

**MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE
MEETING
FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2000
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON**

ATTENDANCE: Nathan Varnes, Pat Bily, Bob Hobdy, Lloyd Loope, Joan Canfield, Mark White, Randy Bartlett, Christy Martin, Forest Starr, Kim Martz, Fred Kraus, Les Matsuura, Jack Peterson, Hans Schopen, Russell Suzuki, Bill Evanson, Renate Gassmann-Duvall, Anne Carter, Elizabeth Anderson

- Call to order by Randy Bartlett, MPC/Chair, 9:15 am
- Russell Suzuki, the new field worker with the MISC crew, and Les Matsuura, the new administrative manager with PCSU, were introduced to the group.

NEW BUSINESS

MEETING NOTES

- Meeting notes from the June 30, 2000 meeting were approved. They have been posted to the MISC list.

BUDGET/FUNDING REPORTS

Chairman's Legislative Funding Status Report

- There will be \$500,000 coming from the state for Miconia control. The money is unfortunately coming out of DOFAW's operating budget. It will be difficult this year for DOFAW to make up difference in operating funds. Even though we specified that we needed new money --- that's not what we got. We need to find a strategy for avoiding this problem.
- We expect \$300,000 for Maui from the Forest Service. There is \$100,000 of the state money coming to Maui that isn't matched yet. We can use it for grants this year again.

Coordinator's Budget Status Report

- There have been no significant changes since the last meeting. We are working off of four different funds right now.
- We've received the 3rd quarter DLNR money and we still don't know when we will get 4th quarter. We are expecting more NFWF match, but it is kind-of nebulous how much and when. Les added that PCSU is working on securing the last quarter of the DLNR funding and the NFWF match. There should be \$49,000 of match coming through the system now (this is a smaller amount than usual) and they are working on getting a 3rd installment through the system also.

Hana Crew Budget Status Report

- The grant request to The Office of Economic Development was turned down, but they are still in pretty good shape.
- There is \$82,700 remaining of the \$100,000 from The Board of Water Supply. They will be drawing down the \$20,000 NRCS funding before the end of the federal fiscal year. There is \$202,000 in the pot currently to pay the crew, which will take them through mid fall of next year
- They have worked up a budget for support costs (supplies, utilities, fuel, herbicides, etc.) for legislative funding for the coming fiscal year. The total need is \$78,500. This includes \$48,000 for aerial spraying mostly in the Hana core.
- The Hana crew has a vehicle approved and it on order --- waiting for delivery.
- Mike Richardson says the FWS approved another \$46,000 for Public Relations salary for the coming fiscal year. FWS wants to be supporting alien species and they really believe in the ISCs.

PR/EDUCATION STATUS REPORT

Hula Bowl

- There is a Purchase Order in the system with sole source justification for \$9,750, which includes a PSA on ESPN and local rebroadcast. A national and local audience will see the PSA. We are also paying for airfare (~ \$550RT from the West Coast) and hotel for the producer. We are hoping to get a deal on the room through Maui Hotel Association.
- Filming is set to begin August 27. The producer comes in on 24th and there is meeting on 25th to form a plan, filming schedule, etc. Please put your name on list if you want to be part of the process.
- There are three very basic concepts we want to cover in the limited amount of time we have. We need some high visibility stuff that visitors will identify with. There is some good aerial footage we might be able to use from the 15 minute TNC capital campaign video. Pat has some good footage of Miconia control on steep cliff. We will need to look at what's available out there in the way of footage to incorporate.
- Bill suggested that there is 3-bedroom house in Olinda for Maui Forest Bird Project that might be an option for lodging. It has a kitchen and fridge and there are no volunteers staying there now.

MacArthur ISC Proposal

- MacArthur Foundation is reprioritizing and will be focusing their funds on other things. A similar proposal was sent in to Packard Foundation last week.
- Christy just finished a weeklong grant-writing workshop. She learned that it is important to have more than one person looking at grants. We would like to form a grant writing committee to help with writing, updates, reports, etc.

Other Public Relations Items

- Joan noted that there was a Maui News editorial on alien species control and budgeting recently and also a Washington Post Sunday article on alien species.
- MISC needs a slide projector. Loans from DLNR and the Park are an option.
- Christy met with EMI staff to discuss their concern with our requests for entry. The parrot related request was a concern because of possible taking of birds. They have initially said no, but agreed that after we evaluate other methods (like netting) then they will consider our request. They were OK with taking the birds, but not with using the guns.

CGAPS Update

- CGAPS is undergoing a metamorphosis (see handout from Joan). The Coordinator position should be advertised soon. CGAPS members are kicking in \$30,000 and there should be more funds coming in. Initially will hire someone half time for a year and if more funding becomes available we can crank up the hours. The position will be based on Oahu.
- From a direction standpoint the vision is CGAPS handling policy issues. The coordinator will help move this process forward. Lyle may be stepping down as chair, but there are other people on the committee that may step in. Lyle will be staying on the steering committee.
- Federal budget picture: Bill Brown from Interior was through and spent a day with Art and Lloyd. He is involved with alien species issues and got his degree from Manoa. He had some advice on getting federal funding. We really need to get our local constituency speaking to Congress and let them know the good stuff --- the idea that Hawaii is too far-gone needs to be dispelled.

GORILLA FOUNDATION PLANT LIST

- They want to get us in on the ground floor and they want our feedback. They don't want to cause a problem while still having adequate forage for the animals. Randy has invited their representative to come over for next month's MISC meeting.
- The best strategy may be to look the list over and highlight the things that would be benign rather than focusing on the bad things. We don't want them to bring in anything that will be a problem in the future. They will be operating on Maui Land and Pineapple property. Randy has support from his boss that they won't let them just do whatever they want.
- Pat brought up a question regarding plants that are already established in Hawaii. Will they bring these in or will they be propagating from what is already here (this would be better)? If a plant is not known to be invasive, are we going to say it is benign? It would be better to use local sources (i.e. white ginger is everywhere up there --- do we let them go ahead with it?)
- Fred added that it is not a good idea to let them go with ginger (or others like it) because we need to be consistent with everyone. Lloyd thinks it makes sense to be really hard nosed.

MISC WORKSHOP AND MEETING DATES

- Fred asked if we need a workshop, as we haven't met goals set at last one. Jack thought it was a good idea to have one. We need to update MISC plan, revisit goals, look at progress and accomplishments and what we want to accomplish in next year, etc. It was agreed that we would have an all day MISC workshop on **September 15**, 9am to 3pm. Prior to the workshop we should have updates/status reports for where we are on everything.
- There has been an ongoing email discussion regarding setting a regular monthly MISC meeting date. Jack expressed the concern that we need the flexibility and really don't need to meet exactly every month. Instead it was agreed that we would set dates several months in advance. We will also try changing the meeting time to afternoon, 12-3 pm in the future.
- Our next two meetings will be: **October 27, 12-3 pm** and **December 8, 12-3 pm**

OLD BUSINESS

PLANT UPDATES (see Activity Summary for details)

Miconia Peripheral Populations

- The crew has spent 4 days on Miconia since last meeting. They found a satellite core at MooMooNui.
- We really need to look at coordinating and planning more with the Hana crew. Our present capacity is still inadequate leading to a recommendation of another dedicated crew. We would like to get agreement from the MISC committee that the Maui Miconia strategy we worked up is OK. We are very concerned about areas west and south of the core.
- Mark reemphasized that we will need close coordination between MISC, the new park crew, and the state crew. Before we talk about an additional crew we need to look at maximizing efficiency of the crews we have.
- The park SWAT team will be spending 10-20% of their time on Miconia and the MISC crew is committed to 50% of its time on Miconia. Need a meeting between Steve, Glen, Bob and Jack to coordinate efficiency. A good portion of the workshop on the 15th may need to be discussion of Miconia coordination. There was further discussion regarding the need for more reconnaissance, putting together more joint operations, and revisiting areas.
- Bob added that they should be able to hit most of the big trees with the helicopter time listed in their budget proposal. The need for a back-up spray unit was discussed.

- Pat commented on the timing for revisits. Originally revisiting every 4-6 months, but you always miss some each visit. Every 6 months might cover it, but because of the possibility of missing some it might not be enough. In an ideal world where you see everyone you could wait for longer periods, but you have to allow for that error. It is better to start with a tighter frequency and lengthen it based on how confident the crew is about their sweeps.
- Joan informed the group that on the Big Island they have found Miconia 3 km from source of seeds.

Miconia Hana Core

- Glen is out on fires in California so we don't have numbers available for this meeting. They are putting up a garage and have a vehicle on its way.
- Bob went to Tahiti in July. He reported that it was scary to see their Miconia infestation in person. Some areas are completely inundated --- it is as bad and worse than everything we've heard. On steep slopes there are just bare roots underneath the Miconia and no litter. They are trying biocontrol and it looks positive. The military goes in on some of the outer islands to sweep through once a year. Because Tahiti doesn't have a dry side like the Hawaiian Islands, the potential range is the entire island. Some of the higher elevation areas may be a little more resistant. Bob added that he feels Maui still has a chance, but maybe not the Big Island. The Hana crew goal is still eradication of Miconia.

Pampas Grass

- The crew has spent 10 days on pampas since the last meeting and 225 plants have been dug-out/pulled out. There have been some really big plants in residential areas. The crew revisited the 2 largest populations on the island these are 95% dead. Would like to do an analysis of the pampas grass situation island wide.
- We are starting to try to identify all sites as jubata or selloana. The crew did day of training on identification of the two species with Steve Anderson.
- We now have a transport and disposal problem with pampas. We have brought 10 full trucks down to MISC. We like to be able to throe it in the HC&S incinerator, but they have strict emissions standards. Christy is working on this. We are also looking into getting a trailer for transporting pampas and other things and we may need to reconsider getting a pick-up truck.
- We are waiting for EMI approval to do an aerial spray operation at Honomanu. Hopefully, we will be able to spray next moth.

Fountain Grass

- The crew spent 3 days on fountain grass reconnaissance since the last meeting --- nothing was found. We want to get over to West Maui soon.
- The Maui Lani core was revisited and everything is dead. We are continuing sweeps on the golf course.
- Fred asked if this is the best time of year to be spending time on fountain grass rather than waiting until it rains. Bob suggested that summer has been a good time to find it in Makena in his experience.

Ivy Gourd

- The crew spent one day on ivy gourd since the last meeting and found new sites. They started work on the Honokahua burial site --- it is the biggest population on island. They also revisited old sites in Kapalua and they look good. The one on the fence has been coming back a bit. There are two more new sites.
- There may be a public relations opportunity if invasive weeds are impacting archeological sites. If we had the Burial Commission on our side, it would be real plus.

Odds and Ends

- The crew has also done some rubber vine treatment and spent two days doing gorse work with Pat Bily.
- We also assisted Haleakala National Park with their annual nene survey. We did the survey as a formal in-kind exchange with the park's resource management staff --- MISC will get an equal amount of help from park staff.

VERTEBRATE UPDATES

Caribbean Frogs

- Looking to start the caffeine field trails in a couple of weeks on the Big Island and Maui to determine what dose will work. One field trail will be at Howard's here on Maui. Hopefully EPA can approve the registration sometime early next year.
- A letter is going out to nurseries letting them know it is illegal to spread frogs and there will be a follow-up press release. Hopefully enforcement will have free reign to move forward on the Big Island. There was a news article on frogs on the Big Island.

Parrot-Type Birds

- Anne and Renate are officially on board as part-time MISC employees as of 8/1/00.
- Four birds (3 males and 1 female) were shot by DLNR in July 6 on private property. The owner is not willing to allow this again. The birds are mitered conures. The specimens are at Bishop Museum. All four are in good health/condition. Art is growing stuff out from the stomach contents --- looks like a banyan tree coming up already. They leave the roost at sunrise and go back and forth every 10-15 minutes throughout the day.
- Samples were prepared for disease evaluation. There were some ectoparasites (possibly lice). It is interesting that tail feathers on one of the birds are very worn --- this may indicate they are sitting in burrows in cliff walls. One of the birds appears to be a juvenile based on iris evaluation (not really proven). All tests indicate they were in a non-breeding status.
- We need to find out more about where they are sitting and what they are eating. EMI access is crucial. We would like to capture several every few months to check on breeding status and get a better handle on what they eat. Also need to do a little more work on their range. What else does MISC want Anne and Renate to focus on? They have a preliminary report and map started.
- EMI may change their mind about access mind if they find out the birds are eating banyan (ficus) because they are really concerned about banyan --- it is a big headache for them. They are willing to work with us, but they need some justification and documentation.
- There is a rose-winged parakeet report from the Hana area. Someone in that area raises parrots (mackaws) --- assuming they are caged, but there are rumors that there are some in the wild.
- Earl hasn't had the time to get the Florida parrot specialist proposal together. He is busy with caffeine trails for frogs --- this is a higher priority for him now.

Saffron Finch

- Fern and Christy met with the lady who has the birds coming to her yard to feed. She doesn't want them caged, but discussed an aviary as an option. She is thinking about it and wants to see a proposal about where they would go. Translocating them to the Big Island seems like a good idea because they are already naturalized there. This falls back into Fern's court. We would need to be able to guarantee to her that they would be set free. Moving them may be a violation of agriculture law --- need to follow-up.

STATUS OF "HAWAII FOREST AND RANGELAND NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL" PUBLICATION. CURRENT COOPERATORS INCLUDE KAUAI RC&D, SECRETARIAT FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY, PHIL MOTOOKA; CTAHR AND DUANE NELSON; USDA-FS/BIISC/BIMAC

- There will be something together soon. Philip just needs a few more pictures.

OISC FORMATION MEETING UPDATE

- They have sent out flyers and are planning a large kick-off meeting August 28. FWS is considering funding a coordinator.

USDA/CSREES ALIEN RISK ASSESSMENT PROPOSAL STATUS

- This is pending and still looks hopeful.

HAWAII CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

- There will be an ISC breakout session on Friday morning. Fred will give a brief overview on the role of the ISCs followed by an update from the chairs of each of the ISCs (Randy, Duane, and Joan Yoshioka). There will be directed questions to the panel from the moderator on a variety of topics including funding coordination, permanent funding, non-profit status, interaction between the ISCs, ISC relationship to CGAPS, different approaches used by the different ISCs.
- There is a nice press release out on the Conservation Conference so hopefully we will have some good press coverage.

NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME: SEPTEMBER 15, 9AM-3PM