

MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE
MEETING
FRIDAY, 3/24/00
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

ATTENDANCE: Anne Carter, Hank Oppenheimer, Philip Thomas, Earl Campbell, Joan Canfield, Nathan Varnes, Lloyd Loope, Randy Bartlett, Clark Hashimoto, Steve Anderson, Fred Kraus, Christy Martin, Melissa Dumarán, Fern Duvall, Glynnis Nakai, Pat Bily, John Kunna, Hans Schopen, Jayson Barangan, Bruce Lind, Kam Quinabo, Chachleigh Clarabal, Bill Evanson, Mark White, Mark Collins, Jack Peterson, Elizabeth Anderson

- Call to order by Randy Bartlett, MPC/Chair, at 9:10 am
- Introduction of guests: Clark Hashimoto from CTAHR Maui, Glynnis Nakai from Kealia Ponds NWR, and Anne Carter from Kulamanu Farms.
- Meeting Notes from 2/18/00 meeting will be posted at the beginning of next week. Will hold off on approving until posted.

CHAIRMAN'S LEGISLATIVE FUNDING STATUS REPORT (Randy Bartlett)

- There was a hearing on House Bill 2973 on Wed. after the CGAPS meeting. There was a good turnout and no opposition. The bill passed onto the Ways and Means Committee. We need to get in testimony as we still have a chance when it goes to Ways and Means. Most testimony was for \$500,000. Last year we got \$300,000 for Miconia specifically. This may be a very important source of funding for us if we don't get Fish and Wildlife funding next year. Jack and Christy met with eight different legislators regarding funding, and distributed to approximately 40 bound, color copies of the MISC Action Plan; Spring 2000 update.
- Our best hope for funding besides the state money will be private foundations and we don't know what our success rate will be. Jack and Christy did an update on the MISC project, which will be available on the web. The private foundation funding proposal to support all the ISCs was sent to Nancy Glover. The MISC progress report for NFWF is also available.
- Mark White suggested that we need to look toward finding permanent, dedicated funding sources so we don't have to scramble every year to raise money. We also need to have a better way to deal with private foundation funding and have a more future oriented focus.
- There was a discussion about the possibility of MISC eventually becoming its own non-profit rather than continuing to work through RCUH. There may be some advantages to having our own non-profit status, but there would be some trade-offs. There are issues of federal and state involvement in a non-profit. We are already associated with RC&D and they are a non-profit. There was a capacity issue this year in using RC&D to approach private foundations. We should look into pulling the paperwork for 501c3 status and start learning about it as a back up.

- The private foundation proposals take a lot of work all around partly due to the customized formats. There are also progress reports to be done for all the different grants we get. The MISC staff time is already fully committed. MISC may need some additional administrative/fund raising assistance. There are professional grant writers and lobbyists available and we may want to consider getting some dedicated help for grant writing and tracking.
- Direct congressional appropriation may also be an option. This may be happening for quarantine. There are a lot of invasive species initiatives going on in Washington. People doing invasive species work need to make a stronger, more structured statement --- we need a better message to get a shift to hard money.
- We need a summary of initiatives that includes what is out there and what has been asked for. At the next CGAPS meeting we should get a better idea of where we stand.

NEW NPS ALIEN SPECIES TEAM (Steve Anderson)

- The Hawaii National Parks successfully competed for one of four alien species teams nationwide. Haleakala will be receiving ¼ million dollars for each of next 5 years to protect the Hawaii parks. For the first 2 ½ to 3 years the team will be stationed at Haleakala with a Maui focus. They will also make trips to work on Molokai and in the Kona parks. For the last 2 years the crew will be stationed at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. There will be a crew leader and team of four field workers. They are not mandated to only work inside park boundaries. The new NPS (SWAT Team) crew could have some overlap with the MISC crew. They will need administration and public relations support, which also may overlap with MISC. The goals of SWAT team and MISC should be very closely linked. There is a positive commitment from the NPS for funding alien species work, but we may not always be able to hang onto that funding for Hawaii. We need committed, base funded programs.

HANA CREW BUDGET STATUS REPORT (Nathan Varnes)

- Things were looking favorable at the county council budget committee hearing a couple of weeks ago.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT (Jack Peterson)

- An activity schedule was passed out detailing the MISC staff's activities since the last meeting.

Budget Status:

- The process of developing a precise, documented budget in coordination with the PCSU office is going very well. We are only days away from completion. MISC is doing very well as far as operating expenses. As of February we are solvent and have \$13,000 in reserve. We haven't had any big cost over-runs and we're sticking to the budget.
- Next month we should get another \$47,000 --- the 2nd quarterly installment from DLNR. There is a concern that DLNR isn't sending the installments out on a timely schedule. We need to get the funding before end of the state fiscal year in June.

- NFWF had a June 30 deadline to spend the funds we have from them. We are hoping for an extension until December.
- We have helicopter Purchase Orders set up and have time scheduled in early April.

Computers/GPS:

- A GPS is being used on our sweeps and we're making maps that are then sent out on the next field session. We are continuing to use borrowed GPS units, but are in the process of doing the paperwork to acquire our own.
- Thanks to Philip we have access to the entire park database and the software we need.

Plant Updates:

- Miconia: The crew has made numerous trips to work on peripheral populations. Over 100 plants above ½ m have been controlled. We need a team up and running on helicopter reconnaissance because the outlier area is so large. We revisited the original Keanae site and found only 8 plants this time. The seed bank is finally expiring, but the outliers are a bigger issue.
- Pampas Grass: Some unexpected plants were found on the Waikamoi flume road.
- Fountain Grass: We have calls out to enlist observers for Heli-ops. We hope to start doing aerial surveys soon. There were 68 plants found by the police station. We need to talk about what to do with seed heads. They can be autoclaved or sprayed with Velpar so the seeds aren't being moved around. We do have permission to use the autoclave here at NIFTAL.
- Ivy Gourd: We controlled 157 plants at Kapalua.
- Rubber vine: We took out the main population in Kihei. The plants were cut and stump treated.
- Fred: *Aenichelina tomentosa* is a Chenopod only known from one place at Kanaha. If one of our crew could work with Fern, they might be able to get rid of it. The species is widespread in Australia. It was agreed to have the crew help eradicate and monitor the species. We need to be sure to get really good pictures. It will be pulled, bagged, and autoclaved.
- Hank: A packet of seeds from National Wildlife Foundation came in the mail to start a butterfly garden. The packet included 20 different species and contained potential invasives. Hank has emailed NWF, but they haven't responded yet. He requests support from committee members in emailing NWF to correct their mistake.

Landowner Permission:

- We are mostly going to areas we've already been right now. We are waiting for a CD directory of all landowners with phone numbers, etc. that we ordered.

Decontamination/Training:

- The crew is very careful in adhering to decontamination protocol and preventing weed spread, bagging boots, making sure gear is clean --- attempting to be meticulous & doing a great job!
- The entire crew went through the USDA Restricted Pesticide Applicators Certification Licensing Course and will be taking the test April 9.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND EDUCATION REPORT (Christy Martin):

- A press release was put out to the Lahaina News on ivy gourd. There should be an article out soon.
- An idea was put forth that it we be good if we could get a regular article/column in the newspaper and do a series highlighting one plant a month or something like that. We also need a comprehensive MISC brochure that possibly highlights several plant species.
- We are working with an advertising agency on a MISC logo. We have 3 to choose from and need everyone to vote.
- We've developed a Scope of Work and Agreement for office space and outreach with Youth for Environmental Service. We will run the agreement on the MISC list for comment and review. Ryan has a copy of a draft education module to use in the classroom as a resource. YES will also will be working on a little fire ant survey project with schools.

VERTEBRATE UPDATES (Fern Duvall, Fred Kraus; Earl Campbell)

- Caribbean Frogs: Toxicant testing is continuing --- 36 have been screened so far. The first group is registered insecticides that can be used in horticulture and we have gone through all but one in this class. In all cases the frogs did well in the application. Natural products, like caffeine, are hard to get into solution. There have been some hits on pharmaceuticals like acetaminophen and testing is continuing on better surfactants. Working on doing more PR to help get a handle on where we have frog populations. There is a new poster available and we hope to have it at all post offices and schools. Fern's phone number is listed for Maui. He will follow-up on calls. Also working on a database on sites and population levels and looking at trapping. Trapping is very labor intensive and only good for small, initial work. The population on the Big Island went from 20 to 40 sites last year. Looks like tree frogs may be too far-gone there and should we focus on islands with smaller populations like Oahu and Kauai.
- Saffron Finch: We need to get over there and talk to the landowner.
- Parrot-Type Birds: Looking at the Florida situation should show us that we need to catch this now. Until the early 1980's, monk parakeets were controlled on the mainland. It's been 20 years since any data was taken and now 6 species are truly established in the Dade county area. Monk parakeets are found across Florida and they are a significant cause of damage to fruit. There are colonies of 1000+ birds. They are building nests on transformers and power

lines. The people doing the research think there is no possible hope for control in Florida. The primary researcher in Florida, Anna Maria, is graduating and looking for work. She is willing to come here and do the study and control work if we have funding. Anne Carter, Renate Duvall, and Ellen Van Gelder have been trying to get some numbers and are hoping to start a survey. There may be a possibility of a collaborative with the local team and Anna Maria. Need to confirm status of possible funding.

- Snakes: Three snakes have turned up in the state in the last few weeks. A garter snake was turned in, a corn snake found dead on a road, and a boa was captured.

MICONIA UPDATES (Bob Hobdy, Glenn Shishido)

- The Hana Core project has been turned over to Glenn. He is really running with it --- doing aerial spraying and trying to step up aerial attack. They are putting up a garage near Hana airport and getting a vehicle. Should try to coordinate helicopter time with the MISC crew.

BIO-CONTROL (Joan Canfield)

- There will be a workshop in Honolulu in May.

"HAWAII FOREST AND RANGELAND NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL" PUBLICATION

- Current cooperators include Kauai RC&D, Secretariat for Conservation Biology, Phil Motooka; CTAHR, Guy Nagai; HDOA, and Duane Nelson; USDA-FS/BIISC/BIMAC, Philip Thomas; HEAR. They are trying to get the publication out in the next few months, before the Conservation Conference.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Kealia NWR Issues: There is a mangrove/cattle egret rookery problem. There are an estimated 350 birds. Bull rush also a problem. The spotted wing midge has become an issue with local condominium owners as they are attracted light. The midge is not really considered a conservation problem. There is a need to find a way to minimize the midges with little environmental consequences. There are also issues with silt blowing and fish smells. Opponents have formed a friends of the refuge group.
- Joan Canfield congratulated those involved with the recent NPR broadcast on a job well done.
- There may be an "ISC" breakout panel at the Conservation Conference in August.
- The Maui County alien plant resolution passed. Philosophy is to not to plant invasive aliens on county lands.

Next Meeting Date/Time: Friday, 5/12/00 9a-noon