

MoMISC Meeting Notes

August 2, 2004

The Nature Conservancy Office

10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Attendance: Alton Arakaki, Lori Buchanan, Audrey Egusa, Bill Garnett, Bob Joy, Russell Kallstrom, Kim Langley, Tina Lau, Christy Martin, Ed Misaki, John Neizman, Glenn Sakamoto, Glenn Shishido, Mindy Wilkinson, Bob Yonehara.

Meeting Notes

I. INTRODUCTION

- **Last Meeting Notes.** No changes made to 04/26/04 notes.

II. BUDGET

- **Hawaii Invasive Species Committee Funds (Mindy).** HISC is a one year pilot program that addresses 4 areas: Prevention – 35 %, Response & Control – 30%, Research & Development (granting, biocontrol, ballast water) – 30%, and Public Outreach - 5%. The portion of funds for each area may change in the future. The HISC council is still working on budget approval for FY2005. Dispersal of funds will follow. The HISC was intended to be a 4 year project but funds will need to be requested annually. For State FY05 the source of the funding is \$ 2 million NAR funds and \$ 1 million general funds. If sufficient funds are in the NAR over its current \$3.3 million ceiling the funding moved to the HISC may not have a large impact on NAR projects. If funds continue to be drawn from the NAR at this level, watershed funds and contracted projects will be paid and all other projects may face cuts. Finding sustainable funding that does not cut NAR projects is a high priority.
- **FY2004 Federal and State funding (Tina).** Funds are available for Lori's salary through November 2004.
- **CGAPS Coordinator (Kim).** One part of Kim's position is to find private funding for the ISC's, as well as large statewide grants of which MoMISC will have a portion. Kim is interested in determining Molokai's greatest needs and where to shop for funding. Reporting strategies will be important.
- **5 Year Projection (Ed).** Ed is writing a 5 year projection and summary of past accomplishments for MoMISC for applying for money as an attachment on future proposals. Funders will be aware of what MoMISC is committed to accomplishing.

III. OUTREACH

- **Statewide Outreach (Christy).** Public Information Officer goals are to create a statewide awareness of invasive species. She is working to raise funds for major outreach campaign through specific projects. Funding has been secured from the Hawaii Tourism Authority and the Honolulu Garden Club. There are three messages: "Don't Plant a Pest", "Report a Pest" and "Record a Pest". Her target group is the landscape architects. The "Don't Plant a Pest" brochure is already available through CAL-IPC, and is on the internet. Bill added that invasive weeds are expensive for maintenance people.

- **Workshops (Lori).** Attended the Hawaii Conservation Conference. Christy gave an excellent presentation representing the ISC's and featured successes of early detection and response. Workshops are planned for once a month in the upcoming year. Next audience will be Parks and Recreation, Fire Department, Police Dept., County workers, and then Airports. She is targeting people that work in the field.
- **Native Seed Dissemination Project (Audrey).** Audrey, Americorps worker, has taken on some outreach projects in areas that Lori needs help. Audrey is collecting and packaging native seeds to be given to landowners to take the place of invasive weeds on their property.
- **Priority Species "Wanted" fliers (Audrey).** Another of Audrey's projects is to update and complete a set of invasive species fliers for MoMISC's priority species. The format of the fliers is based on existing MISC fliers.
- **Airport kiosk (Lori).** The airport kiosk will be updated with new species in the upcoming year.
- **Hunter Education Classes (Lori).** MoMISC outreach material has been integrated into the Molokai Hunter Education classes.

IV. RESPONSE (Lori and Tina).

- **USDA Airport Inspector (Lori, Alton).** An USDA Aphis inspector position started work at the Molokai Airport this week. Inspections concern what goes out of Molokai, but do not deal with what comes in to Molokai. The position is filled by a week-by-week rotating staff from Monday to Friday, 5 hours a day. It is HDOA that is responsible for what comes in to Molokai. Economic damage fuels inspection efforts. For instance, in the case of the glassy winged sharpshooter recently found on Oahu. Molokai needs a full-time position that also inspects in-coming material. Christy Martin will call to see if the mission can be expanded. Hawaiian airlines baggage is still security checked on Oahu. Isolation may be a disadvantage to Molokai, but it also provides biological isolation which is an economic advantage and reason for acting. Isolation keeps out the "invisible" pests such as banana bunchy top virus. One shipment of diseased fruit can ruin the banana business on Molokai [HDOA advises not to move plants inter-island, but fruit are o.k. to move because the aphids are not likely to be transported on fruit.] There is no USDA staff on island. HDOA position covers all of Maui County. Getting a HDOA staff on-island is the best approach. Need a federal policy change for USDA Aphis to staff. Funding is currently focused on fruit-flies. A letter should be written to legislators and department heads including Sandra Kunitomo, Peter Young. Kim will assist Tina in editing the letter and will bring up this need to the HISC board this Friday. MoMISC members will be asked to write support letters after the initial request letter is written. Additional letters attached has a greater impact than signatures.
- **Data Hui (Tina, Russell).** The data hui is a joint project by the Pacific Basin Information Node (PBIN) and Hawaii Natural Heritage Program. The project goal is to create a statewide reporting system that will be used primarily for accurate and easy reporting to funders. The outcome of the meeting was agreement by all the ISC's on standard reporting fields.
- **Bulbul (Lori).** Fern Duvall and Molokai DOFAW staff conducted a 2-3 day survey of the east end where a bulbul was recently sighted, but no bulbul was seen. They used a bulbul playback to

attract birds. Fern used a photograph to positively identify the bird as a bulbul. It may be good to notify the east end property owners that have lots of fruit trees about this bird.

- **Rubber Vine (Lori, Ed).** Review of rubber vine populations and time effort. Now that 2 more populations have been found, including another large naturalized population, MoMISC is reconsidering prioritization of this species. We are taking comments on whether MoMISC should take this on. Based on the time effort (241 person hours, or 30 work days @ 8 hour days) estimated for initial suppression only, MoMISC cannot take on this species without adding staff or dedicated assistance from other partner agencies. We will be visiting some of the population this afternoon and tomorrow to better assess the situation. After the plants are removed, a gap will be opened and may be trading one weed for another. MoMISC should reseed the area if it is appropriate. Can helicopter be used to monitor the upper range? KNHP GIS staff may be able to look at infrared signatures to determine locations. This species may be on the threshold. Only experience people can be used on control of this project because of the liability.
- **Australian Tree Fern (Lori).** Australian tree fern on Molokai is estimated at about 50 locations. This is a more difficult eradication task than current priority species because the plants were costly to acquire from the nursery and they are not visibly invasive. It is not on the noxious weed list, but should be considered. Tens of thousands of acres are already infested in Hawaii. On Molokai there are no known naturalized plants, so there's a chance to control it. MoMISC can begin by conducting a monitoring program and determine if it is naturally seeding outside of plantings. To gain support, it may help to enlist high school age volunteer (4H project). Bill Garnett will look into growing native tree ferns to replace those taken out, but it takes about 10 years to grow from spores.
- **Prevention List (Tina).** A prevention species evaluation list has been updated based on comments given at the last meeting. Contact Tina if you want a copy. The list is still undergoing revision for species selection and evaluation criteria.
- **Snakes (Mindy).** There are funds to train representative in snake response. There's a 3 week course given in Guam and a local 1 day and 1 night short-course that can be done on-island. There is no representative from Molokai for the Guam training. Tina will ask Richard from the Police Department Animal Control if he is interested.

V. NEXT MEETING DATE

- **Meeting date & time.** Monday, October 25, 2004, 10 AM to 11:30 AM.
- **Location.** The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii, Conference Room.