

MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 13, 2018

ATTENDING: Dan Eisenberg, Woody Mallinson, Hanna Mounce, Fern Duvall, Marshall Loope, Kim Starr, Forest Starr, Aut Fleming, Jeremy Gooding, Chris Radford, Bob Hobdy, Randy Bartlett, Keoki Kanakaokai, Kai'ena Bishaw, Lissa Strohecker, Adam Radford, Adam Knox, Monte Tudor-Long, Steph Miller, Brooke Mahnken, Abe Vandenberg, Joe Brower, Mike Ade, Elizabeth Anderson

REMOTE: James Leary, Chuck Chimera, Alex Wong

- The meeting was called to order at 9:10am by Fern Duvall (Chair)
- Introductions were made.
- Minutes from the March 8, 2018 meeting were approved for posting on the MISC website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Fern: Amazon will be sending Xmas tress by mail this year. Marshall: they will all go through HDOA and will be inspected on Oahu. They will be setting up big tents and shaking out and inspecting each individual tree.
- Marshall: Aut is at HDOA now and will be working on ant surveys at certified nurseries.
- Chris: the annual art show starts tomorrow at the Hui. Dan: Fern is one of the main judges. Everyone is welcome at the opening. It will happen regardless of weather.

STAFFING UPDATES

- Adam R.: Brooke has moved out of the LFA Coordinator position and back in to the GIS/Operations position he previously held. Monte and Joe Brower have both moved into Invasive Species Field Associate III level positions with an emphasis on fire ants. They will be guided by Brooke. Joe has been on the Hana miconia crew for a number of years and will remain in Hana in a leadership role for fire ants. We are excited to have that capacity since we will be ramping up in Nahiku. Altosid has been approved for use in and around water. That was a big limitation in Nahiku. HISC supported our efforts to figure out the labeling so we can start a treatment regime. We will be using a gel bait infused with Altosid. We need to develop methodology to apply it by air, also supported by HISC. No one has done that yet. Brooke: we have a permit to do aerial application. We need to weigh in with the Nahiku community. We have done some tests on how to get the gel matrix to move thru the boom sprayer. There is still some research and development that needs to go into figuring that out. Fern: could the Altosid be put into an HBT format? Brooke: we've talked to James about that, but we are looking at covering substantial acreage and HBT would not be feasible in that situation. HBT would be good in some locations where we have ants in tall trees. The bait doesn't keep well, which is a problem.

- Adam R.: we have hired a Community Liaison for coqui frog work. We are already giving out citric acid and loaning sprayers to members of the community. We want to really boost this effort. We are planning to head in a community based social marketing direction. Allison Smith from our plant crew has accepted the position. We envision a MISC staff person trained up to manage the heavier equipment and be there to help the community when they are working. The community can manage smaller populations while we manage the big populations. Adam K.: we already have community leaders that are active and we want to distill those efforts and make it more official. Adam R.: Lynn Decoite's office recently reached out to us and one of the things I put out to her is the idea of a community consultation group of key stakeholders. We tend to be reactive and we want to be more proactive in disseminating information. We are floating the idea of having regular meetings with stakeholder groups to get feedback and engage key individuals proactively.
- Adam R.: we need to fill more field positions. The coqui crew tends to have high turnover. We are going to focus on hiring temps and see how that works out. Adam K.: we have hired nine temps so far. Some were college students and were only here for the summer. The frog work is slower in the winter so we can get by with a smaller crew. Temp hires are a good model for the summer. Adam R.: our goal is to have a three crew system. In Hana we lost two long-term crew members, Tanya and Kanamu. We have hired three temps in order to get people in the door quickly.

FUNDING

- Adam R.: at the state level we will be getting ~ \$872,000 from HISC this coming year. Kudos to Randy and the HISC committee for providing us with more than we expected in support of LFA work in Nahiku. Randy: I know coqui is still a high priority, but even more so you don't want LFA. You have your work cut out for you in Nahiku. Fern: did the stream in Nahiku run during recent storms? Brooke: they are already all the way down to the ocean. Fern: has there been rafting down the coast on detritus? Adam: we do need to rappel down that cliff and see where they are in the bottom. Fern: I was wondering if we could get funding as a result of the tropical storm.

***ACTION ITEM:** check with the county on environmental emergency fund*

- Adam R.: at the county level we will be getting \$2.145 million, which is up from \$250,000 last year. We have ~40 FTE now. We are looking at the Student Conservation Association for future labor assistance for both coqui and Hana. We also have interns regularly through Kupu and MEO. The state crews helped us with labor for coqui this summer. Elizabeth: even though we have a lot of funds coming in, we continue to have periods with significant shortfalls due to the timing of funds rolling through.

MISC FACILITIES AT PIIHOLO

- Adam R: we may have the possibility of a site to use mostly for the coqui project. The first place we worked on coqui was at Haupoa Place. The property is for sale and may be available for our use. We are talking with them about a long-term lease agreement and taking it off the market. There is still a plan to fence the Piiholo property and have seven paddocks for sheep and cattle. The property would be a livestock demonstration site for CTAHR. We will need to move the containers at some point. This is why we started looking at alternate sites. We currently store our citric acid on Kokomo Rd. with a resident and at some point they may boot us out. CTAHR has approached us to extend our agreement for another year. We would like a longer term agreement and that has been denied. It doesn't feel urgent, but we would rather have options.

- James: the other issue that we are facing is that Hoku Nui will be breaking ground on residential properties below us. That may impact our ability to use Piiholo as a landing zone. Adam R.: I did talk with them and they said it wasn't an issue for them, but there will be privately sold homes and the people buying them may have issues. The homes will be in the middle of the property about a half mile from here. Jeremy: we can't fly a long line over houses and roads are a gray area.
- Hanna: one of my interests in the Conservation Campus is housing. Would you be interested in expanding the foot print of the housing we have up on Olinda? It would be on unused forestry land.
***ACTION ITEM:** talk with DOFAW re: expanding the footprint of MFBRP housing on Olinda Rd*

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- Adam R: it has come up recently that it has been a long time since we have done interagency training (snake reporting, vertebrates, etc.). Should we reinstitute this type of training? Fern: we wanted conservation folks to know what to do, what is an issue, etc. We really need a list of actionable species and what should be done, who to call, etc.
***ACTION ITEM:** set up a subcommittee to work on a response list*
- Adam R: Darrell and I are going to Guam in November for brown tree snake refreshers. Marshall: the HDOA enforcement person will be able to write citations for rabbits on the ground. They can transmit tularemia to people, which is deadly.

ROD RESPONSE & MISC'S ROLE

- Adam R.: we are a rapid response entity and serve in that capacity, but ROD is not something we would likely take on for the long term. What does the committee think our role should be in terms of early detection vs. long term management? Fern: what is the current capacity at MISC? Mike: I follow up on any calls. In some cases there is no need for a sample and in other cases (like Kahikinui) I go out and do a voucher. Most of the reports are residential. There were also reports from Waikamoi and Garden of Eden. I use a handsaw to sample. Forest: we have been sitting in on the ROD meetings and staying dialed in on the science. Lissa: ROD has been the focus for our event tables. We have been doing a lot of outreach. I am impressed with how many people know about ROD. Mike: we will get inundated with calls after the broadcast of the documentary. Lissa: the ohia documentary has aired 4-5 times so far, but at odd hours. Fern: is mapping help needed? My take is that MISC could do this first response, but after that it would be beyond our current capacity to continue for more than a few months. After that it would need to go to the landowners. Forest: they have funding on the Big Island and BIISC has hired staff for ROD. On Kauai HDOA and the botanical garden are the leads. Lance and DLNR seem up for being the lead on state property on Maui. Adam: BIISC got involved because the hiring process is faster with RCUH than with the state.
- Dan: the take way from the recent meeting was that we could all help with ROD efforts for a month, but after that we would need to go back to funders. There needs to be a dedicated pot of money for longer term management. Lance feels like this is the big forestry issue and the Maui DOFAW branch should be playing a substantial role. Elizabeth: DOFAW could hire through RCUH and that could solve the timing issue for hiring. Adam R.: we can take lessons from the Big Island and Kauai. We will have a bigger buy in from DOFAW on Maui than on the other islands. Lori and MoMISC should be the lead on Molokai. Mike: Lance said they would cover Molokai too. Adam R.: Lori has already done some follow-up on Molokai. I don't think they are collecting samples, but they are surveying in an early detection role.

- Kai'ena: we have done a lot of aerial work and haven't seen anything. Forest: Chris Brosius mentioned that it would be helpful to have search images for guidance. We need more people trained on sampling. Woody: it seems like DOFAW has the capacity to train folks from other groups. Kai'ena: I am from the Big Island and I know what it looks like. Bob H.: what I see is mostly surveying and monitoring. What I don't see is what to do with it if we find it. That is the hard part. Forest: that is one of the goals of the next working group meeting. We need to develop a whole new capacity. Adam R.: Anders Lyons has been hired by CGAPS to develop ROD response plans for the different islands. Jeremy: MISC should do what is possible without diverting effort from fire ants. Woody: long-term management needs to come with long-term funding. Randy: the main funding for ROD will be through Rob Hauff.

ACTION ITEM: *check in with Rob Hauff re: ROD funding*

- Woody: if there was a positive found here on Maui, we would divert staff to make response possible. Drones could be helpful. The NPS does not have drone pilots. Fern: we do have one at DOFAW. What can/should MISC do? Lissa: we should continue with outreach. That is one of the most important roles. Adam R.: crews should learn to recognize ROD as part of their regular work. The plant crew could help with seed collection. MoMISC should have someone come over for training, especially for non-state lands. Forest: the Kauai positive was not in an area where they were doing helicopter surveys. There are holes in the mapping. We need to institutionalize information on where ohia is located.

ACTION ITEM: *train field staff & someone from MOMISC to identify ROD*

MISC TARGET SPECIES UPDATES

- Mike: there was a visiting researcher here a few years ago who noticed that African tulip appeared to be declining. He wants to sample the fungus that is present in the tulip trees. We did an attempt and the weather was junk. Most of the ones on decline were on slopes. We will go soon to another site and try to get a sample. Tulip trees go into a senescent mode every year, but they usually come back. Miconia goes through a similar senescent stage.
- Mike: Bryan Stevens found hundreds of fountain grass plants right outside of the Pu'uokali enclosure. We controlled around 2,000 flowering plants. Hank and Keahi helped us to do a perimeter buffer for outliers. We did not find any. We went in on August 8 and dug all the plants out and went back on September 7 for a follow-up with a foliar spray. The initial suppression is finished and now we are back to monitoring. Bob H.: on the Big Island fountain grass gets outcompeted by bufflegass on a'a flows. Mike: the area is kiawe. We surveyed lower Ulupalakua to Makena and found nothing. We also surveyed around Pu'uokali. There was a report from Nalu in Kahakuloa. We checked it out and didn't find anything after an extensive ground survey. It was all bufflegass.
- Mike: we got in a good series of pampas grass flights on East Maui. There is more flowering activity than expected. We are continuing ground monitoring. There is quite a bit of pampas in Polipoli, both inside and outside the burn area. A lot of it is covered by blackberry and downed pine. We are just beginning West Maui surveys. We need to go on the ground with the West Maui guys. We are monitoring cat's claw in Kula. Pigs are spreading ivy gourd in North Kihei.

- Alex Wong: I understand that the white-rumped shama has recently invaded Maui and that you have decided not to do anything. From the Big Island perspective I would like you to reconsider. If shama are on West Maui, they will eventually come to Kohala. They will be easier to control while they are still on West Maui. They would be very difficult to control in Kohala because of thick vegetation. Shama can go to really high elevations. Hanna: shama were detected in Kapalua. We spent a couple of weeks thinking there were only two birds, but that is not the case. They have spread further than we originally thought. We evaluated options. They are easy to detect and call in and can be shot. The decision was made that they do not pose a big enough threat to warrant action. There is a clear argument that it would take a lot of resources and that those resources are needed elsewhere. Alex: they are listed as an injurious species. Fern: Big Island DOFAW can argue with Maui DOFAW on this. In the past they have been seen in Kahakuloa and Waihee, which means they are spread through the entire windward portion of West Maui. It would be difficult to delimit. The disease reservoir is a concern as well as the potential for spreading weeds up into higher elevation areas though.
- Abe: we are on a six week management revisit schedule for coqui. We are still struggling with the “please come” calls, which make it difficult to stay strategic, but need to be responded to. Our data collection is improving. Sending out a HUGE thanks to DLNR for the work they have done putting in trail access for us. We met with HDOA recently and they will be helping us with individual catches. It is important to keep in mind the relative nature of the infestation. Maliko seems like an end game, but if you look at the whole island, we are mostly clean. This September is going to be our biggest month ever in reports. We have a new online reporting form that people can fill out for themselves. In order to keep up on the revisits on the big units, we need to say no to smaller problem areas. We are working on a more automated system, but personal attention is needed too. We are getting a massive number of calls regarding Kihei Nursery in Wailuku. The nursery is doing a lot of habitat work and we are doing follow-up spraying.
***ACTION ITEM:** Adam and Abe to meet with Scott at DOFAW again soon.*
- Brooke: the Waihee fire ant site is in monitoring. We want to see five years with no signs of ants. At Kapalua there was one vial with LFA detected during the last survey. We are continuing to treat at that location and we are well on the way to monitoring. The Lilikoi site in Haiku is in the monitoring stage. We continue to detect every time we survey in Huelo. We saw less in the recent survey than the time before. Things are getting better in Huelo. Kaeleku has had two treatments and needs two more. Nahiku is the big bad problem. We recently resumed treatments there after a gap in treatments for eight months. We are really glad to have Joe out there focusing on that population. All other sites are in monitoring.
- Adam K.: we recently resumed attempts to control conures at Huelo with assistance from DLNR. There are 13-14 birds left.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 6, 2018, 9am - noon