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Minutes Regular Meeting

Mauna Kea Management Board
Tuesday, May 27, 2003

Kūkahau'ula, Room 131
640 N. A'ohoku Place
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Attending

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

Kahu Kū Mauna: Ed Stevens

OMKM: Stephanie Nagata, Dawn Pamarang, and William Stormont

Others: Holly Akui, Doug Arnott, Richard Chamberlain, Ron Koehler, Ron Laub, Wendy Light, Eldon Lindsey, Mike Maberry, Bill Ochmann, and Russell Oda

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hoke called the Mauna Kea Management Board (MKMB) meeting to order on May 27, 2003 at 10:04 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Rob Pacheco and seconded by Jim Kennedy that the minutes of the March 25, 2003 meeting of the MKMB be accepted. The motion was carried unanimously.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Public Safety Brochure

A draft of the brochure has been prepared and is currently undergoing review.

- In reference to the use of 4-wheel drive vehicles, Mr. Pacheco suggested using a stronger term than "recommended," perhaps the term "required".
- There was discussion about the recommendation that "overweight" individuals not travel to the summit. Past experience has shown that leaner individuals were more likely to be affected by the altitude compared to "overweight" persons. Director Stormont indicated that legal counsel is reviewing the brochure and would wait to get their feedback.
- Ed Stevens questioned the inclusion of a recommendation that persons less than 16 years of age not travel to the summit. He indicated there are no studies that show a direct correlation between high altitude and effects on such persons. Mr. Stevens was informed that the material in this brochure is informational and just advisory, not policy.

A number of suggestions were made regarding where and how brochures could be distributed including: Visitor Information Station (VIS); information desks (e.g. rental car agencies); observatory headquarters; commercial operators; concierge; State agencies, etc.

B. Hawaii Cycling Club

OMKM received a request from Hawaii Cycling Club (HCC) seeking permission to conduct a time trial bicycle event in July on the summit access road between the Hale Pohaku mid-elevation facilities and the summit. The first stage of the event will run from Hilo to Hale Pohaku. OMKM will be sending a letter to HCC denying its request.

C. Meeting with Ahahui Kū Mauna

Director Stormont and Rolf Peter Kudritzki met with Ahahui Kū Mauna regarding its proposed amendments to the Master Plan. Ahahui Kū Mauna is asking:

- Removal of any reference to the possible expansion to the Smithsonian's Submillimeter Array.
- Housing of UH Hilo's future one (1)-meter instructional telescope in the existing UH 24" telescope facility.

Dr. Kudritzki has agreed to assist in setting up a meeting with Dr. James Moran, Director of the Smithsonian Astronomical Observatory and Ahahui Kū Mauna to discuss Smithsonian's future plans. Dr. Kudritzki is also involved in discussions with UH Hilo personnel about the possibility of using the 24" site for the UH Hilo one (1) meter telescope.

D. Wēkiu Bug Petition

Kahea, a nonprofit organization of Native Hawaiian environmentalists, recently filed a petition to list the wēkiu bug as endangered. According to staff in the Honolulu office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), they had not yet seen the petition. FWS has 90 days in which to submit its findings - sufficient or insufficient information to list. Following this 90-day period, FWS has 12 months to determine one of three types of action it will take:

- Listing is not warranted.
- Listing is warranted but precluded; i.e. other priorities exist and the wēkiu matter must wait.
- Listing is warranted and FWS must prepare proposed rules for listing.

E. Hale Pohaku Renovations

Director Stormont and Dr. Kennedy met and discussed planning for renovations of the VIS. OMKM's CIP request for planning funds was not approved. Efforts will continue to develop a proposal to secure planning funds from other sources.

Mr. Stevens asked if this included adding new facilities besides the expansion of existing facilities. Director Stormont indicated there would likely be some new construction. Some of the additions may include a multi-purpose room, a ranger office, a structure to house a large public viewing telescope, and more parking areas.

Mr. Stevens asked if he could participate in the Hale Pohaku Planning Committee.

F. Outrigger Telescopes Contested Case Hearing

The Hearing Officer will submit his finding of facts, conclusions of law, and recommendations on Friday, June 6. Final oral arguments from the applicant and petitioning parties will be heard before the Board of Land Natural Resources (BLNR) on the evening of June 26. It is not certain whether the BLNR will make a decision at its June 27, 2003 meeting.

G. Removal of Two Temporary Optical Test Site (TOTS)

In March 2003 Keck Observatory was given permission to remove two TOTS located outside its summit observatories. Work began on May 19 and is currently underway. One of the TOTS is almost completely dismantled. After dismantling and removal of the two TOTS, the sites will be restored with overflow cinder from the summit road retaining wall.

H. Summit Road Retaining Wall Overflow Cinder Excavation

MKSS staff began excavation of overflow cinder from the summit road retaining wall.

I. Chancellor's Executive Council Meeting

Director Stormont will be hosting the Chancellor's Executive Council monthly meeting at Hale Pohaku on Friday, June 6. Gemini Observatory has also offered to provide a summit tour of its facility.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Kahu Kū Mauna

The Council requested voting privileges on the MKMB. From the onset of the MKMB, Kahu Kū Mauna has always had the opportunity to actively participate in Board discussions. Mr. Stevens indicated that members of the Council wanted to have a more active role in managing activities on the mountain. Such a role they feel would add incentive for belonging to the team, as well as adding balance to the overall management of the mountain. Director Stormont stated the Office would review the matter. Director Stormont asked Mr. Stevens whether the Office or MKMB ever refused to entertain or deny Kahu Kū Mauna's requests or recommendations. Mr. Stevens said no.

The Council also requested OMKM explore the possibility of transferring stewardship jurisdiction of sections of the Mauna Kea Ice Age Natural Area Reserve that contains cultural and historical properties over to OMKM. OMKM's ranger/guide program would enhance the security of the cultural properties, as well as provide Kahu Kū Mauna with oversight responsibilities in the caring of the mountain.

Director Stormont did not anticipate the Natural Area Reserve System would transfer jurisdiction over to the University, but felt some sort of agreement, perhaps a memorandum of agreement, could be worked out.

B. Administrative Rules

Barry Taniguchi reported Walter Heen has prepared a rough draft of the rules. They are scheduling a committee meeting within the next few weeks to work on this matter.

C. Astronomy Education, Environment, Hawaiian Culture and Public Safety and Conduct Committees

No reports.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Stormont announced that Chancellor Tseng would be forwarding the names of Harry Yada and Rob Pacheco to the BOR for reappointment. Their current terms expire at the end of June.

VI. NEXT MEETING

Unless otherwise notified, the next meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2003, 10:00 a.m.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hoke adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Signed by Barry K. Taniguchi
Barry K. Taniguchi, Secretary, MKMB

July 22, 2003
Date