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## Minutes Regular Meeting

Mauna Kea Management Board  
Tuesday, December 3, 2002

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

### Attending

- MKMB:** Chair Arthur Hoke, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Rob Pacheco, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair/Secretary Barry Taniguchi, Heather Cole, Jim Kennedy, Barbara Robertson and Harry Yada
- Kahu Kū Mauna:** Reynolds Kamakawiwo'ole and Ululani Sherlock
- OMKM:** Walter Heen, Arnold Hiura and Stephanie Nagata
- Others:** Paul Coleman, Mark Chun, Nelson Ho, Ron Laub, Wendy Light, Mike Maberry, Bob McLaren, Grant Mitchell, J. Sebag, Antony Schinckel, and Deborah Ward

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hoke called the Mauna Kea Management Board (MKMB) meeting to order on December 3, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Jim Kennedy and seconded by Barbara Robertson that the minutes of the October 22, 2002 meeting of the MKMB be accepted. The motion was carried unanimously.

### III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Presented by Associate Director, Stephanie Nagata)

#### A. Ranger Recruitment

Interviews for two vacant ranger positions were conducted on November 21 and 22. A total of 12 candidates were interviewed and the names of two candidates will be submitted to RCUH for its review and approval. Once confirmed by RCUH, these candidates will be required to take a pre-employment physical exam. It is anticipated new rangers will be on board sometime in January.

#### B. Wekiu Baseline Monitoring

Greg Brenner completed his fourth survey on November 29. He reported trapping about 150 wekiu, mostly on Pu'u Hau 'Oki. Final results will be presented in his next quarterly report.

#### C. Visit by Manoa Chancellor

On November 12, OMKM and IfA hosted Manoa Chancellor Peter Englert to an orientation and tour of Mauna Kea. Accompanying Dr. Englert were Director Stormont, Ed Stevens, Rolf-Peter Kudritzki, Mike Maberry, David Morihara, and Kristina Kekuewa. Following the tour, Dr. Englert joined members of the MKMB, and Kahu Kū Mauna for dinner. Dr. Englert indicated he learned a lot and hopes to be able to better understand Mauna Kea issues as they come before him.

#### D. KGMB News Segment on Mauna Kea

At the request of KGMB to do a story on Mauna Kea, Director Stormont and Larry Kimura accompanied reporter Britt Riedle to the summit on November 19. Both were interviewed along with Nelson Ho and Kealoha Pisciotta.

The story was aired on the 10:00 p.m. news on November 26. There were several factual errors reported, including: 1) University of Hawai'i Hilo approved the Master Plan and that the Plan would restrict access to the mountain; 2) OMKM was planning to expand the Smithsonian Submillimeter Array Site; and 3) mention that the wekiu was an endangered species. OMKM has notified KGMB of its reporting errors, but it is not likely the station will do a retraction. KGMB plans to do a follow-up story in February 2003.

#### **E. Access Survey Recap**

Over 2000 surveys were mailed, mostly to individuals on OMKM's mailing list. To date the office has received 555 completed surveys for a response rate of about 28%. There was overwhelming consensus of the need to preserve and protect the cultural and natural resources. However, with respect to the issue of access, responses were somewhat blurred. The office is consulting with UHH Department of Sociology on different mechanisms for following up on the survey.

### **CI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **A. Kahu Kū Mauna Council**

Ed Stevens reported that the Council is now a full, nine-member operating body. The Council is in the process of preparing an assessment report for submittal to MKMB.

#### **B. Administrative Rules, Astronomy Education, Environment, Hawaiian Culture and Public Safety and Conduct Committees**

No reports.

### **V. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. IfA Request to Conduct Site Testing**

##### IfA Proposal

Institute for Astronomy is requesting permission to commence the following site testing activities:

1. Expansion of an ongoing program to: test the seeing quality at the UH 88" telescope facility; area near the CFHT weather tower; and road out to the 13 N site. This activity began in the fall of 2001 with OMKM's permission (see November 27, 2001 minutes). Impact from these activities is minimal involving primarily the setting up of portable equipment. These projects do not involve ground excavation.
2. Site testing for a suitable location of the Pan-STARRS project. IfA is requesting permission to conduct site tests at the UH 88" facility. This activity will involve setting up a 10" portable telescope and micro-thermal probes on the coude roof. Similar to Item 1 above, this activity does not involve significant ground disturbance.
3. Balloon Launches and Kite Experiments on Mauna Kea.  
As part of its study to test the quality of sites for the next generation large telescope, IfA is proposing to launch balloons (similar to the ones launched by the Weather service in Hilo) to test for optical turbulence above Mauna Kea. These balloons will be launched from Bradshaw Army Air Base on the Saddle Road in mid-December.

In addition, IfA proposes to conduct a kite experiment on the summit. This will involve flying a tethered kite equipped with micro-thermal probes above the 13 N site. The purpose of this experiment is to test the turbulence in the plateau area. This activity will not involve ground excavation. The kite will be tethered to a cable winch on a truck.

4. Installation of an elevated seeing monitor on the summit and a tower at 13 N. IfA will be submitting a proposal for this study during the next few months.

##### OMKM's Recommendation to the Board

Item 1: Designate as insignificant projects, the expansion of ongoing site testing. These include tests at: 1) UH 88" facility; 2) CFHT weather tower and; 3) road out to the 13 N site. Impacts by these activities are deemed to be minimal.

Item 2: Designate site testing for the Pan-STARRS project an insignificant project. Impacts of this project are deemed to be minimal.

Item 3: Designate testing involving a balloon launching and kite experiment an insignificant project. Impacts of this project are deemed to be minimal.

Item 4: No action until OMKM/MKMB receives and reviews IfA's proposal for this study.

With Board concurrence, IfA will be notified to proceed with Items 1 – 3, and UHH Chancellor and President will be notified.

#### Conditions and Caveats relating to Items 1, 2 and 3

By allowing IfA to proceed does not signify nor imply OMKM or MKMB acknowledges that Mauna Kea has been designated the chosen site for any future telescope construction for which these activities are being conducted. These activities are strictly for gathering information which IfA requires to make future decisions.

#### Discussion.

Ed Stevens asked if there was any feedback from the site tests that began in November 2001. Mark Chun of IfA indicated the results from tests near the 13 N site and summit were similar, but they were uncertain whether the turbulence measured near ground level is similar at higher elevations, such as at the height of a telescope. Hence, the need to erect a 5 – 6 m tall tower at the 13 N site and conduct more thorough testing. The tower will be erected on the base of the remnants of an old microthermal tower.

Mr. Chun stated, weather permitting, the kite which has about a 6' wing span, will be used in a week-long testing campaign. The purpose of the kite is to obtain measurements, by lowering and raising the kite, of optical turbulence at various altitudes.

#### Action

It was moved by Barry Taniguchi and seconded by Rob Pacheco to accept OMKM's recommendations, conditions and caveats relating to: a) IfA's proposal to conduct site tests at the UH 88" facility, CFHT weather tower and road out to the 13 N site; b) designating as insignificant, site testing for the Pan STARRS project, and testing for optical turbulence using weather balloons and a kite; and c) deferring action on IfA's proposal to erect a tower on the summit and at the 13 N site. The motion was carried unanimously.

## **B. Project Status Designation for Pan STARRS**

### IfA Proposal

At the October 22, 2002 MKMB meeting, IfA Director Rolf-Peter Kudritzki presented a brief description of the Pan-STARRS project. IfA is currently conducting seeing tests on Haleakala and Mauna Kea to determine the location of the project. Pursuant to the Master Plan, projects involving construction or excavation are subject to the design review process. However this process may not commence until the President confers a major or minor project classification. IfA is requesting a project classification.

### OMKM recommendation to the Board

OMKM recommends the Pan-STARRS project be designated a major project. OMKM also requests the following conditions be attached to the Board's project classification recommendation to UHH Chancellor and President:

### Conditions and Caveats

1. IfA's application initiates the design review process, however, it is understood the final site for this project has yet to be determined. The design review process, which commences upon official designation of a project's status (i.e. major vs. minor) by the President, is intended to guide the development and construction of a project to ensure the design complies with the overall goals and objectives of the Mauna Kea Science Reserve Master Plan and will include features that will mitigate potential harm and negative impact to the cultural and natural resources within the Mauna Kea Science Reserve.
2. As far as the project is concerned, because the final site has not been determined between Haleakala and Mauna Kea, it is OMKM's and the MKMB's position that the design review process cannot proceed beyond the Pre-Design Phase of the design review process. At that meeting, the applicant will be furnished with the necessary information regarding cultural, burial, environmental concerns, etc.
3. Recommending a major project status designation for this project does not signify nor imply that OMKM or MKMB recognizes Mauna Kea as the chosen site. Such recognition will be made upon an official decision by

IfA. The Board's recommendation is strictly for the purpose of allowing the Pre-Design Phase of the design review process to begin.

4. At the time IfA makes its final site decision, and if it is Mauna Kea, the Board will take up the matter of continuing the design review process for this project. If Haleakala is the chosen site the design review process terminates.

#### Discussion

Walter Heen clarified the pre-design phase involves information flowing from the office to the applicant about what needs to be done to protect the cultural and natural resources, and design concerns. This phase is akin to a developer going to the County and inquiring about what is needed to get the permit process going. Mr. Heen stated he did not believe the Pre-design phase should be part of the design review process because anyone should be able to come to OMKM to get this kind of information. However, according to the Master Plan the pre-design phase takes place after a project has been given its major or minor designation.

Mr. Stevens asked if the Board recommends conferring a major project status for the Pan STARRS project, would it open the door to allow the project to go forward even it might exceed the footprint of the UH-88 site? Mr. Heen stressed that a site still has not been determined and that Board action recommending major status merely allows the design review process to begin.

#### Action

It was moved by Rob Pacheco and seconded by Jim Kennedy to accept OMKM's recommendation that the Pan STARRS project be classified a major project. Mr. Taniguchi further requested the motion include the conditions and caveats. The motion was carried unanimously.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) Request to Install an Aircraft Monitoring Camera and Small Wide-Angle Camera.

#### SAO Proposals

1. **Aircraft Monitoring Camera.** SAO is proposing to install an aircraft monitoring camera on the roof of its antenna maintenance building hangar. The camera will be housed in a weather proof case about 15" X 17" X 21" and will be mounted on the roof of the hangar building. The purpose of the camera is to detect commercial airplanes flying over Mauna Kea at night. It is a safety system for use by the Keck and Gemini telescopes for their laser star guide system. This system will allow the observatories to immediately shutter their lasers when an aircraft is detected.
2. **Wide Angle Camera.** SAO is proposing to temporarily (about 5 years) install a small wide-angle photometric camera on the roof of its hangar. The camera will be enclosed in a 30" X 36" X 36" container and will be mounted on a platform about one (1) foot above the hangar roof. This camera will take rapid images of the sky to measure the brightness of a large number of relatively nearby stars over time. Data collected is expected to lead to discoveries of planets around some of these stars.

#### OMKM Recommendation to the Board

OMKM recommends designating the installation of an aircraft monitoring camera and small wide angle camera on the roof of the Smithsonian Submillimeter Array's hangar as insignificant projects. Impacts of these projects are deemed to be minimal. With Board concurrence, SAO will be notified to proceed with these projects and UHH Chancellor and President will also be notified.

Mr. Stevens asked if these cameras will be used for ground surveillance or used as a tracking device. Dr. Schinckel stated these cameras will be stationary and will be facing upwards to detect lights on aircrafts. In answer to why the laser needed to be shuttered, Dr. Schinckel indicated it was a FAA regulation and a safety issue regarding pilots' eyes. As far as he knew, the laser beam did not pose a mechanical threat to planes.

#### Action

It was moved by Heather Cole and seconded by Barry Taniguchi to accept OMKM's recommendation and the motion was carried with Jim Kennedy abstaining.

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Grant Mitchell, owner of Mauna Kea Mountain Bikes, stated he attended today's meeting to learn more about the process and to give input on commercial activities on Mauna Kea. He reported receiving a letter from OMKM regarding the illegal operation of his tours on Mauna Kea. Mr. Mitchell wants to know how he can go about getting a commercial permit and why new companies, as well as those who have been in business for a while, are not being granted commercial permits. Rob Pacheco stated he would be happy to talk to Mr. Mitchell about the status of the commercial permitting process.

**VII. NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is rescheduled for January 28, 2003, 10:00 a.m. (Note: This meeting was subsequently cancelled)

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hoke adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Barry K. Taniguchi, Secretary, MKMB

March 25, 2003  
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Date