



University of Hawai'i at Hilo

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**Minutes
Regular Meeting**

Mauna Kea Management Board
Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Kukahau`ula, Room 131
640 N. A'ohoku Place
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Attending

- MKMB:** Chair Barry Taniguchi, 1st Vice Chair Patricia Bergin, 2nd Vice Chair/Secretary Ron Terry, Herring Kalua, and Christian Veillet
- BOR:** Dennis Hirota and Eric Martinson
- Kahu Kū Mauna:** Ed Stevens
- OMKM:** Stephanie Nagata and Dawn Pamarang
- Others:** Steve Clark, Kristin Duin, Linda Gregoire, Cory Harden, Ron Koehler, Patrick McCoy, Jeff Melrose, Cindy Nomura, Russell Oda, Ululani Sherlock, Hannah Springer, Bill Stormont, Rose Tseng, Deborah Ward, and Harry Yada

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Taniguchi called the meeting of the Mauna Kea Management Board (MKMB) to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Patricia Bergin and seconded by Christian Veillet the minutes of the August 28, 2009 meeting of the MKMB were unanimously approved.

III. INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Mauna Kea Ranger Recruitment

Fifty-eight applications were received and fourteen applicants are being interviewed. The goal is to have a new ranger on board in November.

B. Senate Higher Education Committee Members Visit

On October 8, 2009 Senators Jill Tokuda, Russell Kokubun, Norman Sakamoto, and Dwight Takamine visited Mauna Kea as part of an informational tour to Hawai'i Island. Their tour included an overview of the West Hawaii Campus and Mauna Kea. Interim Director Nagata provided a briefing at Hale Pohaku about the Office and its activities, roles and responsibilities. Members were also given a tour of the summit. Arthur Hoke from Kahu Kū Mauna also participated in this tour.

C. Visit by University of Hawai'i (UH) President, M.R.C. Greenwood

On October 1, 2009 Interim Director Nagata, Barry Taniguchi and Ron Terry, and members of the community met with UH President Greenwood to give her a brief perspective on the close and collaborative relationship between the community and UHH, concerns of the community, and the discontent that led up to the development of the Master Plan. Interim Director gave a brief overview of OMKM's initiatives and accomplishments; the need for

UH System to support our initiatives and operations; and the need for better communication between UH Hilo and the UH System. Accompanying the President were Regent Dennis Hirota and Vice President for Research, Jim Gaines.

D. Galileo Block Party

On Saturday, October 24, 2009 there will be a Galileo Block Party in celebration of the International Year of Astronomy. The event will be held from 1:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the UHH Science and Technology Park and the Imiloa Astronomy Center. The Office will have a booth with displays and activities for kids.

E. Improving Communication on Mauna Kea Matters

There was discussion regarding the establishment of a committee to improve communication and ensuring that all the respective parties involved in UH Mauna Kea issues are aware of the schedule, process, and status regarding UH's progress in meeting BLNR's conditions. Chancellor Tseng agreed it was a good idea and will discuss this matter with the President.

IV. KAHU KŪ MAUNA COUNCIL (KKMC)

Ed Stevens reported the Council continues to work on the CMP and the tasks assigned to it. They are finalizing their priority list. Given the heavy workload, the Council felt it could not address the tasks in once a month meetings. They established a subcommittee that would meet more frequently to help move things along.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Decommissioning and Public Access Plans

Public Access Plan

The consulting team has interviewed over 50 individuals, including rangers, Visitor Information Station (VIS) staff, Mauna Kea Support Services (MKSS) staff, observatory personnel, DLNR staff, National Park rangers, snow players, hunters, cultural practitioners. The purpose was to get a perspective of current activities, conditions, issues and concerns about Mauna Kea. Based on their interviews and data collected by the Rangers, they formulated questions for their round table discussions. Round table discussions were held on September 16 in Waimea and September 23 in Hilo.

Jeff Melrose reported that it was a great opportunity to talk to people and it was clear that there is a lot of good feelings and perception about the mountain and its care and aloha for it. He indicated that data should be an important basis for development of the plan. He presented information on the number of vehicles and an estimate of the number of people on the mountain over the past several years, by category, including commercial, observatory and non-commercial (independent travelers). Most incidents were health related and very few related to criminal or illegal activities. There are various forms of enforcement, including personal responsibility, educational (interpretive), contractual (permits), situational (special events), collaborative (with other agencies) and primary law enforcement. Current thinking is that communicating, educating and relying on personal responsibility will solve most of the problems. Primary law enforcement may not be what is currently needed. He also talked about the issue of gates. Some, such as ranchers, see gates as part of their everyday operations, while some see it as a form of control. Like primary enforcement, a gate may not be warranted at this time; however, the plan is based on an adaptive management approach and changes can be made as circumstances changes.

Decommissioning Plan

Interim Director gave a brief overview of the current thinking of the decommissioning plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide guidance regarding the decommissioning of observatory facilities and involves University and DLNR processes. The objective is to provide for an efficient, defined and orderly process for decommissioning of facilities.

Decommissioning is defined as occurring when a facility makes a decision to cease operations. The plan describes the steps and requirements involved in decommissioning existing and future facilities. Observatories will be required to develop a site decommissioning plan, including document of the site pre-disturbance condition (new facilities), feasibility analysis, environmental and cultural assessments, permits and approvals, deconstruction and removal plan, site restoration plan, and funding. There are three levels of site restoration, minimal, moderate and full restoration. A determination of the level of restoration will be determined based on a feasibility analysis, including cultural and environmental assessments.

There will be a section of the plan that describes financial planning and a decommissioning funding plan. The funding plan will contain site-specific cost estimates for decommissioning, funding mechanism, and methods for adjusting the cost estimate and funding level over the life of the facility. For new facilities or for facilities that renegotiate their subleases, the decommissioning funding plan will also need to provide financial assurance measures.

The plan also contains a discussion on the future of astronomy on Mauna Kea, including an explanation on the lifecycle of a telescope facility, and guidelines for limiting development of observatory facilities.

Board members offered some comments and questions about the plan, including who determines the level of restoration; what would happen to the excess money if less than full restoration is required; and will a permit be required to demolish a building;

B. Cultural Resources Management Plan

Background

In 2005, the Kahu Kū Mauna Council expressed concern that only 30% of the Mauna Kea Science Reserve (Science Reserve) had been surveyed. It became clear that, as managers of Mauna Kea, OMKM lacked adequate information about the cultural resources it was responsible for protecting.

In Spring 2005, OMKM contacted Dr. Patrick McCoy, the leading expert on Mauna Kea archaeology, about surveying the Science Reserve and developing a cultural resources management plan. Dr. McCoy had conducted the first modern archaeological survey of the Keanakāko‘i Adze Quarry in 1975, and numerous reconnaissance surveys of the Science Reserve in the 1980’s and 1990’s, including the survey for the 2000 Master Plan.

Dr. McCoy, who is a former employee of the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), indicated that the Historic Preservation process for developing a CRMP requires an *inventory* survey of the archaeological sites. It is necessary to understand what the resources are, *e.g.*, shrines, adze workshops, habitation areas, etc., in conjunction with management recommendations. OMKM was advised that the entire Science Reserve needed an *inventory* survey, including the previous surveyed areas, which were *reconnaissance* surveys of the archaeological sites.

Reconnaissance surveys are limited in scope. They involve generally less than 100% survey coverage, usually counting various features, general notation of location, and limited mapping. *Inventory* surveys cover 100% of the survey area; include detailed mapping and documentation, and GPS mapping.

In 2005, with limited available funding, OMKM was only able to complete an inventory survey of the Astronomy Precinct. This area has the greatest human impact and is the only area where the Master Plan allows development to take place. Subsequently, OMKM and the UH Institute for Astronomy entered into a cooperative agreement to fund the survey of the remaining sections of the Science Reserve. The final survey was completed in October 2009.

The need for a CRMP was reinforced by the 1998 State Auditor’s report on the management of Mauna Kea. The Auditor had criticized the University for being 10 years late in developing an historic preservation plan. The CRMP is more than an historic preservation plan. While it meets the requirements of an historic preservation plan, its management recommendations not only preserve archaeological sites, they also preserve and generate awareness of Hawaiian culture, and recognize the rights of Native Hawaiians to exercise traditional and customary practices. In addition, the CRMP also includes an implementation and evaluation plan.

Content

The CRMP provides a tool for OMKM to meet its responsibilities in managing its cultural resources. The plan’s description of the history, myths, legends, place names, historical uses, and traditional and contemporary cultural practices and traditions promotes a greater understanding of the rich cultural heritage of Mauna Kea. The management actions are designed to:

- Manage the cultural resources in a sustainable manner for future generations to learn about the historical and cultural significance of Mauna Kea
- Provide opportunities for Native Hawaiians to engage in cultural and traditional practices
- Preserve the cultural landscape for the benefit of all users of the mountain

The management plan is divided into three parts:

- General management issues which cover, for example, off-road vehicular use and routine maintenance activities
- Specific public and commercial uses, such as commercial tour operators, astronomy, and cultural practices
- Long-term management programs, plans, strategies, and other needs including burial treatment plan and educational programs.

Finally, the CRMP provides guidelines for implementing the plan, including a priority ranking and relative cost estimate, and schedule for implementing major tasks. The plan also calls for regular reviews and plan updates. The plan stresses the need for continuing dialogue with the DLNR, the land owner, which retains primary management and regulatory authority over Mauna Kea.

Compliance with the CMP

The CRMP and the Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP) (see following discussion) comply with the CMP. These two plans, although in draft form at the time the CMP was finalized, provided the basis for the CMP. While the CMP provides an overview and major recommendations pertaining to cultural and natural resources, the CRMP and NRMP provide detailed information on the status of and threats to the resources and management actions to protect the resources. The executive summaries in both the CRMP and NRMP contain tables showing the links between each respective plan's management actions and the CMP.

Public Review of the CRMP

Three open house for the CRMP and the NRMP were held in Waimea (September 1), Kona (September 2) and Hilo (September 3). Advertisements were placed six times (August 23, 25, 28, 30, 31, and September 1) in both the Hawaii Tribune-Herald and West Hawaii Today. Electronic copies were provided on CDs and mailed to all the libraries on the Island of Hawai'i and major libraries on the neighbor islands. Copies were also sent to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife and Historic Preservation Division. The plans were also posted on OMKM's and DLNR's websites.

OMKM Recommendation

OMKM recommends approving the CRMP. The plan is comprehensive in its scope and content. The plan provides vital information about the resources, threats to the resources and guidelines and recommendations on how to protect the resources. The CRMP complements and supports the CMP and collectively they are critical to OMKM in carrying out its stewardship responsibilities for Mauna Kea.

Action

It was moved by Ron Terry and seconded by Herring Kalua to accept OMKM's recommendation to approve the Cultural Resources Management Plan and forward it to the BOR for their approval. The motion was carried unanimously.

C. Natural Resources Management Plan

In the spirit of the Master Plan, which recognized the need for community input, the MKMB Environment Committee, composed of members of the scientific and conservation community, is the force behind the development of the NRMP. In 2005, the committee began looking at various plans for ideas for structure and content in relation to resources on Mauna Kea. Realizing the vastness and complexity of the natural resources in UH's management areas, the committee felt OMKM needed to hire a consultant to prepare an NRMP. Several subcommittees were established covering topics of hydrology, geology, flora and fauna, and alien species. Each subcommittee was responsible for examining its respective resource category and developing a scope for the NRMP. The combined results of each subcommittee formed a detailed and comprehensive scope used in the search for qualified consultants. In 2006, OMKM distributed a Request for Qualifications followed by a Request for Proposals and selection of a candidate in 2007. OMKM again lacked the funds in its budget to support this project. Funding was requested of, and provided by the UH System.

Sustainable Resources Group Int'l, Inc. prepared a comprehensive plan that includes a thorough description of the resources, identification of the impacts and threats, recommended management actions to mitigate threats, and guidelines for implementing and evaluating the plan. Unlike the CRMP, which is based on an inventory of the resources, one of the requirements of the NRMP was to identify resource information gaps and recommend activities to fill those gaps.

The NRMP is based on a scientific framework, which included a review of studies, biological inventories, and historical documentation (establishing the state of knowledge about the resources) as well as community consultation. The resources are divided into two categories: physical and biotic environments. Each category contains detailed descriptions of the resources and potential threats. Resources range from volcanism, soils, watersheds, ground water, climate, air and sonic quality to botanical resources, invertebrates, birds and mammals.

An important component of the plan is a review of the human activities and uses and their potential impacts and threats on the natural resources. Human activities and uses include astronomy, research, recreation, commercial activities, and cultural and religious practices.

The management section addresses management needs in five separate component plans with each containing recommended actions. A summary of the major goals of each component plan is presented below:

1. Natural Resources Inventory, Monitoring and Research
 - Determine baseline status of the resources
 - Conduct long term monitoring to determine the status and trends in the resources
 - Conduct research projects to fill knowledge gaps
 - Create inventory, monitoring and research programs
2. Threat Prevention and Control
 - Provide early warning of undesirable changes to the ecosystems
 - Minimize habitat alteration and disturbance
 - Prevent migration of contaminants to the environment
 - Prevent establishment of new invasive species and control established invasive species
 - Maintain native plant and animal populations and biological diversity
3. Natural Resources Preservation, Enhancement, and Restoration
 - Preserve sensitive habitats and unique high-elevation ecosystems
 - Enhance existing native communities and unique habitats
 - Mitigate or repair damage to sensitive ecosystems
4. Education and Outreach
 - Educate and involve the public to support and enhance conservation of Mauna Kea's natural resources
5. Information Management
 - Maintain accessible, relevant information to meet management, educational, and research needs for Mauna Kea

Like the CRMP, the NRMP includes guidelines and a schedule for implementing the proposed management actions, prioritization, relative cost estimates to implement the actions, and methodology for evaluating the plan.

Note: refer to the discussion under CRMP for compliance with the CMP and public review of the NRMP.

OMKM Recommendation

OMKM recommends approving the NRMP. The plan is comprehensive in its scope and content. The plan provides vital information about the resources, threats to the resources and guidelines and recommendations on how to protect the resources. The NRMP complements and supports the CMP and collectively they are critical to OMKM in carrying out its stewardship responsibilities for Mauna Kea.

Action

It was moved by Herring Kalua and seconded by Christian Veillet to accept OMKM's recommendation to approve the Natural Resources Management Plan and forward it to the BOR for their approval. The motion was carried unanimously.

D. Project Review Process

Interim Director Nagata briefly explained that in January 2008 the Board approved two flow charts. One showed the flow for the review of proposed projects from the time it is submitted to OMKM to approval by the MKMB on minimal impact projects to recommendation by the MKMB on the classification of a project. The second flow

chart, Major Project Review Steps, shows the UH project review steps in relation to the EA/EIS process; the flow of steps in the UH project approval process; and steps leading up to the filing of a Conservation District Use Application with the DLNR.

Following a discussion with Ron Terry, OMKM is recommending three revisions to the Major Project Review Steps. The first change moves Phase 2 step of the project review process to align with the preparation of the final EA/EIS. Based on recent experience with the Pan-STARRS and TMT project review processes, conceptual designs (30% design stage) are not needed until the proposer prepares the final EA/EIS. The design development stage, where detailed line drawings are prepared, should be completed by the time the MKMB reviews and makes a recommendation to approve or not approve a project. Finally, it is suggested that OMKM not be the stated entity to submit the CDUA, but leave that decision to the University to determine which entity within UH should submit the CDUA. OMKM may still be the entity to submit the CDUA, however, it would be awkward for OMKM to file the CDUA if OMKM/MKMB/Kahu Kū Mauna recommends against approving a project.

OMKM Recommendation

OMKM recommends approval of the revised major project review process.

Action

It was moved by Patricia Bergin and seconded by Herring Kalua to accept OMKM's recommendation to approve the revised major project review process as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Mauna Kea Management Board is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2009.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Taniguchi adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Signed by Dr. Ron Terry
Dr. Ron Terry, Secretary, MKMB

11/17/09
Date