

**MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE
MEETING
FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2001
9:00 AM -12:00 NOON**

ATTENDANCE: Kim Martz, Forest Starr, Randy Bartlett, Jack Peterson, Christy Martin, Mike Walker, Elizabeth Anderson, Pat Bily, Fern Duvall, Nathan Varns, Mark White, Melissa Dumaran, Anders Lyons, Steve Anderson, Jayson Barangan, Renate Gassman-Duvall, Jordan Jokiel

? Call to Order by Randy Bartlett (MPC/Chair) at 9:20am.

NEW BUSINESS

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

? Minutes from the May 11th meeting were approved. They will be posted on the HEAR web-site.

BUDGET/FUNDING STATUS REPORTS

Coordinator's Status Report (J. Peterson)

? Our budget is looking better than anticipated. We are fully funded to continue work at the same level as before. MISC was expecting \$225,000 from the County and the Board of Water Supply based on what had been approved so far and we are told this morning by Tri-Isle that there is an additional \$100,000 in matching funds that has been approved by the Board of Water Supply, for a total of \$400K from the county (\$325,000 will pass through Tri-Isle to MISC). We have a meeting with Tri-Isle folks this afternoon to discuss administration of funding. We hope to target at least \$225,000 towards additional helicopter support.

? Randy added that since the Hanacrew will have State funding for helicopter support, as much county money as possible should go to MISC.

? We will be receiving \$87,000 for frogs through the NPS. The funds will be going into the unit to support two technicians and there will be \$10,000 to help Christy with public relations work on frogs. This should free up some existing funds for other things.

? We are still working on fine-tuning estimates for miconia control. We are concerned that our current estimates based on a two-year cycle are low. The present estimate is roughly \$2.5 million per cycle, but that figure will be fine-tuned shortly.

? Steve suggested that we convene a sub-committee to discuss and re-look at the miconia figures. We need to make sure that we aren't showing too low a cost figure and cutting ourselves off at the knees. The word eradication is still being tossed around and that should make us nervous.

? Randy continued that we need to have the miconia figures refined and ready to insert in the 2002MISC proposal by the next meeting.

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Steve added that the NPS actually needs the numbers sooner as we've been asked to put a proposal in to the NPS Project Management Information System (PMIS) so Congressional staff can have access to the information.

- ? Mark asked if we should even be using the word eradication. Are we really talking about containment? Steve commented that eradication is a lofty target and the sticking point has been that we need to have this as our ultimate goal even if it isn't attainable. Fern added that control would only really be maintenance and Mark concluded that we need to be clear about what we are really requesting funding for.
- ? Randy suggested that for 2002 we need to write up the two different strategies --- eradication and containment.
- ? Pat suggested a third scenario because funders often want to hear just one option that is the top of the line. The third scenario would be the annual cost of doing nothing more. People do need to hear what it would cost to do nothing. There are ways we can get some real figures for this. Jack countered that the third scenario would be a very complex thing to get a handle on. Fern added that there is someone at the East-West Center that is working on that third scenario. He will be around until the end of year. Steve indicated that it is perhaps complex enough to figure out what it will cost to actually do the work. He would like to see a handful of us sit down with the figures.
- ? Randy concluded that we should aim for eradication and containment scenarios.
- ? Melissa brought up the fact that she is unclear about the message we are taking to the public. Christy responded that we've been presenting the idea as control with the ultimate goal of eradication --- containment ultimately leading to eradication.
- ? Randy added that miconia and the cost of dealing with it is clearly spreading/growing and we need to really let our funders know how much we need. The bottom-line is "pay now, or pay later." Pay for this work for ten years, or you will be paying for this forever.
- ? Jack clarified that we are shooting for zero fruiting trees and Randy added that the ultimate goal is a level of funding adequate to keep it contained and also make progress towards eradication.
- ? Jack stated that we have zero confidence that we've done a complete cycle. There are still places we haven't looked at. We've drawn a line around the 40,000 acres, up to 2000 feet elevation, that we consider most suspect --- that is just a starting point.
- ? Steve suggested that if we can do a very clean job of aerial surveys we can help direct our ground searches. The concept really becomes one of serial eradication because of new introductions. What is killing us is what we don't know. Melissa indicated that it seems like surveys around the edges should be a high priority.

Fern asked if the survey aspect was being worked into the miconia figures. Jack responded that it is and that we feel only approximately 19% (from one study area) is visible from the air. Fern concluded that if we don't know what is there it is very hard to assess the total cost. Jack continued that we are currently estimating \$3 million to finish the first cycle. This is an order of magnitude higher than what we thought before.

- ? A miconia subcommittee strategy meeting was scheduled for July 23 at the MISC office.
- ? We have received only two applicants so far for the MISC Field Crew Leader Position (Hans' replacement). We've extended the announcement for three more weeks and made some changes in the advertisements. In the long run we may need to revise the Position Description to a higher pay level so we can attract a larger pool of applicants. We are not going to hire off of the current announcement unless we get someone who is truly suitable.
- ? We will also be advertising for additional administrative help since Elizabeth can only be here one and a half days a week. The position will be part-time initially and may go up to full-time later if there is work. Steve asked that the position description be reviewed by a couple of key members of MISC before it goes out.
- ? MISC may need to move to a new office/baseyard location in the near future. NifTAL has the lease for our facility now, but they are going to terminate the lease. We either need to take over the lease or find a new facility. Taking over this facility could be a huge expense. It takes a great deal of energy and money to manage this site. There is another U.H. CTAHR site up on Piipolo Road we may be able to move to. As of Monday the management of the Piipolo site is being turned over from NifTAL to the Kula Experiment Station. The Piipolo place has space to accommodate our office needs as they are now. We would need to put up a yurt or something if we expand and there may be no meeting space. David Duffy is seeing what can be worked out. The facility is on 40 acres and has the potential for helicopter LZ's. We aren't in a big rush to move, but we are anxious to secure the new site and would aim to move up before the end of the year.

County/State Funding Update (Nathan Varns; Tri-Isle RC&D)

- ?? The Hana crew is almost finished spending the CDBG grant for this year. The Water Department grants will take us through next year with the crew. We had a meeting a few weeks ago to talk about whether to turn over the personnel part of our management to RCUH. Natalie Powell is our Acting Executive Director now. Beginning on October 1 staff job descriptions will change to be more support and technical in nature. Our positions will become more advisory rather than being directly associated with RC&D. For now we are going to maintain the crew under RC&D management, but later may move them over to RCUH. Nathan will still be able to look for grants, help with strategic planning, etc.

?

- ?? We just learned that our Workers Compensation premiums have gone up another \$2000. It is difficult for a small organization to absorb these costs. In the long term these costs may lend support to the transition idea.

- ?? The NFWF contract came in and was signed and sent back. The funds will pass thru to RCUH for personnel costs.

CGAPS (MarkWhite, TNC)

- ? CGAPS is hoping to do a better job of coordinating our work at the Legislature this year. Last year things got a bit confusing and as result we did not receive as much funding as we would have liked. There was a small pot of money and it was divided up. We want to get more organized and start to get ready NOW for the January Legislative session. We need to set priorities for a two-pronged approach --- State and Federal.
- ? The State prong: We are trying to get \$3 million for miconia and will ask for \$1.5 million from the state, and \$1.5 million from federal sources i.e. NFWF. We would like to form a sub-committee with a member from each ISC. PCSU's Karen Horita will help us develop pull together information. We would like Christy and Randy to help on the subcommittee. (Randy suggested Jack should also be involved.) Our new CGAPS Coordinator, Steve Lohse, can hopefully then pull it all together --- we are trying to get the ISCs and CGAPS working closely together.
- ? The other prong is Federal: we are asking for more support for HDOA (discretionary funding, more inspectors, etc.) and continuation of brown tree snake funding. We will need a different member for this sub-committee. Melissa noted that she is glad they are looking at this now since we no longer have Fred to pull things all together for us. Melissa offered to help, but reinforced that Steve Lohse needs to be the one pulling it all together now. He's new and has good research skills. This first year he will need to be getting his feet on the ground.
- ? The focus this year for CGAPS may be more on funding than policy as we start to boil it all down.

Haleakala N.P. Funding Update (Steve Anderson; HALE-NP)

- ? On June 11 the park Superintendent, Don Reeser, issued a press release to local papers and legislative offices indicating that beginning in January 2002 the park will start charging fees in the Kipahulu area. The fees will apply to commercial and public use and aerial over-flights. The new fee is expected to raise approximately \$1 million a year. Don's main point in initiating the fee is to escalate the miconia battle. The Superintendent has authority to impose these fees, but does not presently have the authority to use the funds outside of park boundaries. There has been an omnibus bill initiated that would allow us use these funds outside the park. We could use some lobbying on this. Abby Miller is actively working on this issue for us. Steve will get information on lobbying for this bill out to the committee.
- ? The funding falls under the national Fee Demonstration Program. We can use 80% of an increase in park entrance fees for projects that directly benefit visitors. Eighty percent of the entire fee for Kipahulu would be available since it is an entirely new fee. Fee demonstration funds from the summit area are already being used for Kipahulu projects including a new parking lot, new restrooms, and rehabilitation of the campground.

- ? A discussion followed regarding public reaction to the new fees. There were concerns expressed regarding locals having to pay to use the area. Jack and Christy suggested we should have a community meeting out in Kipahulu with Art there to give a presentation on miconia. Randy mentioned that he has heard a lot of positive things about the proposal and support for protecting resources. Renate added that the fees could have a big impact on small commercial tour businesses and that perhaps we should design a flyer to give out to visitors explaining what the fees will be used for. Jack noted our number is the one listed in the press release and we haven't received any calls yet.

PR/EDUCATION STATUS REPORT (Christy Martin; MISC)

- ? Our poster is finally ready --- we printed 250 initially. We would like to add text for the next printing. The posters will be distributed to schools. Kepa from TNC will help with distribution. We'd like to have them posted in as many public places as possible. Please let Christy know if you have revision comments for the next printing.
- ? We had an article on rubber vine in the Hawaii Landscape magazine. There are less than a dozen locations island wide --- we are very close to removing all known locations!
- ? Christy is working on coordinating public relations efforts for the upcoming SCB conference.
- ?? On the evening of July 17, Dr. Timmons from the New Zealand weed team will give a presentation at MCC in Kalama 103.

MoMISC REPORT

- ?? Tina wasn't able to make the meeting this month. Steve asked if anyone knew if MoMISC is using the OISC database? We need to follow-up on this to make sure there is consistency.

ONGOING BUSINESS

See the attached Activity Summary for an overview of the MISC crew's schedule since the last meeting.

VERTEBRATE UPDATES

Caribbean Frogs

- ? There have been recent reports on a new species for Maui, *E. planirostris*. It initially showed up at the Ritz and at a condo in Wailea. It has since shown up at Lowe's and other places. These frogs are not in greenhouse situations, but mostly outside. They stay on the ground, are very fast, and very prolific. The DOA should be more alarmed about this species because of export considerations. They are at lower elevations and would not necessarily spread into wet areas, but we do not really know for sure. They

can reach a density of 14,000 per acre. They sound like a very faint gray francolin or cricket. They may have been in Wailea for about a year. Groundskeepers thought they were tiny insects, but on closer inspection discovered the truth. They have been clogging up the Jacuzzi filters -- this is the reason they were ultimately reported.

?

Christy heard two frogs at Lowe's. Lowe's staff captured one and MISC captured the other one. Christy and Mike also got a frog in Wailuku last night.

- ? There is a shipment of caffeine coming in and we are still awaiting EPA approval. According to Earl we may need to pay for the actual physical labeling. If no one offers to pay, the process might stall. Labeling would cost on the order of \$30-40,000.

Parrot-Type Birds(Renate Gassmann-, & Fern Duvall;DOFAW)

- ? Jack talked to Dr. Van Sant yesterday. She had received the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and thought it looked OK. She is waiting to hear back from the folks she works with regarding approval. Fern noted that internal review should have been completed before the MOU was sent out.
- ? Forest and Kim were contacted recently by Jamie Gillardi regarding regulations for removing the conures, permitting, etc. They are trying all angles.
- ? There has been no permit request come through the state yet. Dr. Van Sant has indicated she will get the permit process started immediately, but so far there has been no action.
- ? A discussion followed regarding changes and additions to the MOU. The idea that the MOU should include a statement on timeliness of the permit application was brought up --- the clock starts now. Renate noted that the MOU contains nothing about the housing issue. What happens if the cages aren't sound? What if the birds escape from the facility? Fern responded that those items would be in the permit rather than the MOU.
- ?? Renate also brought up the issue of reports during the capturing process. We should require monthly written reports. Should Renate be going to the capture site regularly?
- ? ?? Steve asked if the captured birds would be banded? Fern indicated that he can require individual banding in the permit.
- ? If the capture process is unsuccessful, the State will be responsible, not MISC. MISC will provide input, but will not be directly involved in the capture. MISC partner agencies are not bound by the agreements since they aren't actually signing.
- ? Renate asked if the State would cover disease transmission in the permit? Fern indicate that the State can cover that, but right now we can't second-guess what form the permit will take since they haven't requested it yet. As long as items are covered in the permit we don't have to cover them in the MOU. This will be a novel type of permit.
- ? Randy suggested that in MOU we add when MISC will move to recommend that DOFAW begin to take action --- i.e. they have 12 months from July 1 to finish. Steve

suggested that if the MOU is good for a year that would take care of the timing issue.

- ?? Randy noted that he feels the press releases should precede the community meetings to announce the relationship and the meeting dates. Christy countered that we would rather keep the meetings focused on the community. Pat suggested that a media article could help people develop an unbiased attitude. Community meetings will be held in Haiku or Huelo. July 18 was set as an initial target date for the first meeting and it was decided the press release will come out before the meeting.
- ? Pat suggested that the Farm Bureau should be represented at the community meeting for the agricultural perspective. We also need to make sure Earl is at the meeting and get the seed farm folks to come attend as well as DOA representative, Bob Yonahara.
- ? Mike Avery will be here on Maui to discuss parrot management on Aug 14 & 15.

Saffron Finches (F. Duvall)

- ? Nothing new to report. The finches will be taken to the zoo. The zoo wants all the birds at once. We need to figure out when we can go and set up nets. Fern has to deal with the capture as the State biologist otherwise a permit would be required.

PLANT UPDATES (Jack Peterson)

Miconia Aerial/Peripheral Populations and Miconia Bio-Control (J. Peterson)

- ? We have stepped up work on miconia with 18 workdays since the last meeting. The crew spent two full weeks in the core and has driven out several other times for a day. We did four reconnaissance flights and two spray operations. We don't have any spray operations scheduled in July but have four 6-hour spray operations planned in August. A total of 952 plants were killed since the last meeting. Jack presented an update illustrating details with wall maps. The results from aerial survey work in areas surrounding the Hana core were discussed. Jack expressed particular concern over findings in the Kawaiipapa river valley and all slopes of Olopawa. This control work will increase costs and will require relatively more helicopter time. Ground access in some of this area (e.g. steep slopes) is extremely difficult to impossible. Much of the Kawaiipapa river valley on the north side may be accessed on the ground, and a portion of the joint MISC/NPS SWAT team crew spent 1.5 days cutting reconnaissance trails into this area.
- ? Yesterday we helped Art and Eloise scrape bio-control spores off petri dishes, loaded them up in the helicopter, and flew to Hana. The sprayer malfunctioned, we returned to Kahului, and ultimately had to drain the bio-control out and protect it from heat. After three and a half hours we got the pump to work, but once back over the Hana core it started spraying and wouldn't shut off. We sprayed about 50 trees in a good location. This is the same sprayer we use for herbicide and we've started to have trouble with it. Don Shear (Windward Aviation) has promised to build a new, more dependable one. The bio-control may not actually kill big trees, but the spores will rain down on the smaller ones underneath, and results have indicated high effectiveness on seedlings. We need to make sure the DLNR Hana crew knows

where we sprayed.

- ? Jack had a productive meeting with Glenn to talk about coordinating heliops. They agreed to share data on all heliops. They poured over maps and broke new ground.
- ? Mike, Pat, and Anders did a flyover in Huelo, Honokala, Kailua gulch, and Hoolawa gulch. They revisited the areas where Garret Hew had found the plant years ago. Both Huelo sites have been controlled and there have been no fruiting trees for about 6 years. This is a microcosm of the real battle in Hana, but it shows that we can have positive stories. We need to work from the periphery in. There has been no recruitment in Wailuku since 1996 and recruitment in Haiku is low. During the fly-over we flushed about 50 conures in Waipio gulch around 800 feet

NPS Exotic Plant Management Team (Steve Anderson HALE-NP)

- ? The park SWAT team is doing miconia work in blocks of time to minimize decontamination time and effort. The team is spending approximately 10-20 % of their time on miconia.

Pampas Grass

- ?? There was a new population found in Makawao Forest Reserve by Hank Oppenheimer.
- ?? The MISC crew spent seven workdays on pampas since the last meeting. They did thorough sweeps above Kahakpau, and found some big plants. At the end of the summer when pampas starts to seed we will go to aerial survey/recon.

Fountain Grass

- ?? We spent one day re-sweeping the core area in Maui Lani and the sand dunes. Only eight plants were found. Jordan and Jeremy will be helping with aerial surveys for fountain grass --- they both have lots of experience.

Ivy Gourd

- ?? There is a new site in an empty lot on Wainee St. in Lahaina next to the Lemon Grass Restaurant.
- ?? The crew spent 4 days on ivy gourd since the last meeting. They hit some new places and did some Lahaina, Kaanapali, and Kapalua revisits --- 315 plants were dealt with.

Arundo

- ?? The crew did two days of arundo work in Kihei in a residential area. The work was very difficult. The landowner wanted the plants mechanically removed (=dug out! Disbugga really get one da kine roots). The Lower Beach Road site needs to be retreated.

Rubber Vine

?? One day of crew time was spent on rubber vine with three large plants killed.

Other

?? Forest and Kim shared information on two identified species of *Citharexylum*. The plants can reach densities as high as strawberry guava. As far as we know neither species has been found in natural areas, but with fleshy, red bird dispersed fruit we need to be on the lookout.

Next Meeting Date/Time: Wednesday 8/24/01, 9am-12noon

**M.I.S.C. Activity Schedule
May 11 -June 29 2001**

- 5/11: M.I.S.C. Meeting
Pampas: Kula -Dig/Haul, Snake retrieval**
- 5/14: Pampas: Kula -Dig
P.M. -Frog Survey at Twin Falls and Peahi (heard none)**
- 5/15: Crew Meeting /Planning /Data and Decon.
Truck Recon.**
- 5/16: Pampas: Sweeps -Hale Ranch; Mauka the Kahakapau Res. (3 found)**
- 5/17: Heli-Ops: Cancelled
Pampas: Kula -Dig**
- 5/18: Pampas: Kula -Haul (Full U-Haul Truck)
Decon. /Town Errands /Truck Recon.**
- 5/21: Miconia: Backcountry Tripw/E.P.M.T. crew
Trip prep /Travel /Recon. End points for new Base Lines (Kawaipapa Y)
Meeting w/ Tri-Isle RCD re. funding**
- 5/22: Miconia: Cut BaseLines -Kawaipapa Y
Meeting with NPS Officials at MISC .
P.M. -Barbeque w/ NPS Officials**
- 5/23: Miconia: Sweeps in Kawaipapa Y
Heli-Ops: NPS/MISC/E.P.M.T. and
NPS Officials -Miconia /Field workorientation**
- 5/24: Miconia: Cut Base Lines -Hana Ranch Mauka
MiconiaStrategy Meeting w/ NPS Officials at MISC**
- 5/25: Miconia Trip Return, Data /Decon.**
- 5/26: Auwahi Dry Forest Restoration w/ Art Medeiros (Jack)**
- 5/28: HOL: Memorial Day**
- 5/29: Heli-Ops Spray Prep. /Town Errands /Vehicle maint.**
- 5/30: Heli-Ops: Spray -Miconia, Olopawa and Hana Ranch Mauka (4loads)**
- 5/31: Heli-Ops: Recon. -Miconia, Olopawa /Mauka Hana Core
Pampas: Kula -Spray (Major residential infestation bordering Hale Ranch)
Truck Recon.**
- 6/1: Pampas: Sweeps - Hale Ranch; Mauka the Kahakapau Res.**
- 6/4: IvyGourd: Lahaina, Kapalua Revisits
Fountain Grass: Maui Lani and Waiehu Dunes
Rubber Vine: Flyers to new sites found
Data /Decon.**
- 6/5: Arundo:Kihei Dig /Haul
Christy at Basic Heli Course**
- 6/6: Miconia: Puu Hinai Recon. w/ Eddie Olivera and John Eliot's Mauka
CM in Hilo for SCB planning**
- 6/7: Arundo: Kihei Dig /Haul
JP Annual Evaluation**
- 6/8: Pampas:Hale Ranch Sweeps Mauka Crater Rd.
Crew Annual Evaluations
(6/9 Christy gone to Midway)**

**M.I.S.C. Activity Schedule
March 23 -May 11 2001 (cont.)**

- 6/11: **HOL: King Kamehameha Day**
- 6/12: **Heli-Ops: Recon -GeorgeHarrison's Nahiku**
Ivy Gourd: Kanaio (ID'd as passiflora foetida-wild passionfruit)
- 6/13: **Ivy Gourd: Lahaina, Kapalua**
Rubber Vine: LahainaDig /Haul
Off-road tires put on Bronco
- 6/14: **Miconia: George Harrison's Nahiku Waypoints**
- 6/15: **Miconia: Bothelio's Nahiku Waypoints**
- 6/18: **Ivy Gourd: Kapalua Golf Course**
- 6/19: **Miconia: Wolfgang's Nahiku Sweeps**
JP -Meeting w/ Glenn S. (DLNR) Planning/Coordinate HanaHeli-ops.
- 6/20: **Heli-Ops: Recon. -Miconia, Nahiku w/ Eddie Olivera**
Miconia: Harrison's Nahiku Waypoints
- 6/21: **Pampas: Olinda WaterTreat. Facility /Kahakapau Res. /Mauka Kahakapau Res.**
- 6/22: **Office Data/Decon., Hana Trip Prep, Miconia grow room breakdown**
Parrot program strategymeeting-MARS/MISC at MISC
- 6/25: **Miconia: Backcountry Trip**
Ivy Gourd: Kanae (ID'd as morning glory)
Miconia: Recon. John Eliot's (mauka the road), found Mother Tree
Heli-Ops Prep
- 6/26: **Heli-Ops: Spray -Mechanical difficulties**
Miconia: Cut Base Lines Hana Ranch Mauka
Christy p.m.: Coqui capture/ Lowes(Christy back from Midway Atoll)
- 6/27: **Heli-Ops: Spray -Mauka Hana Core/Kanae Outlier**
Miconia: Cut Base Lines Hana Ranch Mauka
- 6/28: **Miconia: Cut Base Lines Hana Ranch Mauka**
Heli-Ops: Recon. -Mike w/ TNC, Huelo Miconia
JP, Christy, Art:-PrepMiconia Bio-control Fungus for Heli-Ops
JP, Art: Board of Water Supply Meeting,
Miconia cost estimates strategy meeting JP, Steve A.
JP: p.m.- Heli-Ops/ Spray Bio-control Fungus
Christy: pm. Coqui capture, Wailuku
- 6/29: **M.I.S.C. Meeting**
Miconia Trip Return, Data /Decon.
- 6/30: **Auwahi Dry ForestRestoration w/ Art Medeiros**