

Big Island Invasive Species Committee Meeting
May 10, 2002
Komohana Extension Office, Hilo
Minutes

Agenda:

- ?? Welcome and Introductions
- ?? BIISC Leadership
- ?? Budget
- ?? Highway Weeds Survey
- ?? Weed ID Cards
- ?? NFWF Grant
- ?? Legislature Update
- ?? Working Group Reports: Frogs, Ants, Stinging Nettle Caterpillar, Fireweed, Clidemia, Gorse, RIFA

Attending: Duane Nelson, Greg Santos, Laura Hillis, Pat Conant, Heather Cole, Kim Tavares, Mindy Wilkinson, Tracy Johnson, Tim Tunison, Jeff Burgett, Karen Blue, James Glynn, Flint Hughes.

BIISC Leadership (Duane Nelson)

Duane has served as the Chair since the beginning of BIISC. There is some chance that he may be moving on to other duties, so we need to plan ahead for a change in leadership. A strategy is being proposed for a rotation of leadership. There is a possibility if Duane leaves, that his replacement could serve as the Chair, or other leadership role in BIISC in the future. However, there would likely be a significant time lag before that would occur.

It was suggested that perhaps the USFS Forest Health Coordinator could serve as an Executive Director on a permanent basis while the Chair position rotates. A Deputy Chair would be appointed and would serve alongside the Chair who moves into an Emeritus Chair position after one year and the Deputy Chair moves into the Chair position.

Duties of the Chair: Lead Committee meetings 6 times per year, meet with CGAPS 4 times per year. Needs to work well with people to disseminate information and direct the project coordinator.

Suggestions were solicited for Chair: Steve Skipper, Bill Stormont

Budget (Duane Nelson)

The Invasive Species Committees did well in the Legislature: \$614,000 funded.

See the attached budget spread sheet.

Highway Weeds Survey (Laura Hillis)

Laura Hillis and Kealii Bio are conducting a survey of the presence/absence of 200+ species of invasive plants along the Belt Highway. They have completed surveying the Highway from Pahala to Kailua, including City of Refuge Road, Napoopoo Road, and the bottom road that connects the two. Kealii had previously completed the survey from Pahala to Volcano, and has also completed 70 miles of survey along the paved roads within Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

A population of rubber vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) was found growing in plantings in the Whittington Beach area. This and other early detections are being followed up by the Rapid Response Team. A progress report showing the results of the survey thus far will be available at the end of July.

Weed ID Cards (Laura Hillis)

The Committee decided that 20 invasive species should be chosen for the weed ID cards. A small group will finalize the list so that the Education Working Group can move ahead with completing the cards and get them printed.

NFWF Grant (Laura Hillis)

Laura Hillis is writing a grant for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's NRCS-funded Conservation on Private Lands Program. She is requesting \$50,000 in funding for the Rapid Response Program, and is using \$100,000 in contributed funds from the State in the form of the next phase of the Emergency Environmental Work Force Program as the match. She needs to find a 501c3 organization as a pass-through for the NFWF funds. Karen Blue, the Executive Director for the Conservation Council for Hawaii, volunteered to assist with the grant.

Legislative Update (Mindy Wilkinson)

1. Hawaii Invasive Species Committee: The Leg gutted the bill that would have formed a cabinet level committee. The bill now says that a committee may be formed.
2. Bill for the prevention of animal trapping died.
3. Bill to create an Ecosystem Center died.
4. Some additional funding for ISC's passed.

Note from the Chair: Since this meeting the Governor vetoed the \$500,000 appropriation for the Emergency Environmental Workforce. This will eliminate 12 field positions were had planned of for control of Miconia and incipient invaders. It may have also endangered matching funds for the NFWF grant mentioned above.

However, the Governor did sign an Executive Order (No. 2002-03) establishing the Hawaii Invasive Species Council. The Council will consist of a representative from the executive office of the Governor and the heads of HDOA, DLNR, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, DOH, DOT, Dept. of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, DHHL, and UH. The purpose of the Council is to provide policy level direction and planning for combating harmful invasive species infestations and for preventing the introductions of others that may be potentially harmful. The EO specifies that the Council will work to support local initiatives such as the Coordinating Group for Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) and the island Invasive Species Committees.

Working Group Reports

Frogs:

USDA received funding to address frog issue. BIISC will be carrying out on-the-ground operations (will get funding). Wants to use hydrated lime once it is approved by EPA. Needs to test effectiveness – what methodology?

Ants (Pat Conant)

There was an Ant meeting in Honolulu this week. Pat handed out a final report on EEWf accomplishments, including maps. He has requested two full time EEWf workers to do ant and frog control work during the next phase of the program. New populations: Hawaiian Acres (having problem reaching owners), Maka Lika street in Panaewa.

Stinging Nettle Caterpillar (Pat Conant)

The caterpillar is confined to Kealakai Street in Panaewa by the Zoo. The grower who brought it in tried to kill it. It eats dicandra. Sevin and Bt are effective controls.

Fireweed (Pat Conant)

Two potential biocontrol insects are currently in quarantine: a moth has another month to go, then a year to review the work. Fruit fly is still going. A weevil and a fruit fly were dropped from testing.

Clidemia (Pat Conant)

A moth that was thought to have disappeared has been recovered. “Carpacina” also goes after Miconia.

Gorse (Pat Conant)

Gorse control study plots have been mapped out but haven't been burned due to rain and plant phenology. Need to decide whether it would be better to burn now or later.

RIFA (Pat Conant)

Mick Buck is going to a national invasive species meeting. The ant group is putting a proposal together for funding, asking for money for survey. If it's here already then APHIS will be providing the rapid response team.

Next meeting: Friday July 12th, 9 am to noon, Waimea Civic Center meeting room.

Note: Discussion of Strategic Plan was postponed. A small group will get together to make revisions then pass it out to the group for discussion.

(document posted to <http://www.hear.org/bimac/pdfs/biiscmeetingminutes20020510.pdf> on 03 July 2002)