

## **MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2003**

Attendance: Randy Bartlett, Lloyd Loope, Dave Quisenberry, Nathan Varns, Mele Fong, Mindy Wilkinson, Ian Bordenave, Greg Czar, Christy Martin, Steve Anderson, Kerri Fay, Jeremy Gooding, Rob Parsons, Teya Penniman, Mike Walker, Lance Tanino, Elizabeth Anderson

- The meeting was called to order by Randy Bartlett at 9:15am. Introductions were made around the table.
- Notes from the last MISC meeting, which focused on strategic planning, were sent out via email prior to this meeting. Extra copies are available. These notes will not be posted on the web-site because they are a work in progress. The current MISC action items are listed under appropriate heading within the minutes in *italics*.

### FLORIDA INVASIVE SPECIES CONFERENCE

- Christy, Lloyd, and Mindy attended the conference. Christy: it was a surprise to see so many people there. There were 700 people who attended the conference. There are a lot of really interesting and good projects going on. The conference consisted of five straight days of talks that went well into the evening. It is encouraging that so many people are talking about this issue. Hawaii is one of the few places that has had successes. We were able to highlight the MISC successes. Lloyd and I have been asked to write an article for the weed journal. Mindy: the conference was encouraging but also distressing. Susan Timmons from Land Care New Zealand was there. She has written numerous publications on topics such as how to decide when to pull back, and how to pull together a regional effort. She stresses that it is OK to pull back and change strategies. Lloyd: the conference was definitely overwhelming. The bottom-line wasn't very uplifting. The United States isn't doing enough. The programs in New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa are impressive. Hawaii is right behind them, but the rest of the United States isn't progressing. Early detection and rapid response are the buzzwords. It is unclear whether there will be any funding for these activities.

### CGAPS MEDIA PLAN AND FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

- Christy: CGAPS is a statewide policy level group that works to change policies to help keep pests out of the state. Prevention is the primary focus. CGAPS is also an umbrella for the ISCs. A main focus for my position is to put together a media plan along the lines of the "Silent Invasion" program. I am trying to push for a media program next year. I have more than two-thirds of the funding for putting three spots on TV next year. One of the spots will focus on not planting pests. The second spot will have a "don't pack a pest" message and will target people bringing things into the state. The third message will be "report a pest." People don't have a clue who or where to call. We want to advertise the state pest hotline and we are working with HDOA and the ISCs to revise the phone tree. There will be another separate federally funded commercial regarding the brown tree snake.
- Christy: also we have been doing some focus group work to fine-tune the messages and determine how accepted they will be. Some of the results of the focus group discussions were scary. Two people indicated seeing snakes on an airplane and didn't report them. One individual brought in a pine tree that he plans to plant in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. The predominant feeling is that the government is taking care of this issue and there are laws to deal with it. Invasives weren't even a topic that people mentioned they were concerned about. They were concerned about landfills and recycling. If a topic isn't in the newspaper or on TV, they don't think it is a problem. The people for the focus group were chosen at random. They were single-family homeowners or renters. We did fly people in from neighbor islands. Christy will email the results out to the ISCs list on Monday. We are going to do telephone surveys as well. We are buying space on an existing telephone survey.

## BUDGET/FUNDING/REPORTS STATUS

### **Budget Status Update** (Elizabeth Anderson)

- Elizabeth: both the MISC and MoMISC Hawaii Community Foundation accounts are closed out. By the end of December we will also close out the National Park Service frog account, the FY03 State/Forest Service account, and FY03 County OED account. Most of our current payroll and operating expenses are coming out of National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and Department of Water Supply (DWS) funds.
- We are still waiting for the FY04 State/Forest Service funding for MISC and MoMISC to become available. MoMISC expenses are currently being fronted out of DWS funding pending receipt of the FY04 State allocation. We have received two new Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) allocations. There was ~\$50,000 added to our base FWS account and the \$42,000 for the experimental eradications project is available.
- The new NPS account for the Hana miconia operation also became available recently. The account started with \$365,000 in funds from the National Resource Preservation Program (NRPP) and the Cooperative Conservation Initiative (CCI). For the month of December the Hana payroll is being charged to OISC to help them spend down a closing account in time. Payback will be arranged after the beginning of the year.
- Teya: for FY04 we once again have funding from both DWS and OED. The OED funding comes under the Environmental Protection category. We do not have a signed contract for FY04 yet and we recently found out that OED is only going to release \$150K of the \$200K we were originally awarded. They want to keep the other \$50,000 as contingency fund. They want to use some finding for banana bunchy top and a moth. Rob, Nathan, Randy, and Teya met with Monnie Gay and Lynn Araki-Regan yesterday. It was a very positive meeting. They had some good feedback for us on communication with council members and how to present information to them. Randy: unless something drastic pops up between now and March it sounds very likely that we will get \$35,000 of the \$50,000 back. Hopefully we will only lose \$15,000. Lloyd: is DWS steady? Teya: yes. Ellen is looking at asking for \$250,000 for us next year and DWS is open to having all of MISC's County funding go through them for simplicity. This could be positive, but it makes the dollar figure sound really huge. Randy: DWS may be less likely to pull funds. Teya: one funding issue we need to consider is finding a source for vertebrate work. We haven't gone into the County with a vertebrate request. We are very limited in the sources we have for vertebrates.

### **MISC/MoMISC Funding Proposal Updates** (Teya Penniman)

- Teya: it was proposal city around here last month with NFWF, CBDG, and a number proposals for the Hoike curriculum project due. In the space of a month we put out over \$300,000 in proposals. This is the fifth and final year that MISC can apply for NFWF funding. We have received funding from NFWF for four years now (~\$200,000 in year one, \$100,000 in each of years two and three, and ~\$75,000 in year four). We asked for \$75,000 again this year, but we will be lucky if we get \$50,000. There is a strong focus on self-sufficiency by the fifth year.
- *MoMISC proposal / NFWF funding (Tina, Teya, Eliz) – DONE.* We submitted an independent Pulling Together Initiative (PTI) NFWF proposal for MoMISC for \$32,000. The PTI program focuses on Weed Management Areas. We have been using Maui as a Weed Management Area for past proposals but not Molokai. If the proposal is funded, it will allow MoMISC to hire another field person to help Lori.
- *Hawaii Tourism Authority funding (Teya) –* We didn't submit anything formal because there was no real call for proposals. We have provided supporting information and we need to keep this idea on our radar. Randy: we need to keep pushing this idea.
- *Look into submitting CBDG proposal (Teya) – DONE.* Tri-Isle brought to our attention the opportunity to apply for CBDG funding again this year. A CBDG grant helped to fund the Hana crew a few years ago. It is a good opportunity to target some different funds for the Hana miconia operation and relieve the NPS somewhat. We asked for \$100,000 specifically for the Hana miconia operation. The funds have a rural development focus.

- Rob: do you have the preliminary figures for miconia eradication that Mayor requested yet? There is a package being put together for the State Legislature and they need a figure. Teya: I've been working on that and I need to consult with some other members of the committee a bit more. Randy: on a very rough basis we are talking about a couple of million a year for ten years. Jeremy: let's get together next week to talk about this.
- Rob: Bob Carroll is over in Honolulu talking about frogs. He has taken frogs on as a pet project. He is very concerned about the issue. One of his focuses is the Emergency Environmental Workforce (EEWF) concept. Teya: it sounds like there probably will be a push in the Legislature to re-institute the EEWF. We need to decide if we want to take that on. Rob: part of the message from our meeting was to have a presence with the Council and not to wait until the budget process begins. MISC needs to communicate and have a presence so things don't get lost in the shuffle. Teya: we really owe Rob a huge **Thank-you** for all the support he gives us.

### Other Funding Items

- 1) *Develop MISC 2004 Action Plan (Teya & MISC Staff)* – This is essentially done now that the NFWF proposal is done. Randy: we need to make sure we get copies of 2004 Action Plan to Maui County Council members and the Legislature (House side = Environmental Protection and Finance Committees; Senate side = Ways and Means and Water/Land Use Committees). Mindy: I also need a copy for the agency budget testimony that will be taking place before the end of January. One of the components we will be submitting will be an environmental workforce to expand rapid response.
- *Comments to DOT re: passenger fee charge for funding alien species work (Teya to provide address, etc. to committee)* – **DONE**. We submitted a letter encouraging them to use the funds for invasive species work. We did what we could to encourage them.
- Teya: Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF) recently sent us a letter indicating that the major funders for their conservation program, Hewlett and Packard, have decided to drop Hawaii as a primary area. I'm not sure what this means for us, but a substantial funding source is no longer there. Christy: I attended a meeting that HCF called. Basically they have a couple of million dollars left. They will complete one more funding cycle. They are asking people to be very strategic in how they ask to use that last million. It might be possible to fund a massive education campaign. The deadline for proposals is the end of January. CGAPS is not eligible to apply because we carried over some previous funding, but the ISCs may be eligible since their portion of the previous project is finished.

### Bio-remediation Project

- Randy: there is a bio-remediation project bill in the Legislature that is still alive. Part of the project would be on Oahu, mainly Lake Wilson, and part would be on Maui. We are looking for \$50,000 of start-up funding for the project manager. Karen Horita would be the person heading up the project. She has great connections on the Legislature with both the Democrats and the Governor's office. If MISC can help provide the start-up funding to get her going for 9-10 months, then we could expect some assistance from her in the Legislature for some of our bills. Dave Duffy is asking whether MISC and OISC could supply some of the start-up funding to get her going. Can we provide at least \$25,000 over the next year with the understanding that we will get our money back? Karen also has connections with the Hawaii Tourism Authority. Teya: are we talking about a direct payback? Randy: Federal funds can't be used. She has good connections and she would be the bio-remediation project manager. Would OISC also be able to help? Mindy: there were problems with Karen being paid by PCSU out of inappropriate funds. This seems risky. Does she have her own project and agenda? Is it worth the perception and is it an appropriate use of State funds? Randy: there would be tie in with the Tourism Authority and with Paradise Park. Being able to have Paradise Park would be a good thing in the long term. Let's look at our accounts. Elizabeth: the most appropriate funding that we have for something like this would be DWS, but we would need to be sure it is OK with them. Teya: appropriate use of funding is a big question and this seems a little speculative. Nothing is a slam-dunk and it sounds like we could potentially be out the dollars. We would have to be able to explain that to our funders.

- Randy: there is definitely down-side, but there is also potentially an up-side. Let's at least take it under consideration. Rob: you might want to check-in with some of your Maui connections at the Legislature to see if they think the bill is likely to go somewhere. Lloyd: we need to really look at the intent of our funding. Randy: the bill did go through last year, but there were no funds attached. Randy will follow-up with the Legislature and DWS. Teya and Elizabeth will look to see if we can afford the \$25,000 right now.

#### PR/EDUCATION STATUS REPORT (Mele Fong)

- Mele: a summary of PR/education activities was sent out via email and extra copies are available by the door. I have been building relationships with the Maui Association of Landscape Professionals. We gave our first landscaper award to Maui Tropical Plantation. The idea of recognizing a landscape professional has gone over well and has been a good introduction to that community of people. I am going to their monthly meetings and I have been asked to be on their board. I declined this offer. I have asked for feedback on how to increase participation in the award next time and get more nominations. I have a couple of folks who are going to help revise the criteria and take a look at how we nominate people. It seems like some people are hesitant to self-nominate for the award.
- We have recently formed a publicity subcommittee on frogs. At the first Maui Coqui Frog Working Group meeting, I asked for people who would help provide me with feedback on our products. I have a group of people who are helping evaluate the frog program, which is aimed at empowering people to deal with frogs on their own. This kind of group may be a good tool for evaluating other education products.

#### MOMISC UPDATE (Tina Lau; TNCH-Molokai)

- *Attend October MoMISC Meeting (Teya & Randy) – DONE.* Teya attended the last MoMISC meeting. Lori is doing a lot of outreach. She meets with people at their workplaces and is very dynamic at getting people to come to presentations. Because Molokai is small, the one-on-one contact is very successful. MoMISC's recent focus is on rapid response and trying to identify which agencies will be involved and who will have what responsibilities. They have had some good success on fountain grass. MoMISC has pulled back on cat's claw because it is too widespread.

#### LAMISC UPDATE

- Teya: Shannon and Sam Akoi IV from our crew went over to Lanai with Pat for a couple of days in mid-October. They worked on fountain grass and did some general survey work. Pat prepared an internal written report on the trip. There are a lot of potential targets and unfortunately nobody there to work on them. MISC needs to be more active in partnering with the other islands in Maui County. We should be scheduling regular trips to both Molokai and Lanai to help out. Randy: it would be great if we could fill some of the void over there. It would put us in good standing with Riki Hokama. Lloyd: on the other hand, it sounds like a huge task and would we be able to do enough? It seems like Molokai is the best case scenario because there are people there we can work with. Randy: we need to find someone on Lanai to take the lead. Christy: maybe Riki would call a public meeting on Lanai to help get people involved and identify interested people in the community.

#### FACILITIES (Teya)

- Teya: We still need to finish the deck around the side of yurts, but it has been too wet. As soon as things dry out a bit Maui Land and Pineapple will donate the use of a truck and driver and we are going to bring in several loads of gravel to help with the mud situation. We are really happy with the location.

#### FIELD WORK: PLANT CONTROL UPDATES

- *Purchase of XM GPS Units (Mike W) – DONE.* We are currently training crew to use the new units. They took them to Hana this week and the results were not entirely favorable. The cost for the two units was \$5800. You can see your old points and data and edit as you go. The new units don't work under the turning rotor of a helicopter. We are working with Trimble and Sean to resolve the problem.

- *Identification and assessment of public reports on non-target species (Mele) – DONE.* The strike force idea has been implemented and we have defined the process for how to deal with these reports internally. Mele is the bottom-line for making sure a response happens.
- *Options for providing native plant replacements when targets species are removed from residential areas (Teya) –* We would like to look into the possibility of using the greenhouse here on the site to grow plants that we can give to folks when we take something out of their yard. It would be nice to offer something good to put back in. We will need funding and CTHAR approval. Mele: one of the new flyers I've developed in conjunction w/EMWP outlines what to plant in different areas and has a discount coupon for people to use to purchase a native plant. We should take the flyer when we remove plants from people's yards. Jeremy: it might be simpler to outsource the propagation. Place orders through nurseries and keep the grown plants here to give to people. That way you don't have the headache of getting things started.

## **Miconia**

- *Schedule over-flights with key legislators (Teya & Jeremy) –* We need to do this soon!
- *Attend Koolau hunter volunteer group meetings and talk to them about miconia (Mele) –* Not yet.
- *Hunter Education program to include information on miconia (Mele) –* We did look into this. The opportunities are limited. Their program is tightly packed and it is a statewide program so we would need to go out statewide. Mindy: I did give them some miconia slides to use. I attended the hunter education workshop and have developed material for them. They have a new director and I need to get in contact with him to see if they are willing to implement. Teya: this seems like a statewide issue.
- *Other sources of funds for hunter education program (Teya & Alex) –* Not yet. We did submit one proposal that wasn't funded.
- *Sierra Club miconia service trip in late fall (Teya) –* Pending. We have been in contact with them and may try for something in the late spring.
- *Address concerns of East Maui residents re: aerial spraying (Jeremy) –* In the last ten months there have only been two complaints. One of the complaints was valid – we were much too close to a residence. With the Panasonic units we can see property boundaries better and avoid problems of this nature.
- *Hana operation switched to thin-line basal application technique (Jeremy) – DONE.* We decide what technique to use based on what we anticipate seeing that day.
- *Water soluble packets of blue dye/super concentrate for helicopter spray operations (Jeremy) -* We have tested every kind of dye that I can find and we are at the same place we were a year ago. It is still hard to see the blue and we do end up with misses, but we don't have a better solution. Red dye gums up the sprayer. Mike W.: have you tried the tank cleaner mixes like Forestry Suppliers sells? Elizabeth: it seems like Pat had a good suggestion regarding using the packets and making a super concentrate. Jeremy: I will check with him.
- *Landowner access for the outlying populations. Talk to Bob Yonahara (Mele & Pat) –* Not yet.
- *Contact Kipahulu Unit Manager re: park assistance with miconia public relations (Jeremy) –* Not yet. We will do this eventually. Eric has his hands full right now.
- *Address endangered birds in the miconia EA (Jeremy & Fern) –* The draft EA is under review by the National Park Service Pacific West Regional Director.

- *Revise methods section of the EA (Jeremy)* – See above.
- *Clarify non-NPS organization roles in the EA (Jeremy & others)* – See above.
- *Rain-out and light duty activities list for Hana crews (Jeremy & Kerri)* – **DONE**. It has been a very rainy couple of weeks and we are pretty much out of alternate projects.
- *Work with Ann Emmsley at MCC re: bio-control fungus options (Teya & ?)* – Not yet. Jeremy: until we get somebody to more clearly tell us if the fungus is worthwhile, I am hesitant to put any additional time or money into this. We still don't know what it is doing. I will check with Julie Denslow and will report back at a future meeting. Randy: we really do need to know if it is doing any good. Mindy: what is the status of the USGS bio-control position that was out of the Botany Department. Lloyd: they are getting ready to advertise it.
- *Cost estimate for miconia control for the Mayor (Jeremy, Teya, Steve)* - Pending, see discussion in the Budget section of the minutes.

### **Pampas Grass**

- We have had some problems meeting our goals for aerial reconnaissance and spray operations this fall because of all the rain. With Kahoolawe shutting down, we should have more flexibility in scheduling helicopter operations.
- *Sales at local stores and web-sites. Draft letter for State noxious weed person (Mele)* – Not yet.
- *News article focusing on the selloana issue? (Mele)* – Not yet.
- *Query to Aliens-L re: selloana problem elsewhere (Teya)* – Not yet.
- *EMWP crew assistance in October (Mike A. & Alex)* – **DONE**. Not much was found.

### **Fountain Grass**

- *Assistance from Watershed Coordinator on Lanai (Darryl Stokes) (Randy)* – Several messages have been left, but we haven't received a response.
- *MISC staff & Pat to Lanai to map fountain grass, possibly in Oct (Pat & Mike A.)* – **DONE**. See notes in the LAMISC section of the minutes.
- *Flyer to Waipoli Road neighborhood (Mele)* – **DONE**.
- *Flyer to central neighborhoods (Mele)* – **DONE**.
- *Test use of a pre-emergent and/or Velpar (Mike A.)* – Not yet.
- *Work with partners to schedule rappelling for Kahakaloa population* – **DONE**. Kepa from TNC went with us and did the rappelling. There was not much there, but we need to continue to keep an eye on it.

### **Ivy Gourd**

- *Schedule program at Kapalua Golf Course (Mele)* – **DONE**. We are also encouraging them to designate specific sites for their green waste.
- *Research methodology to reduce the need to retreat (Teya)* – Not yet.

### **Giant Spanish Reed**

- We are finding more arundo upcountry. The more we look more we find.
- *Aerial searches in gulches (Mike W.)* – Not yet.
- *Research methodology to reduce the need to retreat (Teya)* – Not yet.

### **Mullein**

- *Control Kula mullein population (Mike A.)* – This needs to happen soon.
- *Press release after eradication (Mele)* – Not yet.

### **Other Plants**

- *Rubus ellipticus: Retreat Kula plant (off Haleakala Hwy.) (Steve)* – Steve talked to the groundskeeper it is still there. He will talk to landowner to get permission. It isn't fruiting.
- *Banana Poka: Map current boundaries (Forest, Kim, & Mike W.)* – We need to better define the upper boundary.

### **Eradicable Species**

- A date has been set to introduce the crew to the species on the list. Kim and Forest put together a great book of identification references and maps for us to use.

### **VERTEBRATES**

- *Staff training in vertebrate identification, interview questions (Fern & Lance)* – We still need to coordinate with Fern on this.
- *Clarify MISC role in vertebrate operations, need for MOU? (Teya)* – In process.
- *Summarize agencies' roles, relevant legislation, penalties, etc. for vertebrate issues (Teya)* - In process. Mindy: a lot of this has been done already. I have a packet of information that I can get to you. It was compiled for the Environmental Law Review and contains a summary of applicable laws & legislation. It has been out for about a year and a half.
- *Obtain vertebrate reference books for MISC (Fern, Lance, & Elizabeth)* – **DONE**. We have the basics and we will continue adding new books as needed.
- *Develop formal quick response plans for vertebrate species (Lance & Vert committee)* – In process. We are still working on the details.
- *Develop flow chart/phone tree (Lance)* – A draft is ready to go out for review. We need input on whether there are additional people who should be included.
- *Follow-up with monitor lizard contact (Lance)* – I have contacted him and he hasn't seen or heard anything further. Elizabeth: part of the idea on this item was to develop a relationship with him because it seemed likely that he might have additional information on other reptile activities.

## Conures

- *Contact Dekalb and Monsanto (Fern)* – Not yet.
- *Compile data synopsis (Fern & Lance)* – Ongoing.
- *Additional helicopter flights, possibly with jet-ski support (Lance)* – On hold. This is not a good winter activity. We need to evaluate the best combination of methods for surveying the conures.
- *Contact the new owner of the cliff property for access (Mele)* – Pending.
- *Propose adding conures to “HISC list” (Fern & Teya)* – **DONE**. At the HISC meeting they adopted all of the existing lists (Noxious Weed List, Injurious Wildlife List, etc.). We need to double check that conures are on one of the included lists.
- *Work w/ FWS to release a radio-tagged bird into the population (Lance)* – Hakalau NWR will loan us the receivers. Folks from the Maui Forest Bird Project are interested in helping. We will need to purchase transmitters.
- *Firearms capability: EMWP or park staff/ control work (Lance)* – Lance will be taking the Hunter Education course next month. Teya: there is still a potential for partnering. We need to look at this. Jeremy: we need to talk to DOFAW. They are certified to shoot again.
- *IACUC “test case” (Teya)* – On hold until we are ready to do something.
- *Additional ground surveys higher up the mountain (Lance)* – Pending.

## Other Parrots

- *Catch nanday conure on Molokai (Tina & Lori)* – Not yet.
- *Video footage of macaws and amazons in Huelo (Russ)* – Russ tried once and didn’t get any good footage. We need to try again.
- *Contact the landowner re: Mollucan cockatoos and survey in Wailuku Heights (Fern & Lance)* – Lance has left messages, but nobody has called back. We did one survey up there and didn’t see anything.
- *One-legged cockatoo reported by Anna Palomino (575-5099) (Lance)* – Lance has talked to her and there are two birds now. He hasn’t seen them yet.
- *Get a handle on locations of other parrot populations and make control a priority (Fern & Lance)* – We have been surveying for Goffin’s in Makawao. We saw one next to Seabury Hall. We have also done some door-to-door surveys and we are getting some good information from one lady who sees them regularly.

## Other Birds

- *Molokai bulbul issue HDOA / HISC list (Fern)*
- *Document distribution of white-rumped shama on Molokai (Lance)* – Lori has been passing on information and it sounds like they are all over Molokai. Steve: we heard shama on the North Shore on Thanksgiving Day.
- *Send out information sheets to Molokai addresses to solicit information on shama & bulbul distribution (Mele, Tina, & Lori)* – Not yet. Forest: are any of the other ISCs doing parrot work? Mindy: you are the only ones trying to do control. Teya: there is a new person with Wildlife Services on the Big Island who is interested in what we are doing and may have some funding for research.

## Snakes

- *ISC MOU with state agencies for Guam snake training (Teya)* - Not yet. Mindy: the next training in Guam is scheduled for February. Fern will be going and Lance can apply to go. Because the funding is through DLNR this time rather than HDOA, the MOU is not an issue. The trips are fully paid for.
- *Vertebrate Supervisor to snake training in Guam* – See above.
- *Consider training Sam Akoi IV's dog as a snake dog (Teya)* – On hold.
- *Schedule a practice run using the interview form in the new snake kit (Lance)* – We will schedule this soon.

## Chameleons

- *Summarize data and calculate total area (Lance)* – Ongoing. We have removed over one hundred individuals and are continuing to pull them out.
- Teya: this week we received a call one evening from one of the property owners we regularly deal with. There were guys down in the gulch on his property collecting. We called the police, but the property owner was not willing to say they were trespassing since he had interacted with them. The police won't come if there are no charges and no agency personnel there. DOCARE said they won't take action unless there is propagation involved. We also called HDOA and Anna Mae was willing to come up. Jay and I went over and watched from the resident's porch. The individuals left before Anna Mae arrived. We did get license plate information. The owner had talked to them and they told him there are populations in Lahaina and Hana in addition to the Makawao population. We need a plan of action among the agencies and we need to find out if HDOA wants to do a larger investigation. It is possible that these individuals are exporting the chameleons. Lloyd: it sounds like the most important thing is to document the problem. It seems like we are reaching a point where there is no hope of eradication. Mindy: this is an HDOA issue. It is illegal to possess them. Randy: we don't have someone from HDOA on Maui who is willing to deal. Teya: looking from the one owner's porch above gulch it is clear the magnitude of the problem is big. That owner is willing to let us do habitat modification and take down his Christmas berry. This is something we should consider.
- *Schedule additional searches in core area (Lance & Mele)* – We have done some and are continuing to schedule more.
- *Follow-up survey on Piiholo w/ Domingo (Lance & Fern)* – **DONE**.
- *Follow-up survey on Kauikoa Rd. (Lance & Fern)* – Not yet.
- *Flyers to Burns Road residents (Mele)* – **DONE**. We also surveyed and none were found.
- *Additional surveys to define population perimeter in Makawao (Lance & Fern)* – We have done some and need to do more. We didn't find any chameleons in the initial perimeter surveys.
- *Contact new owner of West Maui site (Randy)* – Not yet.
- *Day-time chameleon search at West Maui site (Lance & Fern)* – Not yet.
- *Contact MPD and DOCARE re: night-time lights on West Maui (Fern)* – Not yet.
- *Stomach content analysis results (Fern)* – Not yet.
- *Include chameleon information in park school programs, spring 2004 (Mele)* – Pending spring programs.

## Frogs

- *Education campaign for hotels, nurseries, and homeowner associations (Mele)* - In process. We have started a Maui Coqui Frog Working Group. Teya: we received several calls from Laurel Murphy wanting to know what we were doing. She was very concerned after the recent article in the paper stating that officials on Maui were giving up. She was very interested in doing something. She and a couple of people from the Outdoor Circle wanted to meet with key folks on the issue. Rather than having several small individual meetings we decided to bring everyone together and form a working group. There were a lot of good ideas brought forth at the meeting.
- Teya: we also received a \$100 donation to buy citric. We have repackaged 133 bags of citric acid. Each bag is pre-measured to make one gallon. Rob is distributing the citric acid from his office for free. So far it is not moving very quickly. We know we need to do the public relations and empower the homeowners to deal with the problem. We did a quick estimate on what would it cost just to do the public relations and education for frogs on Maui and we came up with 2/3 of an FTE. That doesn't include field work. We need to really evaluate how to best work with the local community. The frogs have spread far and wide on Maui. We need to come up with a good estimate of the total funding needed. The HDOA draft management plan (which includes Oahu, Maui, and Kauai) gives an estimate of \$900,000 per year for three years just for control. Mindy: those funds would not come on-line until FY 05. We plan to have the frogs off of Kauai and Oahu by then, but there is always the issue of re-infection. Teya: during the working group meeting the question of who will head things up on Maui came up. MISC is the logical choice, but we need resources.
- Rob: Bob Carroll put forth a resolution to the Maui County Council for dedicated funding. The resolution passed. Bob is in Honolulu talking to people on the Agriculture Committee today. Three people have contacted me for citric so far. One was a problem with a greenhouse frog which we traced to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. There has been lots of buzz regarding frogs especially due to the letters in the paper. There is momentum now and that is a good thing. We need to get public education out through every possible channel. When MISC achieves nonprofit status, that will help. Randy: how is the County nursery? Rob: I haven't checked it since Fern, Erik, and I went. They did a lot of work per Fern's suggestions. They received a commendation from the Mayor for ridding themselves of the problem. Lloyd: it sounds like there has been some backlash from animal lovers. There was a disruptive employee at the Ritz.
- Teya: We have a public meeting on frogs scheduled for January 15 at 7pm at the Maui Community College Community Service Building. We hope to bring together representatives from different community associations.
- *Set up a test citric acid spray on Maui (Lance)* – Bob Yonahara is willing to help out with spraying. Castleton in Kihei is willing to spray his nursery. He is willing to hire people and he has a couple of sprayers. Hopefully we can assist him. Kapalua is spreading and they are also ready to spray. They are willing to have us help, but they want to wait until after the golf tournament.
- *Buy citric acid when ready to conduct trials (Elizabeth)* – **DONE.**
- *County/local representatives for distribution of citric acid in 1-gallon application amounts (Mele & Rob)* – **DONE.** See notes above.
- *Observe citric acid spray operation on Oahu (Lance)* – **DONE.**
- *PH of the 16% citric acid spray for Alex (Mindy)* - I don't have that, but there is data from Kauai where they tested the water after a spray and there was no change in PH

- *Verify previous reports and clean up data (Lance)* - We have been resurveying and we are often coming up with silence. There are 105 coqui sites. We have reconfirmed that 16 currently have frogs. The three major sites are the Castleton Nursery in Kihei, Kapalua, and Maliko Gulch. We need to keep up with the re-surveys and follow-up on new sightings. Listening and talking with homeowners has been providing good information. Randy: Maui Land and Pineapple has a new CEO who is more conservation oriented. As a result, Kapalua will be a higher priority for action soon. Steve: you should use the meeting at MCC to solicit distributional data. Teya: that is a good idea. We definitely want reports back and there is a form with the citric that asks for feedback.

### **Big Cat**

- Mindy: on behalf of DOFAW, I want to thank MISC for all their support in dealing with the cat issue. Teya: hopefully we will have time to look at what we learned from this experience. There have been no real reports recently. All the snares that we could find have been pulled. Some of the snares were taken by someone.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### **Mission/Vision/Values**

- *Develop strategic plan and define mission, vision, and values (Teya)* – In process.

#### **Creation of Nonprofit**

- *Evaluate MISC forming non-profit (Teya)* – In process. We will be moving forward with this. We need input on a name for the non-profit.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: **Friday, January 16, 2004 from 9am to Noon**