

MoMISC Meeting Notes

April 9, 2003

Plant Materials Center

10:00-11:30 AM

Attendance: Kali Arce, Nancy Bauman, Lori Buchanan, Jane Bachtel, Debbie Kelley, Tina Lau, Stefanie Loo, Creighton Low, Ed Misaki.

Meeting Notes

I. INTRODUCTION

- **Last Meeting Notes.** No changes made to 1/15/03 notes.
- **Introductions.** Alenka Remec, TNC Invasive Species Initiative Director.

II. NEW BUSINESS

- **ISC Coordinators meeting (Tina).** ISC Coordinators from Big Island, Maui, Kauai, Oahu and Molokai met to discuss web site design, budget for the upcoming FY04, and a display at the Hawaii Conservation Conference. Tina will attend the next MISC meeting to further discuss next year's MoMISC budget.
- **Legislative update (Alenka).** Background: TNCH 's invasive efforts span the gamut from management and control at the field level to risk assessment, prevention and policy at the statewide level based on guidance from TNC's World Office. In the early 1990's TNCH's Alan Holt worked to form CGAP's, (Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species) is a multi-agency partnership to coordinate more effective protection for Hawaii's economy, environment, health, and way of life from harmful alien pests. TNC's Honolulu invasive staff participates in CGAPS, deals with the introduction of bills dealing with invasive species issues, and provides a voice for TNC as well as partner agencies.

The brown tree snake Bill has gone through and will allow the importation of 4 sterile brown tree snakes for training purposes.

Senate Bill 1505 - Invasive Species Council acts as policy and planning. The Council will be the one authority declared as the lead for coordinating other agencies and providing advise for existing department heads. The Council will have authority at the governor's level and will be mandated to act. Legislation will make the Council more permanent. Secondly, the Council will be an authority to other agencies such as DLNR, for investigations. Thirdly, emergency rules passed by the Department can be effective for one year.

House Bill 552 replicates a provision that already exists. Landowners who allow ISC staff to work on their land will have limited liability. Alien species control includes animals. Need to ask Mark Fox if this includes aerial shooting control.

The Bill that provides funding to DLNR has not been reduced. The NAR fund is not on any bill for change. The Fish and Wildlife Service has \$700,000 allotted for incipient invasive species control. Due to the West Nile Virus there is a ban on shipping of birds through the state. An inspection is required, as well as quarantine for passerine and wild birds. The DOA can search any shipment from harbors and airports that may contain red imported fire ant.

There are funds for a baseline study. No new taxes are allowed to the present conveyance tax. Need creative ways to find outside funding.

III. OUTREACH GROUP

- **Posters (Lori).** MoMISC target species posters that were printed by Guy and laminated by Kali have been posted at all Post Offices except the east end. The MoMISC fliers are at various locations such as Banks.
- **Earth Day celebration (Lori).** The MoMISC display will feature options for people who have unwanted animals and plants. They should not be released. *Salvinia* is a good example. Kali said that one of her son's classmate brought in a Jackson chameleon to school. An organization that may take animals are the Humane Society. However, the Molokai facility has no infrastructure to take animals. The County takes some, but only for a limited time. We need a receptacle site.
- **News releases (Tina).** Two news articles were printed in the Dispatch regarding the aerial spray of cat's claw in Waiakale gulch – one featuring the spray date and the other describing the threat of cat's claw. Another article was printed in the Honolulu Advertiser about 2 weeks ago. We will, in the future, keep MoMISC activities on a local Molokai level, unless information is requested and overseen by the Public Relation Specialists.
- **NewsFlash article (Ed).** TNC has decided to devote the next quarter's edition of TNC NewsFlash to "What invasive species means to other agencies." For instance, How have alien species affected the soil run-off into the ocean, or agriculture? Articles should be less than 500 words and are due by May 28 to Wailana Moses at TNC. Quotes from community members would be good. The newsletter will be mailed in the 1st week of the quarter.

IV. RESPONSE GROUP

- **Invasive birds (Lori).** Lori has observed 1 parrot and 2 parakeet on Molokai. One of these birds lands near Debbie's property. One of the birds has been identified by Dr. Fern Duvall as a conure species, but not the mitted species on Maui. People think that the birds won't survive and that the birds make life more colorful. Some people let their birds come and go. When the right conditions are there, then there's a problem. MoMISC needs to publicize the view that birds can be competition with native birds and pests to the crops. On Maui the parrot-like bird population is at least 200 with flocks of 70 to 80 birds. MISC contracted a person to investigate the bird status. Fern will be visiting Molokai to determine what the white rump shama is eating. The shama was first sighted by the Potts and they multiplied very quickly after that sighting. Early detection and control is needed.
- **Bulbul (Tina).** The bulbul poster in the post office needs to be modified with the MoMISC number and omission of the other outdated phone contacts.
- **Cat's Claw (Tina and Lori).** With a lot of work and persistence Lori obtained sign off from the last remaining landowner, so the operation will move ahead as planned. We are preparing to conduct aerial spraying for April 15 with the 16th as a rain date. Over the last

year Lori has led the field crew in controlling mature plants, ground resprouts, and seedlings in the outlying populations. She has observed that the number of mature plants are now less than what it was a year ago, so we feel that the herbicide treatment has been successful in suppressing the outlying populations.

- **Barbados gooseberry (Lori).** Control work is planned for tomorrow.
- **Giant reed (Lori).** The Hoikaika group assisted Lori in clearing the area near Arundo. Although there are significantly less plants, there is still regrowth from the rhizome. Next we will try Fusilade, Poast, or Escort.
- **Gorse (Tina).** A gorse survey was done on Kapaakea road with the assistance of Creighton Low. We are currently working on a search pattern.
- **New Zealand flax (Creighton).** Creighton consulted DLNR staff who said that the flax is dying back.
- **Kudzu report (Tina).** Lori investigated a report of Kudzu, along with cat's claw, in Waialua. The plant was not identified as kudzu due to the difference in flower color and lack of lobes on the leaflets, and number of seeds in the pod. A new sample is needed to determine the species.

V. BUDGET

- **HCF funds.** The Hawaii Community Foundation funds hold \$16,684 to fund the Field Technician salary until August.
- **MISC pass through funds.** There is \$ 1659 remaining.
- **DHHL funds.** There is about \$800 left for purchasing herbicide equipment to control cat's claw on DHHL land.

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE

July 9, 2003

10:00am to 11:30 am

Plant Materials Center, Hoolehua, Molokai

VII. Afternoon Field Trip

- **Cat's claw (Lori).** Meet at TNC office at 1 PM to visit the cat's claw population that is targeted for aerial spraying. We will post signs, determine the heliops site and be done by 2:30 PM. Wear long pants, hiking shoes, and bring mosquito repellent.