

BIISC Meeting Minutes  
April 21, 2005  
9:00 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

Attendees: Anne Marie LaRosa, Tim Tunison, Christian Rygh, Melanie Wassman, Sky Peterson, Rick Warshauer, Jeff Burgett, Rene Siracusa, Eldridge Naboa, Jeff Wynn, Kim Tavares, Mindy Wilkenson, Lisa Hadway, Jenn Randall, Mike Robinson, Pat Conant, Kim Langley, Aileen Yeh, Rob Culbertson, Laura Nelson, Debbie Ward, Kealii Bio, Steve Skipper, Wayne Taka, Earlene Wilson.

- 1. Introduction & Change of Chairs** by Anne Marie LaRosa –BIISC Chair (emeritus)  
New chair is Tim Tunison, currently the Chief of Resources Management Hawaii Volcano National Park. A chair elect was not selected.
  
- 2. Legislative Update – Kim Langely (CGAPS)**  
Bills surviving in House & Senate: Coqui frog bill with a \$100,000/county allocation. Environmental Work Force to be set-up by 2010 and changed to permanent status. The conveyance tax bill, affecting NARS funds. Gorse resolution HCL 155 passed Senate.  
**A. Comments**  
**Pat Conant (HDOA)**-There is little education with little fire ant. More work will be done with nursery owners and landscapers and less with residence owners. This problem is easy to suppress but hard to eradicate. There will be a 6 month position for island surveys.  
**Tim Tunison (HVNP)**- Difficulty with incipient's, the little fire ant first recorded in 1999 but probably arrived 5-6 years prior in fishtail palms.  
**Jeff Burgett (USFWS)**-What is BIISC's role in working with farm community when surveys are done in Kona (e.g. funding and technical support)? The farmers are having problems with coffee belt.  
**Pat Conant (HDOA)**-Amdro label needs to be changed. Bait stations are 50 ft apart and we need realistic bait station sizes. It is necessary to make restrictions intra-island regarding movement of coqui frog and little fire ant transportation.  
**Mike Robinson (DHHL)**-Do we have county support?  
**Aileen Yeh (HARC)**-What is the current rules on coqui frog dispersal?  
**Rob Culbertson**-There is currently no legal sanctions.  
**Mindy Wilkinson (DLNR/HISC)**-County allows access to property with invasive species.  
**Rick Warshauer (USGS)**-We need lobbyists on coqui problems.  
**Mindy Wilkinson (DLNR/HISC)**- State environmental law class. Banana bunchy top virus program didn't work and eradication wasn't achievable. No agency has implemented use of accessing property that has known invasive species present.  
**Pat Conant (HDOA)**- Although a certified nursery must be coqui and ant free but the rest of island nurseries may not be certified.  
**Mike Robinson (DHHL)**-DHHL is currently working with Parker Ranch to control gorse at Humuula by renewing lease for an additional 3 years. Currently doing Sugi tree planting on perimeter.  
**Pat Conant (HDOA)**-Bringing in a seed-eating moth that is currently working in New Zealand.  
**Mindy Wilkinson (DLNR/HISC)**-\$4 million is slated to come into HISC next year. Monies will go to Prevention, Quarantine, Aquatic Research & Technology and Outreach. \$2 million will go into general fund and \$2 million goes to NARS. Trying

to discontinue pulling NARS funding. Working groups will be set-up to decide where the money can best be used.

**Rick Warshauer (USGS)**-This is a counterproductive of NARS funding.

**Renee Siracusa (Malama O Puna)**-There were 10,000 mangrove plants taken out at tide pool. There are problems with property owners. Need Rob Ishimoto to supply information for educating owners. Nanawle subdivision has infrequent albizia and frogs. No community support in Leilani Estates, Mr. Charlie Stanton of the Sierra Club trying to take over and revive the community.

### 3. **BIISC MOA and By-laws**

Covered all changes and deletions made to draft of MOA (#2, C, E, 3), Terms of Agreement and Bylaws. Members of BIISC should be affiliated with an organization.

**Renee Siracusa (Malama O Puna)**-She feels there is a problem with starting BIISC Committee with only 5 signatories. We need to set-up an enabling paragraph.

**Anne Marie LaRosa (USFS)**-Facilitation is necessary to get this moving forward.

**Tim Tunison (HVNP)**-Minor changes should be made and submitted so agencies can have them approved.

### 4. **BIISC Updates-Jenn Randall (BIISC Field Leader)**

#### **Staffing, Facility, Projects, Budget**

BIISC has been working on acquiring permits, infrastructure for the new base yard at Waiakea Agriculture Station. Invasive Species Program Associate (ISPA) crew is set to work a 6-month schedule. Next meeting both Julie Denslow and Christian Rygh will be giving a detailed report. Staff will also be providing personnel support for coqui control activities scheduled at Manuka Natural Area Reserve in May.

### 5. **Introductions of new staff**

#### **Christian Rygh-Data & Mapping**

He is setting up a block system for assessment team. 40 blocks will be set-up using 4 sampling categories. Forested, Dense forest, sparse forest and open canopy.

**Rob Culbertson**-He gave a frog update of Glenwood.

**Dawn – Outreach**.....Unavailable

### 6. **Coqui frogs strategy**

#### **Anne Marie LaRosa (USFS)**

Activation of citizen control groups is necessary along with educating community organizations.

#### **IACUC (Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee)**

Dr. David Duffy is currently working with group to address concerns. There is a current cease and desist order with any control groups working under RCUH. For any grievances on this issue, please write to UH president.

**Rick Warshauer (USGS)**- Do they have authoritative jurisdiction?

**Anne Marie LaRosa (USFS)**-That question is currently being pursued.

**Mindy Wilkinson (DLNR/HISC)**-There is a coqui strategy meeting for the Big Island on June 1 at UH-Hilo. This meeting is necessary to draft a coordinated effort for the entire island.

**Pat Conant (HDOA)**-He was asked to notify Kyle Onuma and Mel Enriques of upcoming strategy meeting.

**Sky Peterson**-An early warning system should be set-up on the internet like Maui.

## **7. Developing incipient strategy**

**Tim Tunison (HVNP)**- Need to develop priorities for controlling incipients. He stated there is a lot of talent on the associate's crew that need to be utilized. A small subset of experienced people need to set objectives and strategies.

**Steve Skipper (NRCS)**- Focus on the hindrance's and interagency coordination.

**Mike Robinson (DHHL)**- His suggestions were criteria, nuisance, health risk and environmental.

**With Jeff Burgett facilitating, the group came of with issue to address in developing an incipient species control strategy:**

- i) Criteria for priority  
Include incipient definition
- ii) Evaluate other ISC models
- iii) List of Pathways
- iv) Inventory of existing incipient surveys on Hawaii
- v) Define/identify key players in response

The incipients committee recruited these members. Tim Tunison – lead; Mike Robinson, Steve Skipper, Jeff Burgett, Earlene Wilson. Tim indicated he will try to enlist contributions from Kealii Bio and Jim Jacobi.

**Kim Tavares (HISMEC)**-She suggested utilizing the districts to make focusing on incipients in each area easier. The committee should have a representative from each district.

Need potential tasks proposed in 3 months so BIISC associates can be utilized in surveys before their terms run out.

Next BIISC meeting tentatively scheduled for July 14 or 15, 2005. Laura Nelson will help to find venue in Waimea.

