

**MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 25, 2020**

ATTENDANCE: Fern Duvall, Randy Bartlett, Aut Fleming, Kerri Fay, Chelsey Arnott, Kaiena Bishaw, Makalea Dudoit Ane, Bob Hobdy, Woody Mallinson, Kari Bogner, Christy Martin, Betsy Black, Mikiala Puaa-Freitas, Scott Winter, Brooke Mahnken, Megan Archibald, Kayani Singh, Abe Vandenberg, Mike Ade, Forest Starr, Kim Starr, Jaxon Naiditch, Teya Penniman, Monte Tudor-Long, Adam Knox, Teri Greene, Lori Buchanan, Adam Radford, Elizabeth Speith, Susan Frett, Elizabeth Anderson

- The meeting was called to order at 1:10pm by Fern Duvall, Chair.
- Introductions were made around the Zoom screen.

- Minutes from the Feb 6, 2020 meeting were approved. They will be posted on the MISC website.

Response to COVID-19

- Adam R.: here we are on a virtual committee meeting. We are facing a lot of challenges with doing field work. MISC is taking the COVID situation very seriously and providing as much PPE as possible for our crews. We had staff back in the field after three weeks. During the first three weeks of the lock-down field staff did online training at home. Adam K.: during those first three weeks, we developed COVID guidelines that include transportation, how to communicate, making sure tools and facilities are hygienic, etc. MISC does not have enough vehicles to get everyone in the field safely. We are not allowing more than two people in a vehicle. We are providing mileage reimbursements for staff using their own vehicles to get to work sites. MISC has been able to proceed with heliops and other field operations with clear COVID protocols in place. Every staff member is outfitted with their own disinfectant kit. Maui Brewing Company helped provide disinfectant solution. We have a system in place for time allotments at the baseyard so there aren't too many people there at once. Adam R.: PCSU & RCUH ultimately decide what our protocols will be. We propose SOPs and they approve them. We are allowing two staff and the pilot in a helicopter with doors off. At present, MISC management staff are working at home. There are very few people going to the baseyard. Crews are meeting at their work sites.

- Makalea: are you working with the public? Adam R.: our coqui community empowerment program is using drop boxes to distribute supplies so that staff have no direct contact with the public. Fern: the state is relaxing things a little. If staff feel they aren't safe, they can decline. They can decline if they have a preexisting condition or if someone at home is vulnerable.

Facilities

- Adam R.: finding a new home for MISC is a top priority right now. We are working closely with Friends of Old Maui High (FOMH). Teya is leading the charge. There are other possible sites that we are continuing to look at, but Old Maui High is our preferred location right now. Teya: there are several people on this call that worked from the property back in the day. A lot of us have history there. We feel good about this option and we have developed a strong relationship with FOMH. Brooke will be joining the FOMH board. The site is 22 acres and is deeded to the county from the state. There are multiple entities involved. We are working out agreements and liability. We want a short-term agreement while we work out the longer-term agreement. Members of the public have a long-term relationship with the property. We want to go about the process in the right way.

- Teya: one of the big challenges is the water. Once we know we will be there long-term, we will address that issue. Adam R.: the vision is that FOMH will phase out over time. MISC will manage the property and they will mostly want access for events. Brooke: there is one school building that may be set up as a demonstration site to show what it was like when the school was open. MISC may also do some tree control/removal for them. Teya: they would like to see restoration of the administration building. They did a lot of survey work and they still have clear visions for the property. We think our visions overlap nicely with the vision they have for the property. The environmental education center concept and the idea of a place where different conservation entities could come together are consistent. Adam R.: our main goals now are a move into one of the buildings for offices and to have an area in the back for a baseyard.

Outreach and Education

- Adam R.: we are missing someone important today for this topic. Lissa and her family are moving to Florida this week. We will retain her services at 75% FTE through the end of the year. We are working on updating the position description and hope to advertise soon so we can have some overlap. Lissa has been doing a great job of carrying forward our PR program during COVID. She has been providing online trainings for the public and has had as many as 50 people for some of the sessions. There is a lot of interest. Elizabeth A.: we plan to hire a position to work with the Hoike Curriculum and also to continue the Maui Mauka Conservation Awareness Training program.

Funding Updates

- Adam R.: it is impressive how supportive our county is of environmental protection. For the upcoming year we are looking at the following Maui Office of Economic Development grants: \$700K for little fire ants, \$1 million for coqui, and \$500K in general funds. We are also expecting \$260K from the Department of Water Supply. The only one that is down considerably from this year is coqui. Elizabeth A.: we are buying trucks and a lot of citric acid in the current grant cycle. These are things we won't need again next year. Adam R.: we needed to extend most of the grants to the end of the year due to delays caused by COVID. The only unknown at this point is our HISC funding for FY21. We put in for \$1.6 million and I am guessing we will maybe get half of that. There is \$1.5 million in CIP funding through the state pending for putting up coqui barriers. Scott Fretz has a strong commitment to making this happen. We are meeting weekly to keep things moving forward. Teya: it is huge that Maui County is so supportive. Adam R.: we are hiring as fast as we can. Unemployment on Maui is 34%

Plants

- Mike: we are plugging along. It took a while to deal with the one person per truck issue. There is a larger crew working in Hana than at Piipiholo. The Hana crew is working along the Hana Highway. MISC has special funds from the Department of Water Supply for that project. Mostly we are working on remote or semi-remote species. We are not doing residential work right now due to COVID. The USDA lab in Hilo started taking Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) samples again. We submitted four samples in the last couple of weeks. Fern: where did the ROD samples come from? Mike: Waikapu, Kula, Pukalani and one on West Maui.

Coqui / Community Engagement

- Abe: I want to give a huge shout out to the coqui field crew. They are doing a great job. There are a lot of challenges with our baseyard situation for cleaning and storage. The crew has been spending a lot of time in Lanikai, which is getting better. There are still some recalcitrant issues. We are in the process of hiring 15 temporaries for coqui work. We are fine tuning our onboarding process and scaling up our data systems. The CIP barrier project funding is an awesome opportunity and a contract for acoustic monitoring is moving along. We are waiting for new trucks that have been ordered. Darrell: Shane is a miracle worker at fixing stuff. We also need to give a shout out to Mark Blietz for helping out with our storage issues. Abe: we are still getting single frogs around the island. We need to work on systems for dealing with that.

- Susan: we have four neighborhoods on a six-week rotation for spray weeks. There was a pause during the stay at home order because we needed crew to do the mix up of citric. We are ready to go again and three of the four communities have had recent spray weeks. During the pause, we put out boxes with small bags of citric for the community to pick up when they wanted to, and we offered no contact delivery. We've delivered 840 lbs. of citric acid since the lock down began. Beth has handled a lot of the deliveries and has been careful to follow protocols. Adam R.: MISC's program is based on community based social marketing that empowers communities. Susan and Beth have been awesome at facilitating the program during the COVID outbreak. Susan: we sent out a questionnaire to the neighborhoods and to community members and we received 69 responses. We got a lot of good information and feedback on how we can improve and also a lot of comments that MISC is awesome! Beth: there are a lot of folks willing to help in the Haiku area. Adam R.: we are developing codes of conduct for community groups. Fern: when you go to communities and properties do you evaluate regarding liability concerns like steep gulches, etc.? Beth: we are going out tonight to a community with that exact situation. There are folks that are willing, and we will be assessing the site.

Little Fire Ants (LFA)

- Brooke: overall things are going well. All known sites are in active treatment or monitoring including Lahainaluna, Twin Falls and Waihee Valley. The original Waihee infestation has been LFA free for three years and is toward the end of monitoring. Kihana Nursery has had no ants for over a year. It is unclear whether this is the result of our work or treatments done by the nursery. The small Haiku population at a residence has had no ants for three years. Huelo continues to be a hotspot issue. They jump around and we need to change our methodology. Kealeku is shrinking and we are continuing hotspot treatments. There are some issues with equipment and Joe is following up. Nahiku is still huge. We have completed seven helicopter treatments and our surveys indicate that ants are still there. We need to review our procedures with input from the Hawaii Ant Lab (HAL). Both the Waihee and Twin Falls populations are on rivers. Rivers move ants downstream. In Waihee we've surveyed from the infestation to the ocean. A big thanks to my awesome crew for working through this crazy time. They are independent and driven. Aut has been super helpful. Aut: it has been a team effort.
- Fern: do Forest and Kim do all of the identifications? Forest: we are still doing a lot of ant identifications. We are also doing monitoring for Mamalu Poepoe. In July, we will do naio thrip surveys. We spent the shutdown going through vouchers and we got back out in the field fairly quickly.

Other Critters

- Adam K.: I responded to a rabbit report right after the snake report on Friday. There was a dead corn snake in Kahului on Friday morning in a parking lot. I have been in contact with the brown tree snake rapid response team on Guam. The site was next to the Island Movers warehouse. Corn snakes are popular in the pet trade. The morphology was consistent with the wild type. We did a comprehensive survey based on feedback from the Guam folks. We intend to keep surveying at night for the next month. Thanks to Marshall and his folks for checking it out. We need to stay vigilant. Fern: why was it dead? Was it injured, crushed or killed? Adam K.: I'm not sure. It looked like it was run over. The area is a feral cat feeding site. It could have been predation, but based on information from Guam, I believe it was crushed by a tire. Fern: there may be rats around with the cat feeding. That would be consistent with corn snakes as they are rat feeders.
- Adam R.: there was a recent skunk sighting. Aut: we have traps out, but we haven't caught it. There is a video of what appears to be a skunk crossing the road in PoliPoli.

General Partner Updates

- Kerry Fay: The Nature Conservancy is conducting a birding survey. It will be on social media and we want a lot of input. We are considering charging for birding hikes.
- Christy: there is a webinar coming up on the intersection of climate change and invasive species with a focus on water availability. Christy will send out the link.
- Kari: we recently installed 24 song meters around the island in areas where we have caught coqui before. We are trying to figure out how long we should leave them out and how often we should check them. Abe: shorter samples are probably better. Adam R.: so you bought song meters and are doing the analysis yourselves? Kari: yes, we put 24 out on the landscape. They are semi-permanent installations. We can turn them on and off and pick up the cards. Abe: we haven't deployed any yet, but the company we are working with recommended five minutes especially for single frogs. Adam K.: let's be in touch the next time we talk with Conservation Metrics. Fern: you might want to broadcast coqui frog calls. That might help.
- Woody: we have wrapped up pine spraying. We will do annual follow-ups. That has been a big project for the park. We are doing more and more *Rubus* follow-up and we are hoping to get back into Kipahulu Valley.
- Aut: Abe asked us to help with the Lanikai recalcitrant. We sent a certified letter and he has called back. He sells plants at the farmers market on Saturdays and we are hoping to make contact. There have been a bunch of new pest detections in the last couple of months that are concerning.