

MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE
Final Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 6, 2020

ATTENDANCE: Marshall Loope, Fern Duvall, Woody Mallinson, Kim Starr, Forest Starr, Jamie Bruch, John Frostad, Randy Bartlett, Lissa Strohecker, Brooke Mahnken, Elizabeth Speith, Abe Vandenberg, Adam Radford, Shane Santos, Elizabeth Anderson

REMOTE:

- The meeting was called to order at 9:05am by Fern Duval, Chair.
- Introductions were made around the room.

Announcements

- Randy: the Hawaii Invasive Species Awareness Month awards are next Friday. The Maui winner is James (Aut) Fleming from Maui HDOA. Aut has been very helpful with little fire ant (LFA) work. John: Aut is a great help to the Plant Quarantine folks too. He is very helpful and cooperative
- Adam R.: we have been trying to hire for our DWS project in Hana and for the coqui crew and we are having trouble getting applicants. We are working on contracts to bring over mainland crews from The American Conservation Experience (ACE) to help with both projects. The program is similar to the Student Conservation Association. Each crew comes with its own crew leader. A crew for Hana can live at the baseyard and Hanna Mounce is willing to work with us to house a crew for coqui up at her housing facility on Piihola Rd. Monte Tudor-Long has been promoted to Crew Leader for the LFA crew. Beth Speith has stepped up to assist with the coqui community engagement program. She is keeping the program going while we hire a coordinator. We also plan to hire two community engagement liaisons in the near future. The MISC plant crew is still relatively small. We haven't replaced the Crew Leader, Christian Visoria, for the plant crew yet. Unemployment is very low right now and we are having a hard time recruiting. We have been hiring quite a lot of temporaries. Steph Radford will be leaving us soon. She and her family are moving to Wisconsin. Carl Martin retired at the beginning of the year. He refused to let us throw him a party, but he said he will come for a visit when we move into a new facility.
- Fern: we need to do training on vertebrates, especially with so many new people coming on. White-rumped shama showed up a year ago on west Maui. It was first seen on Haleakala in September of 2019 and then last weekend I saw one in my gulch in Makawao. They explode quickly. People need to know what is here and what isn't here.
- Woody: on February 20 there will be a Maui Nui Weed Forum. Adam R.: it will be held at UHMC in the student lounge behind the cafeteria. We are still pinning down the logistics. We want to provide a professional development opportunity for students and faculty. It would be good to have a jobs board available. We are expecting around 100 people. Tracy Johnson will be coming over to talk about biocontrol and there will be a talk on UAV technology by Ryan Perroy. Brooke will be giving a talk on pesticide perceptions.
- Marshall: the *Myrtaceae* rule was supposed to go into effect in November. The Governor never signed it due to cut flower industry opposition.

Facilities

- Adam R.: we will be moving to a new baseyard. The property we are on now is owned by CTAHR. They have a mandate to conduct research. They will be initiating a project here that will occupy most of the space and with our project continuing to grow, our occupancy is no longer compatible. We are getting closer to narrowing down our options. Today we will highlight our top eight options. We want something that can be long-term and we have a list of criteria. One of the challenges is the contracting and getting to the final step.
- David and Linda have been coming over almost once a week to help look at properties and negotiate. Knox, Teya and I have been very involved. We have moved our container village. Two of the containers went back to the National Park. Much of our equipment and the other containers have been moved to a private property in Haiku. We need to be moving by July 1 and pau on this property in October. We will most likely keep the yurts and buy new skins. The native plant area will be grazed so if folks want native plants, let us know. We only want to move once.
 - 1) Paia, EMI offices: EMI has moved out, but they are keeping the lease for storage. We looked at the building this week. It is a big building and there is a nice paved area in back. The building is 109 years old and it contains all lead paint and an asbestos coating. If we were to move there and fix it up, we would have to contract it out. It could work, but the building is in very poor shape. The other limitation is that it is zoned urban reserve and we would be doing agricultural type work. The site is not off the list, but it is low priority. They didn't give us a price.
 - 2) Puunene Mill, behind the post office: We have talked with Jason Koga about it. Mahi Pono is on the other side. There are ten offices that are all empty now. No price has been discussed. This option is very tentative. The buildings are in better shape. We need more information regarding what this would actually look like. We haven't done a walk through yet. This would be short-term (2-4 years). It would not be a long-term lease.
 - 3) Haliimaile, ML&P: We are waiting on a quote. The site is 2.5 acres with three structures. It would be perfect for a baseyard and there are other offices over by Jay Penniman's office that could be used for office space. The Quonset huts could be used for storage and parking. There are a lot of holes in the roofs so the huts are not totally waterproof. There is quite a bit of old pineapple stuff that needs to go to the dump. It would take \$12,000 to clean up the entire place. This would be a 2-4 year option and would likely be quite expensive month-to-month.
 - 4) South Holokai Rd and Hana Hwy: This site is vacant, unencumbered state land. We submitted an application for use 6.28 undeveloped acres. There is power and water close by and the terrain is flat. The vegetation is grass and small stature plants. We have been going back and forth regrading lease options. It is possible we could get a 30 year lease. The proposal needs to be heard by the Board of Land and Naturel Resources. We could potentially use CIP funding. It would be challenging since the site is not developed.
 - 5) There are other state lands that we could move onto. The locations are not the best. There is a site in Central Maui by the race track. It is a large property with no infrastructure and there is a homelessness problem in the area.
 - 6) There are six TMKs all around Haiku Community Center, one that the County is in the process of acquiring. CIP might be a possibility there also.

- 7) Old Maui High: We tried to reach out to the friends group a year ago, and never heard back. The Mayor was not supportive when we initially brought it up. We had a call last week from Barbara Long, board chair for Friends of Old Maui High (FOMH), saying they would love to have us there. They want to keep one of the classrooms and an archive. We could have and manage the rest of the campus. They have a board meeting on Sunday and then they will pitch it to the Mayor next week. There is a water catchment and the site has internet and power. The one classroom we visited was move-in ready.
- 8) Waiko Road: The guys that moved our containers told us about an industrial site that might be a possibility.

- Our top three choices right now are Old Maui High, Holokai Road, and the County land.

Upcoming Budget Requests and Process

- Adam R.: we put in a request to the Mayor for over \$4 million for next year. The Mayor's budget goes to the County Council on March 20. See attached for the full request to the Mayor. With HISC we will likely go in with what we got this year. There is proposal in to the Dorsey Foundation for \$72,000 for detector dogs. We are waiting for state CIP funds for coqui barriers to be released. We are getting donations from private citizens. Our UH Foundation account has grown significantly.

MISC Highlights from 2019

- Adam R.: 2019 is behind us and I wanted to use this opportunity to look at highlights and low lights for the past year. Let's start with Rapid Ohia Death (ROD). We responded to 20 reports last year and found one infected tree in Hana. The situation really spoke to the ability to conduct rapid response. The plant was burned within two weeks on July 4. This is the only tree known to have ROD on Maui. For plants on Maui, over 40,000 invasive plants were controlled in 2019 and over 1,500 acres covered. There were 3,000 field hours worked on the ground. MoMISC continues to act as a rapid response center for the island. MoMISC efficiently leverages their partnerships and they are moving more and more into rapid response and education.
- Brooke: the Waihee Valley LFA infestation has had two treatments. It is in a challenging work environment on a really steep hill. We have been making trails and putting in hand lines. This week Mikiala is conducting downstream surveys with help from Aut. We haven't found anything downstream yet. The population is fully delimited. We would love to be able to use a helicopter, but a special local needs label will need to be acquired. The community is ready for whatever we propose. The idea was to wait until Nahiku was done and then we could show results. The Special Needs Label (SNL) allows us to treat in streams. Without using a helicopter, the work is very tedious. Adam K.: it takes 4-5 people 6-10 hours to treat the entire site. A helicopter would be done in a few minutes. Randy: I will be talking to Cas next week. Adam R.: the current SNL is specific to the Nahiku site. Brooke: the other new large infestation we are working on is at Twin Falls. It is centered on a Hui where people live and covers 8.5 acres. It is right on a stream again. We have had a lot of help with surveys and have found a couple of positives downstream. One may be a false positive. The other downstream population is very small. We are continuing to survey downstream. Our goal is to continue to survey all the way to the ocean. We've done four helicopter treatments at Nahiku. Adam K.: the LFA heliops is an impressive conservation operation. All the crew members on this deserve a huge shout out.

- Brooke: we have new infestation for the start of 2020. It is a small population at Lahainaluna High School. The agriculture teacher reported it. It should be easy to control if they let us. They have a small nursery where they do plant sales occasionally. There is a possibility that plants could have gone out from there. The treatment zone is a half-acre. There has been no press release. The agriculture teacher is quarantining the area. We would like to survey the rest of the grounds. All other sites are in active treatment or monitoring. Fern: how long are you going to wait to hear from the school? If it goes a month with no progress, you should pursue other means to address the issue.
- Abe: everyone on the coqui crew is pulling together to deal with baseyard issues. We don't know what we would do without Darrell. The containers wouldn't have got moved without him. The Five Corners area is really pushing us. We are holding off on bigger gulch operations until we get more people hired. We are getting populations down to single or no frogs in some cases. We will have two more full-time, regular hires on soon and another temporary hire. DLNR staff have been a huge help. We just purchased two transfer pumps and we are working on acquiring other needed equipment. There are nine containers of new citric acid on the way. We are also in the process of purchasing two flatbed trucks and a forklift. Most of our reports still come from Maliko Gulch. I have been dealing with the single frog reports so the crew doesn't spin their wheels. Flexibility is crucial. Water is still an issue. The hydrant on Poolei has been leaking. We need water on site at the new baseyard so we can mix as needed.
- Beth: in the past several years coqui have been expanding further east. The crew is focusing on hard to get to areas. We are trying to provide support to communities so that they can continue to manage the frogs around their homes. We have four neighborhoods that are doing a lot of self-organization and working with MISC. Some have created their own pipelines and infrastructure. They are acting like mini-coqui crews in their neighborhoods. The Haiku Hill community has sprayed over 19,000 gallons of citric acid over the last year and 30-50% of the neighborhood properties are participating. We are looking at expanding the tools available to the communities. Adam R.: we are developing creative solutions to complex problems.
- Lissa: there has been a lot of LFA coverage in the news lately. I am looking at redesigning the MISC brochure this spring. I will send it out to the committee for review at some point. Thanks again to Beth for jumping in and keeping the community engagement program rolling.

Discussion of Key Questions for Strategic Planning

- Adam R.: we want to have a strategic planning conversation at the next meeting. How does the committee think it would be most productive to conduct and plan for the discussion? Fern: it might be helpful to just look at the outlines for each one and how they were organized. What can we learn from the structure of the plans themselves and are they adequate? Do we define exit strategies? Are there things that could be expanded? There may be things that we don't typically look at. Adam R.: there are two approaches we can take. One is to look at big picture strategies and the other is to do species specific assessments. What does the committee think is most important? Adam K.: we can look at the draw on resources that each species provides. How do we divert resources, from one place to another? That changes how we ask for funding for the work that we are doing. Fern: we can look at what we are getting grant money for and then can see what is covered and what is missing. Randy: it would be nice to have decision matrix sent out before the meeting with criteria. Adam K.: the last time we did that LFA came out on top when we did a secret ballot.

Partner Updates

- Jamie: KIRC is thankful to MISC for help with fountain grass surveys. They didn't find any fountain grass, but it has been really dry. Last year we pulled some big mature plants across the road from the primary site. We have started biosecurity inspections. We have found garden slugs. Stuff slips through. Woody: a soil sterilizer might help. Adam R.: what about a hot water treatment container? There are a couple of unused ones on the Big Island. Jamie: the oldest wililwili tree on the island has a honey bee colony inside. They are chewing it from the inside out. Brooke: Mikiala could help with that. She would love to do it.
- West Maui : are we still at a standstill on HBT? Adam K.: we are still no better off. Since the label was under James Leary, it expired and he left. The new permittee will be the paintball company. It is still held up on wording. Adam R.: we need a champion to lead the charge as to why it hasn't moved. We need advocates. The label has been broadened so not just UH employees can use it.
- Woody: we have three new biotech hires from the mainland. They are in training now. There will be a heli manager course in a couple of weeks. It is open for registration on the IAT site. The park is continuing to work on the same targets. We should be wrapping up pines this year.
- Randy: the six month spatial data reports are due. We are going to have an invasive species song contest for Hawaii Invasive Species Month next year.

Action Items

- Training in vertebrates for Maui conservation staff.