

MEETING MINUTES
MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE
Friday, April 8, 2005

Attendance: Randy Bartlett; Forest Starr, Kim Starr, Lloyd Loope, Mach Fukada, Bob Hobdy, Elizabeth Speith, Melissa Chimera, Stuart Funke-d'Egnuff, Jeremy Gooding, Josef Manaute, Joylynn Oliveira, Arnie Peterson, Mike Ade, Elisse Deleissegues, Adam Cotton, Adam Radford, Teya Penniman, Shannon Wiannecki

- The meeting was called to order by Randy Bartlett, (ML&P) at 12:50pm. Introductions were made.
- Approval of minutes from the February 4, 2005 meeting was deferred to the next meeting. Due to list serve problems, the minutes were not sent out in enough time for review. A discussion of email attachment size on the MISC-L followed.

UPDATES

Manager's Report

- Teya: we would like to simplify our procedures for reporting to the Committee on projects by reporting quarterly, rather than from meeting to meeting. Stuart: can we have the information available on-line please? Teya: if everyone is in agreement, we will begin with the next meeting.

Budget/Funding

- Stuart: we have several County grants pending: FY05 DWS for \$250,000, \$45,000 for BBTV from OED, \$15,000 for coqui chemicals/supplies from OED, and \$200,000 in general funds from OED. The HISC funding for the Hoiike ant project is in motion. Teya: we traditionally get \$200,000 from OED. Rob Parsons thinks we may get another \$50,000 for coqui from them. Stuart: fireweed now has a \$150,000 grant. Fireweed has been found on Launiupoko, Dairy Road, etc. The Mayor got upset and may increase the funding. A discussion regarding the relevance of fireweed control followed. Teya: there has been confusion regarding fireweed as a MISC target. I don't think we'll ever convince the County that it is not one of our priority targets because it is such an important agricultural pest. We don't have to take it on, but politically we can't argue against it. Forest: integrated pest management is the way to go. Mach: protecting pristine areas may be something to look at.
- Teya: The Hana crew attended the recent budget meeting in Hana. We're looking good for County funding in the upcoming year. We should see a total of \$500,000 from the County for FY06. We're in the midst of deliberations for FY06 State funding. We are all asking for HISC funding not to be drawn from the NARS fund. Last year Maui got over \$300,000 from HISC. Adam R: the Big Island has agreed to take on a lot of our BBTV PR. They have \$19,000 to spend.

Staffing

- Teya: we're trying to invite crew members to the MISC meetings. We have a lot of new faces - some replacements and some new positions. We have a great crew and are very happy to have new staff on board. We will be hiring four new temporary frog positions for the summer/early fall. We are really short on vehicles to accommodate all the new staff. Does anyone have any extra vehicles around that we could borrow for a couple of months?
- Arnie: I will be resigning at the end of the month to accept a summer position at Mt. Rainier. Congratulations from all!
- Teya: we also have a position to fill in Hana and we will be looking to fill the veiled chameleon research position when the HISC funding for that project comes on-line.
- Teya: we have been doing a lot of training with our new staff: GPS, refining the punch-list, map and compass, pesticide applicator, etc.

PR/Education

- Joylynn: I've really been having fun. I did a preschool presentation out in Hana recently. We decorated a tree with miconia leaves and the kids colored the leaves green on top and purple on the bottom. I also did a presentation for Kalama Intermediate School. I made up a fun game called "MISC Bingo." I was hoping we could play it today at the meeting, but we don't have the time. The kids won bookmarks with basic MISC information on them.
- We had a booth at the Haiku Hoolaulea, which was rainy, and at the Taro Festival, which was sunny this year! 252 people stopped by our booth in Hana. The local fairs are really beneficial because we get to interact with the community and get permissions. There is the Aloha Farmer's Market at MCC every Friday now. We have a booth manned by someone each week. Rob Parsons has set that up. Randy represented MISC at the Celebration of the Arts - with ~430 people attending. For the Haiku Hoolaulea, I made a visual tool showing target species in the ahupuaa. I also made a poster-board for the Taro Festival focusing on East Maui and highlighting the Hana workers. We have 3-4 more fairs coming up this month alone.
- We have a new doorknob hanger for veiled chameleon neighborhood searches. Masako's miconia video is complete and will be put on-line. To accompany the video, I took a nice miconia write-up that Mele did and put it into a brochure. Joy showed a draft "Maui no coqui" bumper sticker to the Committee. CGAPS is creating a new website and we've been submitting material
- My first radio interview (KAOI) went well. Stuart: Tri-Isle was also interviewed for ~20 minutes re: MISC. Teya: we all sat in the truck to listen to Joy on the radio.
- Joy passed around a hologram card. This is my dream to have something like this maybe with native forest and miconia forest.

Data Management

- Jeremy: we finally have a real-time communication for data between Piiholo and Hana!

MOMISC REPORT

- Teya: we are in the process of doubling the Molokai crew to a total of two. Earth Day is coming up – an important PR day on Molokai. Adam R. went over to Molokai for BTS training recently. Lloyd: does anyone know about *Melastoma* on Molokai? Teya: part of the extra \$100,000 in HISC funding we will be receiving will be channeled to conduct aerial surveys for members of the *Melastome* family.

LANAI

- Teya: we expect to be receiving increased funding from the Forest Service for fountain grass surveys on Lanai. Arnie: in February we did a helicopter survey for fountain grass on Lanai with TNC. Heliops are only able to spot flowering plants. A couple of weeks later we had eight people go over to Lanai to do surveys. We found 800 plants in three days. Kerry found a second site later. Adam C: we also found and pulled fireweed. Forest: you need to get a voucher and send it to the Bishop Museum as a new record. Teya: we need to develop a strategy for how often we go over to Lanai - quarterly? Mach: the work should be coordinated with HDOA, DOFAW, and others. Mike: Lanai Company staff guys worked with us while we were there. We also treated some ivy gourd by the wharf (no fruit).

PLANTS

Miconia

- Teya: Pat raised the question about satellite miconia populations in Huelo and Kailua. Randy: we need to get that on the books soon - a top priority. Mike: we've been going every other week to Hana. We've assisted with ground crew heliops - mainly working from the periphery to the core and spraying seeders from air.

- Teya: I attended a modeling workshop as part of a proposal to develop case studies. The purpose of the workshop was to bring together people working on economic models for pest work. The primary focus is to look at optimal management strategies, rate of invasion, comparing different islands' strategies, etc. For instance, what would it take to get to a 10% population reduction? An abstract was submitted to the Hawaii Conservation Conference.

Pampas Grass

- Arnie: it is not pampas grass season - we haven't controlled any since the last meeting. We are working with the West Maui Watershed Partnership to get up to Hanaula - only about a four acre area. Randy: is it right on Waikapu rim? Arnie: just south. We hope to hit it before July. Mike: we can still see a patch in Honomanu. Shannon: pampas plumes are being sold in woven baskets at the new Kula Marketplace.

Fountain Grass

- Mike: we found 24 plants within a few meters at Waiehu Dunes – there was one seeder. Fountain grass is cryptic and hard to find when not in flower. Forest: we pulled a single plant on a known site on Kahoolawe.

Ivy Gourd

- Teya: we had a staff meeting on ivy gourd strategy. We talked about unifying our strategy for all targets and establishing sweep lines like we do with miconia. We're looking for feedback on how to do better with ivy gourd. Adam C.: a lot of people in Kihei work during the day. We brainstormed about how to get permissions from them. We also go to a lot of "none-found" sites that haven't had plants for ages. We're trying to update our database so it shows where we've gone many times and found no plants. We are also prioritizing revisits (weekly, monthly, bimonthly) based on fruit/flower status. Mike: we're characterizing sites by size, proximity to natural areas, etc. Outliers are our highest priority. One good thing: ivy gourd is easy to find, especially in flower. Mach: I've had seeds coming up in a pot after four years. Forest: we thought of using blue map dots to show that a site has been treated. Teya: Aaron has been working on what he calls the "magic linker" to link tabular data and treatment data so we can show what we have done compared to what we still have to do. Forest: clarifying data will help with crew morale. Stuart: success stories are good for politicians.

Arundo

- Mike: we just hit giant reed. We switched from AquaMaster to 5% Arsenal – it seems to be working.

Eradicable Species Project

- Teya: we need advice on the eradicable species project. We need to control the *Acacias* here at Piiholo and at the Holomua site. We have been debating whether we should use a chipper or not. Steve Anderson feels strongly that we should not because of decontamination issues. The seeds are sticky. We could also chop the trees down and leave them in place. Kim: why not kill them in place? Josef: we use a machine with a rotating cylinder with cutters (on a big tractor). We use that machinery on *Melaleuca*. The machine doesn't move soil like a bulldozer and it doesn't mind rocks. If you want to be more efficient, you poison the tree and then use the machinery after three weeks. Teya: how long would it take to cut down the trees? Mike: all are double or triple trunks. I would say a couple weeks with three guys working all day. Randy: couldn't you decontaminate a chipper? All: no. Kim: frilling is the quickest way but there are safety issues. Teya: what if we give up on these species? Kim: the biomass is a pretty big obstacle. Forest: how are we doing on the funding end? Teya: we did a first run on *Pittosporum* and found more and then found a second *Pittosporum* species. Forest: we could write a new report on what is feasible. Teya: we could suggest alternate eradicable species. We initially had 14 species. The *Acacias* were added at the last minute because we thought they would be easy. What do people think about sending a list of substitute species out for review? Forest: we could take the funding we have left and focus on existing targets.

Other Plants

- Melissa: Pat went back to the banana poka site. He killed a single plant in Olinda. Arnie: Pat told us he found another site a half mile down from the Olinda Forest Bird site. Yesterday we went to Kakapau and found at least three other passifloras, but no banana poka. There is a lot of area to be surveyed. Fern controlled some sites in Olinda years ago. Mach: what about the *Cryptostegia* in Kihei and the *Rhodomyrtus* in Haiku? Mike: both have been killed.

VERTEBRATES

Coqui Frogs

- Adam R.: at the last meeting I noted 14 reports of coqui frogs. This month we have 22 reports. I think this is because of the AKAKU piece – it really shows the value of PR. We conducted 50 site visits (197 staff hours) since the last meeting, some to repeat locations. The Kokomo frog squad has put in 15 volunteer hours. The Kokomo group will be highlighted in an article by Valerie Monson this Sunday showing community cooperation. Originally, I think MISC envisioned a lot of community involvement and that continues. MISC gave four bags of citric acid out to community members to encourage proactive response.
- We responded to a person who said a frog jumped on their truck at a nursery and was in their bird-of-paradise the next night. We caught that frog in two days. We sprayed at the Haiku Post Office. We had good neighborhood cooperation on that job. I think it's a perfect example of what we want. We did a presentation to the Maui Board of Realtors focusing on coqui and left them with information to continue using at future meetings. Teya: The Maui "Realtor of the Year" testified in support of funding for coqui control.
- Teya: MISC staff have all gone through IACUC testing. Historically IACUC has only involved research activities, but now all of our employees doing animal work have to do IACUC training, even though it is management, not research. The IACUC meetings are not public and the members can be very difficult to get a hold of. Apparently this seriously inhibited caffeine work on the Big Island. Mach: I was told by the person who oversees the IACUC that frogs should be exempt. You need to talk to the USDA APHIS, Pacific Region veterinarian because she's the person who oversees this. When we were looking at bio-control efforts we ran into IACUC issues as well. Teya: we support being as humane as we possibly can. Mach: this is very political. Adam R.: I think our University affiliation is what draws attention to us.
- Adam R.: there are a lot of coqui dots on the map. So this summer we're looking to ramp up our efforts and hire temporary workers. Randy: how many West Maui calls do you get? Adam R.: not many. The last one was from around D.T. Fleming Beach. Randy: are they migrating from the Ritz? Adam R. they are near Honolua, but not as far as the new houses. Randy: let me know when the location is verified. Maybe we can join you.

Snakes

- Teya: Fern Duvall is in Oahu doing snake training. Adam R.: we responded to a snake report in Makena. There were odd tracks that no one could identify. It ended up being a pig with a broken back. It was near where they had captured a boa, so it raised a red flag.

Veiled Chameleons

- Arnie: veiled chameleon work is going on as usual. We did a three night search in January and didn't find a single animal partially because we got rained out. We're finding animals to the extent of our boundaries. We will need to add properties to create a buffer zone. We're still finding all age groups and both sexes. The idea of our proposal to the HISC is to come up with better detection and monitoring methods. We'd like to hire a person for a year to radio track the animals and observe movement, behavior, etc. We need better information on dispersal. Randy: what about IACUC? Arnie: we don't euthanize the animals. We pass them on to HDOA.

- Mach: last year I reported that a Kaiser nurse had seen a veiled chameleon at Eddie Tam. Arnie: we've had various reports island-wide, including Montessori School. Lance followed up on these reports and didn't find any veiled chameleons. We've had good descriptions and no actual animals found. Teya: I think we agree that we need to go back and revisit some of those outlier sites and increase our buffer zone in the Makawao neighborhood. Mach: I confirmed one sighting on Kauai, but never found the animal. Arnie: we go to our confirmed site and don't find animals. Teya: one of the additional purposes of our study is to determine if what we're doing is really feasible. Mach: if they are like Jacksons, they will migrate quite a bit looking for new territory. I see juveniles squashed on the road. Lloyd: isn't the biggest problem human dispersal? How important is studying how they move naturally? Teya: it is important in order to test detection methods. Arnie: I've talked to herpetologists nationwide who say what we're doing is the best thing. The animals are cryptic. Randy: what about traps? Teya: that is one thing we will be looking at. Possibly baited traps with crickets. Arnie: clutches can be 30-80. If you find a juvenile, you should immediately saturate branches. Josef: have you tried binoculars attached to a torch? Contact Ross Sadler at the Australia Museum and Tony Whittaker in New Zealand – they use glue and traps for geckos.

Other Vertebrates

- Mach: the brown anole is the first confirmed report for Maui. I don't think there is any way to control them. Teya: I don't think we will be taking that on.

Next Meeting: Friday, June 3, 2005 from 9am to noon.