

BIISC Meeting

June 06, 2004

Attended by: Anne Marie LaRosa, Laura Nelson, Rene Siracusa, Greg Santos, Rick Warshauer, Tim Tunison, Steve Skipper, Jim Glynn, Jim Jacobi, Earlene Wilson, Brandi Beaudet, Kealii F. Bio, Mindy M. Wilkinson, Christy Masin, Kim Tavares, Pat Conant, Marty Coopman, Margarita Hopkins
Guest: Leigh Beck, USFS

1. Introductions, Change of Chair

Laura passed the chair position to Anne Marie LaRosa, who will serve in that position for the next year. Anne Marie took over the meeting from this point.

Anne Marie announced that the chair position would be a rotating position for a one year term and that next year's chair would be Tim Tunison. Rene asked how the process worked, i.e. how Anne Marie got selected. Anne Marie informed her that Laura asked for volunteers to step up to the chair got none and so she (Anne Marie) agreed to take the position for one a one year term. The term of the chair could be changed in the process or drafting our Memorandum of Agreement and Operating Procedures.

2. Review of BIISC reorganization and draft updated Strategic Plan

Anne Marie reviewed how BIISC was re-organized: the structure working committee was formed at the quarterly meeting in December from volunteers within the membership. The committee made recommendations to the BIISC Operations Working Group which then acted on the decision and decided on the current re-organization strategy. Both groups focused not only on staffing issues but also on the mission and the committee structure. The Committees wanted to see more organization and to ensure that those that wanted to have a voice would but at the same time they would be responsible for actively participating. There was a general discussion centering on the difficulty in determining how decisions are made in BIISC and a general agreement that we would work to resolve this through a Memorandum of Agreement and Operating Procedures.

Anne Marie re: Strategic Plan revisions. A draft has been reviewed by the Operations Working Group and will be posted on the BIISC listserve. The plan is not strictly a "strategic plan" but rather a hybrid between a strategic plan and an annual operating plan. The plan will be completed by the new Committee Manager with input from the BIISC membership. In general, the plan proposes to: diversify BIISC's work to include more early detection and rapid response activities, particularly by first gathering all the data we currently have in disparate locations and with various agencies, and then determining an effective early detection strategy; evaluate the efficacy of Miconia control efforts to date with our NFWF grant this year; continue to control Miconia at high priority sights. This year will put a lot of emphasis on information gathering and synthesis to determine the hit list species. Once the MOA and operations are worked out and a new manager is on board we can revisit the "strategic plan" as a group. In the meantime, comments can be sent to Anne Marie at alarosa@fs.fed.us.

3. Proposed BIISC Memorandum of Agreement

Anne Marie received a draft from Laura and Jim and also reviewed several other MOAs including the one for the Conservation Alliance and combined these for the latest draft. The conservation Alliance MOA was included because it outlines the basic roles of staff and committee and therefore is similar to BIISC (paid staff and committee).

Jim Jacobi: Agrees that a decision making process needs to be developed; who is involved, how do we get organized. He mentioned that we could do a better job of connecting different efforts, agencies, etc. Anne Marie mentioned that the draft strategic plan emphasizes coordination and includes the concept of BIISC as a sort of information clearing house to direct information to the appropriate response agency and disseminate results to everyone. Also it could be the primary contact on invasive species information to the public. Not to duplicate or usurp the agencies' own responsibilities but to complement them. Also it would tend to serve the public better. Tim mentioned that hotline call coordination is easy, but the bigger picture stuff is more challenging. Jim J mentioned that the committee can/should facilitate feedback throughout agencies. BIISC is not mandated to fill holes where there is no mandate but still this is needed. The MOA will help with coordination and defining our various roles.

Several changes were suggested and Anne Marie tried to capture all of those suggestions. She will make changes and put out another draft based on those changes. The group discussed what to do about PCSU since Dave Duffy is the Principal Investigator for the projects that are funded through PCSU but he does not attend meetings as he is on Oahu. Anne Marie will contact Dave and ask him how he would like to participate.

The group decided that our next meeting should focus on getting the MOA completed. We need to get the broadest representation at the table that we can to discuss the MOA so that it includes everyone that wants to be involved. We also had discussions that in addition to the MOA we need to determine our rules of order, i.e. how we will conduct business and make decisions, for instance we need to decide whether decisions are made by majority (or some other type) vote or group consensus. We also need to determine how we will operate between the time we draft the MOA and when it is signed by all parties – this could be quite a while for all parties to review and sign. Jim Glynn mentioned that he had an MOA and a Group Charter for Fire that could be used as a model and that he would get a copy to Anne Marie.

Action: Anne Marie will send out a draft with the suggested changes. Members will review and get other edits back to her for the next meeting. Anne Marie will get a list from Laura on attendees from the last general meeting.

4. Announcement of BIISC Committee Manager Position Opening and other Vacant Positions

A. The **COMMITTEE MANAGER** position has been announced and will be open for the month of June. We should have a list by mid-July and hopefully some one will be on board by early August. In the meantime Anne Marie asked again if there were any positions to be announced before the manager comes on board.

Anne Marie mentioned that the State of Hawaii passed the Invasive Species Bill and that with the addition of the budget (and other money the budget for BIISC) for next year will be approximately \$700K. There is a lot of work to do and the state (and so also BIISC) needs to show progress the first year so that legislators will support funding in subsequent years. We need to get things up and running as soon as possible. Mindy suggested that we could hire field crew and have them supervised by other agencies, as opposed to waiting for months. We did not discuss this further at this meeting but it should be on the next meeting's agenda.

Jim J: We need to review basic templates for outreach & data base manager; these are important positions and are needed soon, so we could advertise them before the BIISC manager comes on.

B. Additional Positions to be announced

The group agreed that the position of Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator is one that could be announced soon and we would then have a list for the new coordinator (committee manager) to select from once s/he came on. There is already a position description approved for BIISC for this position so we should review it and see if it still fits our needs. Jim J also mentioned we should review the data manager position. This should be next after the outreach position. There may be a position available to the Big Island from one of the three statewide outreach positions with the HISC state funding.

Action: Anne Marie will get a position description to the members who worked on the Committee Manager position last month. We can work from the existing PD and will do this all via email.

5. BIISC Species Updates:

A. Coqui Frogs – Kim Tavares and others

The county has an emergency proclamation for coqui frogs. It is hoped that this will bring in funds for work on coqui. Marni mentioned that Wildlife Services received funds for some research on coqui and will be hiring several positions. Steve expressed concern about doing rapid response for coqui. Anne Marie explained that BIISC will be continuing its work this summer on coqui control along with Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Rob Culbertson will once again be the contact for coqui program in Volcano. Kim is continuing to take hot line calls for coqui and helping Rob with the program. Kim mentioned that there appears to be increasing numbers of frogs in Volcano compared with last year. Rene mentioned that Malama O Puna received a grant for Coqui work. CTAHR is making a public outreach video on coqui frogs (Arnold Hara).

B. Miconia – Kim Tavares and others

Kim reviewed our progress this year on Miconia. Renee discussed efforts in the Puna subdivisions with Malama O Puna. Pat Conant mentioned that aerial spraying would be effective here and wondered what the status was on the EA for Miconia on Maui. Mindy said the EA is not complete, the NPS started it and

never finished it – or didn't sign/approve it. It is possible to get the State to take the lead on drafting an EA for aerial spraying and to get BIISC money to get EA done for Miconia. A suggestion was made to include Bocconia and perhaps other species but Mindy advised against this at this time if we really wanted to get something done with Miconia. Agencies on Maui are proceeding with their program without an EA. Greg also mentioned that he applied for a supplemental label for basal bark on trees 6" and for Miconia and the approval is expected but is 3-4 months away.

C. Little Fire Ants – Pat Conant

Kyle Onuma is the lead now – At least four nurseries have ants, only one is near in-control. Nurseries are probably selling plants with ants. Now over 30 sites with LFA on the island so the species is out of control (probably). USDA, Florida can start bio control searches with \$100k start up but the pathogen may prove to be ineffective based on early tests. There was also a discussion about how to best keep ants (and frogs) from infesting new areas and the best option is to address the larger nurseries like the Wall Marts and the home improvement shops (e.g., Lowe's). This will be a priority for the new staff.

6. Additional species

A. Bulbuls – Marni Coopman and Anne Marie

Anne Marie talked with Ron Bachman (DOFAW) and they went to look for birds at Onekahakaha and did not find the pair. Christy Martin wrote an article for the Landscape association newsletter but we still have to put up posters, and get an article out to the general public, etc. Marni redid posters. We need to get them around with updated phone numbers.

Action: Marni will get an electronic version of a current poster to Anne Marie and she will get it printed for distribution. AM will phone Joey with DLNR to double check on the phone numbers and contacts. We will use BIISC funds to print the posters. Anne Marie will work with Christy to get an article out to the general public.

B. CTAHR culinary species project – Laura Nelson

Laura briefed everyone on this project from CTAHR – the 12-trees project to diversify agriculture in the Kona area. Some of the fruits they want to promote (3) are invasive, including mysore raspberry. Laura is working with them to come up with alternate species.

C. Others

Pat mentioned some new pests on the horizon ... glassy-winged sharp shooter is now present on Oahu – it has 250 known host plants, papaya mealy bugs are widespread on Maui and its significant hosts are Plumeria, papaya, and hibiscus and Guam has a biological control agents that we could potentially import but it won't be a quick fix.

7. Member Updates – Ongoing Project

Tabled for lack of time

8. Facilities/Space Needs –

Pat reminded us that large crew will not work well with HDOA building and staff and that BIISC needs to find a new home. Anne Marie mentioned that Greg had been working with Billy Kenoi of Hawaii County and he is looking for space for us. Anne Marie also talked with Roger Imoto of DOFAW and will also follow up with the University when Debbie Ward returns. In other words, we are actively looking but don't have anything definite yet.

9. Other Business

Margarita wanted to know if the project proposal to print BIISC invasive species brochure is still a go – yes and contact Anne Marie for follow up.

Steve Skipper (NRCS) mentioned that he is now with the local RC&D office in Hilo and they could act as a non-profit for money coming into the BIISC.

RENE mentioned that Malama O Puna has organized control of mangrove seedlings (pulling) at Wai Opae (S. of Vacationland) by the Jr. Lifeguards (Aquatic Resources). Jim J pointed out the importance of staying on top of mangroves.

A. Meeting Notifications:

Quarterly Meetings will be announced on the BIISC-L listserv. To subscribe to the list, you need to

send from your e-mail account to LISTPROC@HAWAII.EDU an e-mail message with a BLANK subject and the following text (*don't* include the brackets ["<>"]):

SUBSCRIBE <BIISC-L> <your name>

See the hear.org web site for more information on the listserv

Quarterly meetings will also be announced with a notice in the Hilo Tribune Herald

10. Next Meeting: Suggested Agenda Items and Location

The next meeting will be to finalize the Memorandum of Agreement and discuss how BIISC will operate (meetings) and make decisions. This meeting will be sometime during the week of July 12. Look on the BIISC listserv for the exact date. (TBD)

Adjourn