.

The hike test, a walk on the road from the second parking lot up to the summit, was developed by Director Stormont to help determine the physical fitness of the candidates. He did not feel the test was unreasonable given that rangers may be called upon to handle emergency situations or conduct surveys within the summit area. Temporary rangers will be available in case anyone becomes ill or needs to be taken down the mountain.

Ranger Training and Machinist Programs

Sandra Sakaguchi, Provost, Hawaii Community College (HawCC) and Shirley Metcalf, Director of the Office of Continuing Education and Training, HawCC, presented an update on the status of the development of the ranger training and machinist curriculum programs.

Rural Development Program

Provost Sakaguchi stated HawCC became involved in the Rural Development Program in 1998 as the result of a Stevens - Inouye initiative utilizing funds from the U.S. Dept. of Labor to directly support rural communities. Funding is used to encourage economic development, training, and capacity building in rural areas in Alaska and Hawaii. Maui Community College is the designated statewide Principal Investigator of the Program. Each county has an annual allocation; the Hawaii County allocation is \$750K.

For the first time, additional funding has been allocated for statewide initiatives and special projects.. Senator Inouye's office assists in identifying needs, particularly those that are expressed directly to his office, such as Mauna Kea. HawCC was designated to work on the Mauna Kea ranger training and machinist projects. Initially HawCC was informed it would be receiving an additional \$300K for the machinist program. Since the initial notification, funding was reduced to \$250K which included funding (\$50K) for ranger training. HawCC was later notified a cultural element was needed as part of the ranger training program and it became evident \$50K would not be sufficient. As a result HawCC developed a budget of \$250K that did not specify amounts for each program, thus giving it flexibility to shift funds between programs. If this amount is still not sufficient, HawCC may request additional funding from the statewide program or from the Hawaii County allocation.

The advantage of using HawCC is its history of working with the Rural Development Program, availability of staff, and established accounting and infrastructure for reporting to the Federal government.

Ranger Training Curriculum

Shirley Metcalf distributed a draft of the ranger curriculum. She identified two major resources at HawCC, Pualani Kanahale (Hawaiian culture) and Fred Stone (biological and natural resources). HawCC plans to utilize two existing courses, Hawaiian Studies 231 and Biology 156 (with lab) for a combined 7 credit package. Dates for the classes are July 8 – 19. Components of the classes include Hawaiian culture, biology, geography, geology, and astronomy.

The curriculum also has health and safety related courses including first responder and responder refresher courses. The first responder courses are not intended to be extensive medical training sessions, but instead will provide sufficient information for rangers to identify life-threatening situations and to communicate effectively with health care professionals.

Computer classes at HawCC are scheduled on a continuing basis and space can be reserved for rangers requiring these classes. GPS and interpersonal skills are also potential courses. Director Stormont will be finalizing the arrangements and budget with HawCC.

HawCC is marketing these classes as a pilot project. They are investigating the classification of these classes into smaller modules with credit / non-credit options. Non-credits can be converted to credits if a student successfully completes all the components.

Dr. Kennedy asked if thought was given to integrating the components of the curriculum into orientation and wrap-up sessions; i.e. providing a "big picture" at the beginning of the training, identifying all the components, and wrapping up and returning to the "big picture" at the end of training. Ms. Metcalf indicated she is working with Director Stormont on developing these elements. Rob Pacheco felt it would be beneficial for rangers to receive interpretive training at the beginning because it will give them an overview of the "big picture."

Deliverables, such as manuals and/or videotaping of the sessions are being discussed. These materials will be useful in training new rangers hired due to turnover. Ideally, future ranger applicants should complete the ranger training courses prior to applying for the position.

Training expenses for the first group of permanent rangers hired will be covered by the grant. Others interested in the classes will have to pay for their own expenses. Ms. Metcalf indicated that HawCC will have a flyer for OMKM to distribute to the observatories and other interested parties.

Mauna Kea Arthropod Group

A meeting scheduled in Honolulu on Friday, February 15 was cancelled. This meeting was to discuss surveying of the summit region, in particular, arthropods to determine and the spatial distribution of the biota, and the development of long term monitoring plans.

Cultural Protocol

OMKM staff met with Mr. Guy Kaulukukui, Vice President of Cultural Studies at Bishop Museum. Mr. Kaulukukui indicated that with assistance from Senator Daniel Inouye, \$200K from the U.S. Department of Education has been allocated in the Bishop Museum's budget to develop a protocol for Mauna Kea. He shared his thoughts on the first three years of the program:

- Year 1 Dedicated to research; begin by looking through the museum's archives and files.
- Year 2 Study other locations with indigenous populations that have situations similar with Mauna Kea and how they handled and resolved issues.
- Year 3 Develop materials for use.

It is recognized there are diverse audiences to address and, therefore, a variety of products may need to be developed. Mr. Kaulukukui would like to meet with Kahu Ku Mauna. He also expressed his intention to proceed and execute the process properly. Mr. Stevens expressed Kahu Ku Mauna's interest in meeting with Mr. Kaulukukui.

Ed Stevens stated the final product should include the preservation of the cultural aspects of Mauna Kea, and the "do's and don'ts" based on cultural traditions which incorporates today's cultural understanding.

NASA/Keck Outrigger Proposal

Memorandum of Agreement

Director Stormont stated that February 15 was the deadline to submit comments on the pre-final draft of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). He was not certain when the MOA will be available for signature but stated that OMKM has been added as a concurring party.

He also mentioned that use of that the term "concurring party" will remain on the signatory page, even though the body of the document uses the term "consulting party". Mr. Stevens indicated that because NASA added a "whereas" statement at the beginning of the MOA recognizing that signing the MOA did not imply approval of the project, the use of the term "concurring party" on the signatory page did not matter.

Mr. Stevens also indicated that OHA does not wish to sign the MOA before NASA addresses OHA's comments to the draft Environmental Assessment (EA). It appears that NASA has not responded to OHA's draft EA comments.

Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

Public hearings on the Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) for the proposed outrigger telescopes are scheduled for March 20 in Kona (old airport pavilion), and March 21 in Hilo (County Council Chambers). The public will have an opportunity to present testimony on the CDUA. Director Stormont emphasized these meetings are not decision-making meetings. Meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m.

NASA has not issued the final environmental document as of this date. It appears that the notice of the final document will be published in the March 22 issue of the Office of Environmental Quality's bulletin after the public hearings are held.

Rob Pacheco asked whether BLNR would hold additional public hearings after the document is published. Director Stormont did not know. A Conservation District Use Permit cannot be issued without the final environmental document as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Holding the public hearings prior to the filing of the NEPA document is not good practice. Several questions arose regarding the CDUA process and the office was asked to prepare a synopsis of the process.

Design Development Meeting

The design development meeting of the design review process will be scheduled for sometime in mid-March.

Other Matters

Chair Hoke received a letter from NASA responding to his inquiry of possible military related applications of the outrigger telescopes on Mauna Kea. The letter stated there would be none. Dr. Kennedy also stated that Gemini, under its rules, is explicitly forbidden to conduct classified research, military or otherwise.

UHH Journalism Symposium

Director Stormont will be leading a tour of Mauna Kea on March 3 for journalists participating in the Journalism Symposium. Paul Costello, new chief financial officer for UH and Chancellor Tseng will also be on the tour. Gemini and UH 2.2 meter telescopes have offered to host tours of their facilities.

Design Review Committee

The office is working to establish a Design Review Committee (DRC). This committee will be composed of design professionals, such as engineers, architects, and planners. Pursuant to the Master Plan, this committee is responsible for reviewing the construction documents of a proposed project. This review is the last phase of the design review process.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Kahu Ku Mauna, Environment, and Public Safety and Conduct Committees

No report

B. Astronomy Education Committee

Dr. Kennedy stated that due to the uncertainty of the availability of program funds, the Astronomy Education committee has not met.

C. Administrative Rules Committee

Dr. Kennedy asked about the status of the Administrative Rules. Director Stormont indicated he hopes to forward draft rules soon. Rules governing commercial activities are included in the draft rules.

D. Hawaiian Culture Committee

Chair Hoke announced that board member Barbara Robertson has been recommended by a BOR committee for reappointment to the MKMB for another 4-year term. He also announced that Ms. Robertson will be undergoing hip replacement surgery and will be unavailable for the next few months. The Committee still plans to meet and will communicate electronically with Ms. Robertson.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Installation of a Weather Mast on UH 2.2 Meter Observatory

Director Stormont presented UH's 2.2 meter telescopes request to install a 6' tall weather mast by attaching it to an existing ladder on top of its dome. This instrument will provide real time weather data at its observatory allowing operators to immediately close the dome before the onset of inclement weather.

The office recommended this project be classified as insignificant and allow UH to proceed with the installation.

It was moved by Rob Pacheco and seconded by Heather Cole that MKMB concur with OMKM's recommendation that the installation of a weather mast on top of UH's 2.2 meter observatory be classified as insignificant, and that UH be allowed to proceed with the installation. The motion was carried unanimously.

Correspondence reflecting this action will be forwarded to the Chancellor of UHH and the President.

Dr. Kennedy provided background information on the future direction of observatory operations. The installation of the weather mast is part of UH's plan to have a completely remote operation of the telescope. Other small observatories are also moving in this direction which requires less manpower at its summit facilities and resulting in less vehicular traffic. Safety issues prevent large telescopes from going completely remote.

B. Construction Cabin Use Policies

Director Stormont stated that according to Ron Koehler, the Subaru cabins belong to UH as of February 2002. The Master Plan provides a list of priority uses and states the office will have control over its use. The transfer of the cabins to UH will need to be confirmed through an examination of the lease between Subaru and UH.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Stormont announced a lecture by Dr. Robert Wilson, February 22, 7:30 p.m., Hilo High School Auditorium. The topic of his presentation is "After the Big Bang." He also mentioned that every 3rd Saturday of the month, the VIS offers Hawaiian culture presentations:

March 16	Dan Akaka, Jr., Talk Story Session
April 20	Kepa Maly, Cultural Aspects of Mauna Kea

Debbie Ward, member of the environment committee expressed her concerns about the road refurbishment project and questioned the sterility of the gravel that will be used. She was dismayed the environment committee did not have a chance to review this project before the Board took action. She asked how the advisory committees could be better utilized. She further stated that the agenda should provide more detail to give the public a better idea of what will be discussed. Issues of concern should be shared earlier enough with the advisory committees so that they can provide response and feedback prior to board action.

She also expressed concern over BLNR's public hearings prior to receiving a response from NASA on comments to the draft EA and submittal of a final EA. IfA's application for a CDUA without the public having a chance to respond with an informed viewpoint will result in public skepticism about IfA and NASA's motives about obtaining public comment. This scenario raises concern that the public is being left out of the process.

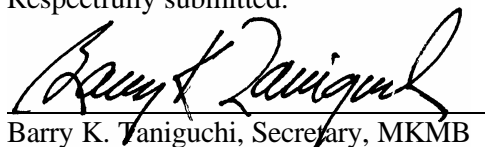
VI. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2002.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hoke adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Barry K. Taniguchi, Secretary, MKMB

March 19, 2002

Date