

## **CGAPS Meeting: October 27, 2004**

*Meeting notes taken by Kim Langley, CGAPS Coordinator—these notes are for general information only and have not been passed through CGAPS participants for edits or approval. This document is intended for historical reference and is not an official record.*

### **Mark Fox opened the meeting at 9:10 am Introductions**

#### **Mindy Wilkinson- Hawaii Invasive Species Council Update**

Handout distributed of the revised budget for three million that was approved by council. The three million has been distributed over four program areas. Went over monetary detail in handout. Reported that a proposal passed to support the removal of invasive trees as an invasive species problem and not a forestry problem.

#### **Kim Langley- Coordinators Report**

Has been in the position six months and visited each of the ISCs at least once. Am currently working on funding proposals; DOD fountain grass proposal was denied. The proposals for NFWF and algae are still in process.

#### **Bruce Casler and Tony Montgomery- Aquatics Update**

Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop will be held on Dec. 8, 2004. There will be an update on aquatic invasive species and the state plan. Derek Chow of Army Corp. of Engineers approached the ISCs, explaining that the Corp had money to spend on invasive species management. After discussions the project that came forward was Kawainui marsh. There has never been a comprehensive look at the marsh, historically and currently. The plan would prioritize invasive species that are in the marsh, which would assist in future work.

Ballast water: working on the state rules, determining high risk ships and inter department communication. Also trying to participate in federal ballast water clearing house.

Carijoa, dives off southern point of Kauai found no carijoa in deep water, so it may be contained in Port Allen. Containment of Carijoa in Port Allen is still a large project.

Super sucker research continues, work will be starting in Kaneohe Bay in December.

Hiring of the aquatics team is delayed due to an administrative detail, but will begin when final approvals come through. A description of aquatic response team was e-mailed around and will be posted on list serve, Tony is interested in feedback. The team will need initial training and may initially be involved in harbor monitoring. The aquatics team is to be a resource, working on projects with other agencies and/or providing training and expertise.

Amy Villamagna– “Economics of Managing Invasive Species in Tropical and Subtropical Areas of the US”

Description of her project, which is a case study on the invasion of miconia throughout Hawaiian Islands. Her research is part of the T-STAR grants.

The general components are: Bio-economic modeling, decision making under uncertainty, regional case studies and policy recommendations. It will address the long-term strategic management of miconia; consider indirect and direct costs and benefits of various management strategies, and evaluate management regimes.

Her methods will include documenting management strategies of the different ISCs, estimate biological spread models, simulate invasion of east Maui watershed (using a model), identify the different resource uses, estimate and quantify damages, evaluate management strategies, Cost Benefit Analysis (Cba) including cost effectiveness (eradication/effort\$)

A biological spread model has been chosen, she will apply it to the east Maui watershed, where miconia is spreading, she will use the model to take it back ten years and mark it forward 50 years. With the model she will: estimate damages. evaluate market and non-market values, diversification, and native forest

The project is in progress she attended the MISC miconia meeting and was introduced to the existing database. The initial biological spread model chosen, has conducted extensive literature review. She will be assessing existing invasive species Cba's, ecological data of miconia and doing formal and informal networking. She is in process of identifying data gaps.

In the near future her plans are to use previous miconia field studies to test robustness of biological spread model, make contact with each ISC, understand the management approaches of various islands, the data organization and use, share resources and begin integrating data (labor hours, trees eradicated, cost/tree, population estimates, and probability of spread).

It is a longer-term project, and she hopes it to form effective partnerships.

Amly encouraged to work with Mark Fornwall of PBIN.

Question about timeline: project runs three years, but two years is a more realistic timeline. Compilation of ISC data should be complete in one year.

**Shirley Nakamura and Terrell Erickson- NRCS**

Presented information on environmental quality resources. Programs address issues on agricultural lands. Property Owners sign up for projects and there is cost sharing. Fireweed and Cat's Claw are some of the species addressed. Sign ups will be announced in mid-November. They are holding work group meetings at local field offices during the next two weeks.

NRCS received allocation last week, twelve million total, with five million going to EQUIP, one million going to another invasive species habitat program. This year they are listing at-risk species. They can list native plant communities that are at risk from feral animals or invasive species. Anyone is welcome to participate. Call 541-2600 x112 (Shirley) for more information on EQUIP. Terrell can be reached at 541-2600 x109. The program could also consider control of frogs and ants, if nursery owners apply. The cost share varies from 25 % to 75%. It may be possible for private owners to form a pool and apply together.

**Tim Male – Environmental Defense, Washington, DC – Federal Farm Bill Conservation Program Funding Opportunities for Invasive Species**

There are several farm bill programs that have large amounts of funding and he encourages Hawaii to take advantage of the programs. Encourages us to look at how USDA money could be used for control of invasives. Farm bill expenditures have gone up over last decade.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program-traditionally takes corn land out of production. Now is restoring land taken out of production, including invasive species control. Gov. Lingle submitted a proposal that would pay landowners rent for entering program and they would receive 50% of restoration costs. There are also incentive payments for specific elements. It is not competitive, anyone who is eligible can participate. Areas targeted are Ag lands with higher rainfall levels. Hawaii's goal is to control invasive species on 10,000 acres of sensitive land. This includes fencing, restoration and maintenance.

Environmental quality incentives program (EQUIP) voluntary program for farmers and ranchers has a cost share 50 to 75% of restoration costs with a payment cap. Most of the money goes to Texas, California and Colorado. Discussion of sample projects. The next farm bill is in 2007 and whether invasive species is a significant part of the bill, depends on people bringing the issue up.

## **ISC UPDATES**

OISC-Ryan Smith: held annual strategy prioritization meeting, focusing on priority species. Recently found four more mature miconia trees in Kahalu'u valley. Have since ground surveyed the entire valley. Recently lost two staff, but are in the midst of hiring new field staff, field coordinator and pr/admin person. Rob Hauff is new chair.

KISC-Keren Gundersen: still looking for new housing, must leave KCC at end of year, no prospects yet. Recruiting for new positions; Data/GIS position needs to be filled and field crew. Annual strategy meeting is November 15, all welcome. Short term projects: hired temp employee to work on mongoose, suspicions confirmed with tracks, will continue tracking and trapping program. Receiving assistance from FWS. Little fire ant taking a lot of effort and will go for another year.

MISC-Teya Penniman: top priority is day-to-day management, recruiting to replace public relation specialist, currently screening applicants for supervisor of Hana crew. Data management; are making changes to data system to improve info. MISC is trying to empower field crew to enter and retrieve info from database. Are we gathering the info we need to know to decide if we are being successful? This is a question that could benefit from a wider discussion. Still working on banana bunchy top virus, have a temp employee who is working with HDOA doing increased surveys in infected area. The county will probably continue funding and MISC will continue to work with HDOA on this. There is an increasing level of activity regarding coqui frogs. HISC money will be dedicated to frogs. But MISC is finding they are now lacking in tools /resources.

MoMISC-Tina Lau: emphasis is on prevention. Focusing on need for inspections, concern on retaining Molokai economic advantage of not having many agriculture pests

common on other islands. Priority is on red bulbul, they are investigating credible reports, one confirmed sighting, conducting surveys in surrounding area.

BIISC-Julie Leialoha: Julie was involved in the program in 1996. Now she is back. She has been on the job for three weeks, have a temp employee working on equip and facilities. She has a half-time administrative person. Outreach position is posted. Field operations is the next hire, then a data specialist. She hopes to have staff on by mid-December. BIISC will hire four field workers soon. They are also looking for new space, have a few potential places but nothing has yet panned out. New email account, [Leialoha@aloha.net](mailto:Leialoha@aloha.net). Currently using the old office in DOA, same phone number.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

### Lloyd Loope-Fire Ants

There is a grant from FWS for little fire ants. The project has been transferred to Kauai where it seems to be working well. KISC has a staff person for a year, doing extensive surveys. He is trying to do a similar program on Maui. Forest and Kim are doing surveys. He and Neil attended Australian RIFA meeting, Australia is wrapping up a huge infestation.

### Shokufeh Ramirez (HDOH)- West Nile Virus (WNV)

Continued surveillance for mosquitoes at points of entry and dead bird surveillance. They record a significant spike in calls whenever there is press regarding WNV. Calls have gone down after the spike surrounding time of Maui false positive alarm. Live bird analysis is done with APHIS but has been halted until they can improve process to reduce false alarms. Horse surveillance is done with HDOA assistance. They are now shifting to deal with the next WNV season on the Mainland. They are focusing on improving surveillance techniques for next season. Looking at how planes and ships could be disinfected when coming in. HDOH and FWS met with airline personnel; they are putting together a proposal for disinfection that the local personnel can take to corporate headquarters. Disinfection issue effects plane scheduling, turn around times. Jeff Burgett announced that on Friday (1 pm 3<sup>rd</sup> floor federal bldg) statewide meeting to look at lessons learned, reflecting on situation on Maui. There are questions about current bird quarantine system (eggs, no risk- adult birds requires pre-departure quarantine away from mosquitoes for a week- certain species, considered inherently low risk are not subject to quarantine), which may be revised for next year.

### Earl Campbell- Brown Tree Snake (BTS)

BTS control/eradication act went through congress and is awaiting signature. It allows agencies to ask for increased funding. On Guam, currently not a great situation with containment. They have 38 people, no longer able to check planes 24/7. They inform people if they miss flights. A summary comes out every month. 40 flights were missed in September. There will be a meeting in November to go over funding options for interdiction. A slight level of bump up from Department of the Interior, but not commensurate with need. Also received 500k increase from Navy, but still not able to

check planes 24/7. The situation in Saipan is getting worse; they've had several rapid response situations.

Sky Harrison- Data Hui

The process of establishing a statewide ISC reporting system began as an effort to address the need for statewide reports. The draft report establishes data and database standards and guidelines, concise data export transfer process and PBIN will then develop a database for CGAPS to use the information to develop necessary reports.

Christy Martin- Media Campaign

Campaign is still scheduled to air the PSA in spring of next year.

"Don't Plant a Pest Campaign" has had snags in working with landscape nursery industry, now moving forward again.

"Report a Pest" has had a few snags in gaining HDOA's agreement of need for an easy to remember toll-free line. There is a lack of information on the number of past calls. Sprint was approached about developing a public/private partnership to support costs of a toll-free hotline, the response was negative. Now may need to use the current 568 number. There is a need for a database to track the calls, currently no policy on this. There is a concern that Ward Research skewed one of the survey questions by having Humane Society and Animal Control as choices for the same question, it will be addressed.

Carter Smith- Weed Risk Assessment (WRA)

There was a flare up among the landscape industry but that has quieted down. Now preparing outreach to various groups and hopes to work with ISCs on each island. Most of the education/outreach is aimed at landscape industry groups. Trying to look at how economic impact developed. The WRA website has had changes, recommend everyone look at it.

Teya Penniman- Coqui Frogs

Would like to explore interest in having a statewide meeting on coqui frogs. The Coqui Frog Working Group is centered more on the Big Island due to the extent of their problem. She thinks we could all benefit from sharing procedures and policies, funding issues, etc. Teya will be happy to work with anyone interested to determine/plan a half-day workshop.

Neil Reimer- Plant Quarantine

The database enhancement project; they are working on computerizing their activity, for example, the permit system. Some of the data would become public. They plan on using the data to re-prioritize activities to higher priority. Thirteen research support workers will be hired, looking in detail at what is coming in to the state. They are doing 100% inspection to collect good data, numbers to support requests for increased funding. They do have six new positions on Maui.

They will also go to legislature to ask for positions that were cut from the department last year. Even though they only have three dog handlers, they are meeting 97% of flights. Flights missed in Guam are inspected here. They have hired three new dog

handlers who are in training now. They will also be asking for a biotech specialist position. There is a lot of activity with GMO plants. Currently they have no one to address this. They are working with the SuperFerry company to let them know what HDOAs concerns are; the company has been very cooperative so far. Looking at ways to fund inspections with the superferry. The company would consider not allowing animals on the ferry. Plant material in container trucks could be handled. Private automobiles are the concern. Jeff Burgett mentioned that USDOT is funding part of the superferry. Lloyd asked that HDOA consider the ISCs as a stakeholder. There are discussions of requiring private vehicles to be clean. The there is a question of resources.

Inter-Island Rules- HDOA is revising the rules, are finalizing a coqui frog movement rule. Revisions to the rules are still in draft, no public record yet. Once draft is finished they go to the people effected; nurseries, etc.

David Albert - WHITESPOT SYNDROME VIRUS

The presentation on Whitespot Syndrome gave a complete overview of the virus from when it was first described in Taiwan in 1993 to its current prevalence in every shrimp producing area. He gave a detailed description of the finding of Whitespot on Kauai in April 2004 and how the disease was controlled. It is not known how the virus reached Kauai, there are numerous hosts of the disease.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Penny Levin is the de facto point person on apple snail. She is doing a study at UH, working with taro farmers. Call 285-3497 for information. There is a strategic plan being put together for control of apple snails.

Next meeting on January 25, 2005. At PQ.