

MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE
MEETING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1999
9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
MISC TEAM HQ / BASE YARD
NIFTAL / OLD MAUI HIGH SCHOOL SITE
HAMAKUAPOKO, MAUI, HAWAII
AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Attendance (Randy Bartlett; MPC/Chair)
2. New Business
 - A. 990813 Meeting Notes were approved with no changes(Melissa Dumaran; HI-ARNG)
 - B. MISC Coordinator candidate status by Search Committee
(R. Bartlett; MPC, Bob Hobdy, Fern Duvall; DOFAW, Joan Canfield; USGS-BRD, Pat Bily; TNCH): Selection has been made and the new coordinator, Jack Peterson was introduced. Greetings and thankyou by Jack Peterson.
 - C. MISC PR/Education Spec. and Field Technician PD's & Ads status (Joan Canfield; USGS-BRD). Applicants for coordinator will also be tapped. The selection committee will be (revised9/30/99) R. Bartlett; MPC, Bob Hobdy, Fern Duvall; DOFAW, Melissa Dumaran; HI-ARNG, Mark White; TNCH (PR/Ed. Spec. only), and Jack Peterson; MISC.) The positions will start approximatele the beginning of November. Interviews will be here at the MISC office/baseyard. Another Position Description for a Field Team Leader will be developed and hiring will commence ASAP.
 - D. USFS/DOFAW Forest Health Technology Development Project funding request (Duane Nelson; USFS for Victor Tanimoto; DOFAW) Funding for this study was considered. This is a Methods / techniques study for practical biocontrol of forest weeds (fungus). L.Loope recommended "caution that we be perceived as a funding source for projects which have little to do with our mission". Phil Tomas and Pat Biley both recommended that we focus on our immediate mission for the first year. Funding support for the study was Tabled for now with the proposal (since the study may have relevance for MISC to our Miconia priority) to contact Duane Nelson & get more information: details about the study and investigate Duane' support.
 - E. Mike Richardson; USFWS, Joan Canfield; USGS-BRD, & Fred Kraus; DLNR reported on a BIISC two day startegic planning workshop they had attended. They noted that BIISC has a broader focus than MISC, and is willing to take on broadly established species through education and biocontrol. Duane is trying to keep a broad base of people involved: landscapers, cattlemen, RCD people, coffee growers etc.. They emphasize the importance of 1). keeping all eyes open 2). for all the dozens of candidates of aliens: a) Education & b). more Research, especially re. range of the infestations. They are also looking at some invertebrates: a fire ant (eradicated locally, research, & surveys); argentine ants (containment & more research); coffee nematodes; a flatworm and a snail (polygyra?)
 - F. MISC represenatation at the Upcoming County Fair Sept.30-Oct.3. was discussed. We will plan on putting MISC materials at four sites, with Miconia control literature.: including Board of Water Supply, & Dept. of Agriculture,
3. Old Business:
 - A. MISC Updates
 1. FY2000 Action Plan Funding/Budget status (M. Dumaran; HI-ARNG, J. Canfield; USGS-BRD). Mellissa reported that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) funds are held up because of concerns over liability responsibility. It's now being negotiated by the National Guard's attorneys etc. and does not seem to be an irreconcilable issue but hopefully just a delay. If neccessary, U.H. (PCSU) could recieve the funds and assume safety liability.
Mark White noted that for next year's legislature we need to develop a statewide plan by Nov. 1 st. so we can commence lobbying. Loyd Loope proposed a one day workshop within 2-3 weeks for budget, funding proposal, and work plan development. This was approved and Fri. Oct. 1 was chosen.
 2. Plant updates. Hank Oppenheimer; MPC expressed concern over a possible record of Ficus rubiginosa (not yet confirmed) on East Maui. 2 naturalized Ficus already on East Maui are F. macrophylla

and *F. platypoda*. *Ficus rubiginosa* / *F. platypoda* are a species complex with the same pollinator. *Ficus rubiginosa* is in Hawaii but never before collected on Maui. It's epiphytic on Koa, Lama, and Ohia trees. Pat Biley recommended a Video on Pampas Grass control offered in The California Exotic Pest Plant Council News, & suggested that the MISC crew acquire a copy.

Bob Hobdy reported that in Waiakoa banana poka is on the move through the Von Tempsky's pastures and is already up and out over the top. Cattle eat the whole plant.

Pat Biley reported that a recent scan at 5500-6000 ft. elevation still looked O.K. Concern is that it grows to 10-11,000 ft. in Ecuador. He recommended that we develop "Regional Containment Priorities": e.g.

Myricafica, gorse, banana polka, etc..

Fern Duvall questioned if it is in Kahiki nui, or Healani. Fred Kraus stressed that it is necessary to voucher and get the data to a central repository (USGS/BRD) for mapping.

3. Vertebrate updates

i. Caribbean Frogs (Fred Kraus; DOFAW) There has been no frog progress due to lack of funding. Within the next 6 months we need to develop a toxicant & begin use or else we can give up on the frogs. Fred proposed that some of the funds budgeted for the snake work be turned over to frog work if necessary while Fred still pursues other sources. It was moved and seconded that the chair Randy Bartlett has the approval to transfer these funds with no further notice.

Frogs (coqui) have been confirmed in Kona. (came from Puna). They are present in sites such as Anthurium nurseries in Puna. They have very high local densities. California and Japan are searching exported plants to find frogs. If they find, they will stop importing from Hawaii and the industry will disappear. One incipient population of coqui in a tall Ohia rainforest on the big island has just about been eradicated through persistent efforts of hand capture. The Dept. of Agriculture is starting to take the threat seriously.

Fern Duvall reported a range expansion of frogs on Maui to Kaumahina (10 miles past Haiku). He heard about 14 frogs.

ii. Saffron Finch (Fern Duvall; DOFAW) They've been reported in Hosmers Grove by Jeff Bagshaw (HALE). This is the first other than Pukalani record. They have also gone over the saddle into Hilo.

iii. Parrot-type birds (F. Duvall; DOFAW) No new range on the mitred conjures. He has heard a report in Nahiku of 15-20 "large green birds". If parrots- this would represent an range expansion. There has been a huge explosion and spread of mourning doves here on Maui. Black Cardinals have been reported from Hana (Ula Eno). Some education / awareness outreach will be done with USDA posters. Bulbuls are a possibility also.. In Hilo they were able to eliminate a few incipient populations of alien species of bird with guns when they acted quickly.

Myna's have been observed going after *Solanum torrigitum* (noxious weed list) preferentially before papaya and guava.

Pat Biley reported seeing a flock of pigeons in Honomanu valley from an area where he has pulled a *Miconia* plant, and questions whether they are a dispersing agent. Chuck Chimera noted that he's seen Pigeon Clubs releasing 100's of pigeons (and they have been for years).

B. MICONIA Updates

1. Hana Core (Bob Hobdy; DOFAW) The West side Makai population: They're closing in on the end of the core population and cutting lines into it. They completed an aerial spray operation July 30. On this past wednesday another aerial reconnaissance was done. Another spray will be attempted Sept 24 th, weather permitting. More are popping up on the perimeter. Sam Akoi Sr. (father of one of the crew) is now a valuable stabilizing influence on the crew.. They're doing aerial spraying of Kawaipapa gulch & timberline of Hana ranch & hit it every 2 months.

2. Peripheral Populations (Pat Bily; TNCH) Ongoing efforts continue. Scatter plants still exist.

3. Bio-Control (Joan Canfield; USGS-BRD) Work on coordination and planning continues.

C. MISC Response to DLNR Licensing Program for Commercial Export of Injurious Wildlife (Fred Kraus, Fern Duvall; DOFAW) Our remarks will be incorporated if or when it proceeds, but for MISC now, we're standby.

D. MISC involvement in preparation of a "Hawaii Forest and Rangeland Noxious Weed Control" publication. Current cooperators include Kauai RC&D, Secretariat for Conservation Biology, Phil Motooka; CTAHR, Guy Nagai; HDOA, and USDA-FS. (Duane Nelson; USDA-FS/BIMAC/BIISC) Duane was not present but it was reported that the publication is progressing and is a go.

E. AKAKU-TV shows recorded by Buck Joiner:

1. Monday, 8/30, 7-8 PM, "Purple Plague & Green Invasion" (P. Bily; TNCH, B. Hobdy; DOFAW, L. Loope; USGS-BRD, L. Wong; DOA) and on
2. Monday, 9/13, 7-8 PM, "Snakes, Snails & Frogs That Wail..." (R. Bartlett; MPC, F. Kraus; DOFAW, M. White; TNCH)
3. MISC sponsorship of above shows for was discussed (R. Bartlett; MPC). This is the cheapest

PR we can get. It was moved and seconded to budget sponsorship at \$75 for one show & \$20 @ for copies of each show. A video library at the MISC office was recommended. From our library we can make tapes for school libraries.

Cyndy Lawrence; MCFarm Bureau, offered to sponsor the snake show. We feel it would be a very valuable endorsement to have the MCFarm Bureau name on it.

4. Next Meeting Date/Time

5. Pau. 1 hr. break for lunch, but please return @ 1pm to do more preliminary cleaning (bring rags, brooms, wet/dry vac?) of the "new" MISC Team HQ/Base Yard facilities Mahalo nou kokua kakou