

**MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE
FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 17, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Marshall Loope, Bob Hobdy, Allison Cohan, Elizabeth Speith, John Frosted, Kim Starr, Forest Starr, Adam Radford, Brooke Mahnken, Lissa Strohecker, Abe Vandenberg, Mike Ade, Adam Knox, Elizabeth Anderson. REMOTE: Randy Bartlett, David Duffy (partial)

- The meeting was called to order at 9:10am by Marshall Loope (Vice Chair). Introductions were made around the table. Approval of minutes from the August 8, 2019 meeting was deferred. Teya is still working on them. They will be approved at the next meeting in addition to the notes from this meeting.

Facilities

- Adam R: this property is managed by CTAHR. It is state land, but encumbered by CTAHR. Their interests have shifted to ungulate research. They are aware that MISC continues to grow and they want to use the property primarily for ungulates. We just don't fit here with increased staff. We have had a year-to-year plot agreement with CTAHR. They have chosen not to renew the agreement. The agreement currently ends 12/31/19. They have offered an extension to the end of March 2020. Dr. Duffy is going to join us on the phone now. We are definitely looking for a new home. We want to move to a place where we can stay. We don't want to keep moving.
- David: we started conversations with the Associate Dean. He seems to understand what is involved. Teya is meeting with Cindy next week and I will meet with the Dean. We will see where it goes from there. I think we need to move and do it as soon as possible. Adam: we are most interested in state or county properties, which hold the hope of long-term lease agreements. We are working with both to identify prospects. We need 3-5 acres. It will take some time to find the right property and get moved. Right now we are only looking at a place primarily for MISC. If the opportunity presents itself, we would be open to a broader conservation campus. Our criteria includes access, size, utilities, and geographic location. We would like to have alignment with known access. We are interested in helicopter access too, but we are not using it as a primary criteria.
- Teya: in conversation with Walter, David discussed heli access and he was open to continuing to allow access here longer term. Adam K: right now no external loads are allowed on the property. David: funding is a critical thing for the move. Picking a site will help us determine how much it will be. We need to be looking at a budget and how to get the funds. Adam R: I talked with Councilmember Alice Lee and they are open to budget amendments. There may be a potential to free up more funds from the Mayor's budget. Teya: what is the process for moving forward? Adam: we need to keep hounding the key contacts. We have a couple of priority sites, but new information changes things regularly. Adam K: things are very dynamic here. The worst case scenario would be to rent office space for the short-term. Adam R: we have a geographic limitation since the coqui operation is focused around Maliko Gulch and that is an equipment heavy operation. The other limitation is the need to travel to the Hana baseyard. Being upcountry or on the north shore would make that easier.
- Adam R: we had some perfect fits and then funding entities weren't supportive of those options. I am optimistic that either the county or state will have something for us. They have both been very supportive of helping to find us somewhere more permanent. Adam K: flexibility in transition time is a key. The CTAHR agreement states that we will return this facility to its original state. That is a big project. Allison: why can East Maui stay on the property and not MISC? Adam: it is the footprint issue. David: I would be wary of a temporary location. It would be better to hold out for the right place. CTAHR should be able to accommodate the time we need to find the right place. Could you send me a Google document with a running list of potential sites and criteria that could be updated regularly? Tied to the document there should be the criteria for a great site and a rating of the sites under consideration.

- Teya: I know it is premature but at some point MISC will need to go public and that could open up the realm of people that may be able/willing to help. David: what we announce is important. Walter has been very reasonable. CTAHR on Oahu is a long ways away and the on-island relations are really important. Teya: we need to factor permitting for office space into the timeline. Adam R: UH is basically shutting down in December. I want to be clear that we have to leave. It is just a timeline issue at this point. We need to hound landowner contacts and see what shakes out. David: if we can get a timeline, we can work with that. We shouldn't be saying we don't know when. It don't think CTAHR will mess with you if you have a timeline and it ends up taking longer than expected.
- Teya: we have been backed off on the initial directive and operations are allowed to continue. We can't rinse hoses or tanks. We need that fixed as long as we are here and we need to know why that is. David: I need a list of what things don't work for us. Adam R: I drafted a memo of what works and what doesn't. David: I will continue to work with Walter and we will see what happens. Adam R: the current requirement is that the LFA locker needs to move by the end of the month. Teya: David and I will each have a list of what MISC needs for basic functioning. David will follow-up with Walter and I will follow-up with Cindy. Adam K: we need to be able to function while we are still here.

Little Fire Ant

- Brooke: we did our first aerial treatment in Nahiku on October 2 and the weather was cooperative. We were able to treat 150 acres in Nahiku using the Altosid insect growth regulator and gel bait. We have a website to provide updates to east side residents, a treatment calendar and a video to demonstrate the aerial rig. Adam R: we are sharing the technology across the Pacific. There is interest from Gaum and Tahiti. What we are implementing here is an approach for large scale application and that might apply to other places across the Pacific. Adam K: the video was made during a test run. There was no pesticide. Brooke: 99.5% of the bait is food and 0.5 % is active ingredient. Adam R: Altosid is basically the same product as Tango. It is a birth control for ants. The insect must consume the product and share it to affect reproduction. Brooke: we had a successful first run and we were in the Maui News. There was a reporter at the operation and the story was picked up by NPR and US News and World Reports. We plan to do a helicopter treatment every six weeks.
- Brooke: Lissa and I talked to a reporter from HPR. A lady in Waihee heard the NPR report and realized she was being stung by fire ants. This led to the discovery of our newest infestation in Waihee. We held a community meeting in Waihee. The population is up near Swinging Bridges and spans three main properties. There were a couple of haies put in in 2014. They brought in native and canoe plants, but they don't remember where they got all of the plants. Teya: we should do a survey on Hoku Nui. The same person is involved in both places. Brooke: the Waihee infestation is pretty well delimited. It gets really steep in one area and we have yet to survey up there adequately. We are talking about ways to improve that area for the frequent visits that will be needed. We will need ropes or hand lines. It would be nice to use a helicopter and there are no dwellings in the area. For now we will do the treatment on the ground. Adam R: we would need to get a special local needs permit for helicopter application there. The current permit is only for Nahiku. It is very specific. We would eventually like to expand that. Teya: is anyone working on that? Adam R: we spoke with Cas and he wants to be able to demonstrate success in Nahiku before expanding. Label augmentation takes a long time.
- Brooke: we have a recalcitrant in Happy Valley. They don't like the tall guy with the beard. The attorney general called them and Lissa and HDOA charmed them. As of now, Lissa is surveying and treating that site with Raynette from HDOA. They turned out to be very nice people. We are continuing hotspot treatment at Kapalua. There have been no ants for two years at the old Waihee site. Kihana was recently resurveyed and no ants were found. The treatments are not being very efficiently managed. We did a survey earlier this week. They are treating the ground with pesticide and that can impact the results. Kaeleku is still underway with treatment. Huelo still has hotspots. It is a complicated site with a lot of trees. It is hard to get bait into the trees. We are launching it with a sling shot into the crown. Adam K: we have specific funding for ants coming online and we plan to hire more people.

- Lissa; we finally have a volunteer program! We have a group of volunteers that are coming regularly to clean ant vials. This is a really important job. You don't want an ant left in a vial from a previous survey or you could get a false positive.
- Brooke: we held a community meeting that was attended by 40 people including the Mayor, Troy Hashimoto, and Alice Lee. Marshall: could we help in moving the special use permit forward? Adam R: the ideal thing would be to broaden it to statewide. Marshall: this is an incredible project. Adam R: we really need to pursue the HBT permit. It is just sitting and it has been a long time. Teya: we need an application for the ants before we put pressure on. We have done an awesome job of outreach. People are really worried about LFA. Adam R: the next step would be to touch base with Cas. Brooke: they want to use it for Oahu. Adam R: the manufacturer is the applicant for HBT. We need to figure that part out for ants. Brooke: to show efficacy we will need to wait a year. Adam R: in six months you may be able to see some change. Allison: what is the cost for one operation? Brooke: the equipment cost ~\$6,000 to build, the Altosid product each time is ~\$10,000 and beef liver is costly. Adam R: flight time is pretty nominal. Brooke: we weren't stopped by the weather this time. We have been scheduling a back-up day each time. Adam R: Windward doesn't really like to be on hold. We could switch to HBT as a back-up. We have good successes and our timelines are good. I am super happy with our fire ant program. From a funder point of view the ants are a top priority. That is why they put \$700,000 in our budget for fire ants.
- Adam R: I went over to Kauai to help HAL, KISC, and HDOA with the Kalihiwai infestation. All the samples were clean. There are several properties and a 250 foot cliff face that goes down to the ocean. Clearly the effort has been successful.

General MISC Updates

Funding

- Adam R: funding for MISC as a whole looks good this year. We have some challenges with OED. We received three separate grants from them this year and they are all very specific. There are a lot of funds for coqui and fire ants and not much for plants and general support. We are trying to sort through how we keep going with the various restrictions.

Plants

- Mike: we are continuing with pampas grass. We just completed our West Maui aerial work. Next week we will be doing East Maui surveys. Pampas is in full flag right now. The crew is currently working off of the Flume around 4,000 feet elevation. The number of plants is small. The Honomanu and Flume plants are all coming from Olinda. We used to find 100s of plants at a time in the area. Now we are only finding one or two. On the Polopoli side, a pilot found pampas in Kahikinui on DHHL land.
- Mike: we found one plant at the Hawaiian Homelands fountain grass site the last time we went. That is down from 2,000 plants and they were mature. We will see what happens after it rains. All of our finds on other species have been minor. We periodically go and look for *Verbascum*. We need to go check out the Science City site again. We had seedlings there three years ago. There was one ivy gourd in Waihee. We are still finding fruit there. The site is hard to get to and hard to treat. We are not finding any *Silybum* at the Makawao Ave. site.
- Mike: without aerial support there are too many seeding miconia plants to deal with in Hana. Teya: why aren't we doing long-line work? Adam R: our agreement with the park has lapsed and we have not had miconia operations meetings recently. We need to schedule one. Mike: we had report on Monday from WMMWP suspecting CRB damage. We are going to put out pheromone traps today. Elizabeth S: I have differentiation materials for helping to determine the difference between CRB and oriental flower beetle. They look a lot alike. Mike: there are two suspect locations in Haiku and seven in Hana. Randy: take photos and send them in to the CRB response folks. Look for frass where the beetles burrow in. Mike: we have had a few ROD reports, but no positives.

Coqui

- Abe: we had strong summer field session and good summer hires. We are hitting units more often. Aut has been helping with the Five Corners population. We are down people at this point and are trying to hire. We have a really good core group of people on staff. There are a lot of reports coming in and quite a few single frog reports. We are in a growth mindset. The community based social marketing program is going well. Allison Smith, who was coordinating the program, left. Beth Speith is doing a lot to keep it going. We are expanding support to the community as best we can.
- Teya: what is happening with the barrier fence? There are a couple of sites prepped. Adam R: I met with Scott F. and they need to encumber the funds in the spring. We will have four years. Teya: in the meantime we will refine where we are going to put it. The funds are from CIP. There might be funding for more than just the barrier - personnel, clearing, etc. We need to think about what we really want. There is \$750,000 per year for the barrier fence. Adam R: Teya finished the coqui plan and it was submitted to the county. It was a huge step and a lot of work. The plan is a great resource. Teya: I did an extensive literature search and used a 10 year eradication strategy. We are looking at \$66 million over 10 years. John: we checked on the Waikapu population recently and it seemed pretty noisy. Abe: we are trying to keep the crew on the big populations. Marshall: we put in for a 100 gallon sprayer for Aut to use in the areas where he is working.

Outreach and Education

- Lissa: a lot of our recent outreach has been focused on little fire ants. We have coordinated a number of community meetings. There will be PSAs coming out for LFA awareness month and there are test kits available in the libraries. HISC paid for the PSA's. We are handing out a lot of test kits. Elizabeth S: at the fair people were really knowledgeable about fire ants. Lissa: we sent a mailer to selected postal routes in Happy Valley. We reached ~2,000 people for \$800. We also sent a mailer to Waihee and they are trying the strategy on Oahu. We are planning for the Arbor Day Event and the Malama i ka Aina award. Nominations are due Friday. We don't have a dedicated position for classroom visits right now. The last Maui News article highlighted Pulama Lanai. There are four neighborhoods working with the community engagement program for coqui. Elizabeth S: the groups are really dedicated. They are almost spraying as much as the crew does.

General Partner Updates

- Marshall: the *Myrtaceae* import rule starts on November 1. There was no opposition at the public hearing on Maui. John: the reality will set in when we start turning stuff around. Marshall: we are fully staffed. We aren't seeing any movement on naio thrips. They will be working on a rule for naio thrips. We are stopping cars with soil contamination and asking them to clean it up. We have our eyes on horse trailers. Teya: during the Kahului blitz inspections there was detection of one species not known to occur on the island per day. Marshall: anything not identified to species gets lumped into that category so that bumps up the numbers a bit. There is also overlap. We may find the same thing each day and it may be getting counted each day. We are looking at pallets now for LFA.
- Allison: we have a team of six right now. Waikamoi still has zero pigs. We're maintaining fences and traps and phasing out dog teams since there are no pigs. We will be giving away some really good hunting dogs. TNC terrestrial programming is doing some visioning. We are thinking in the bigger realm of conservation across the state. What could we be doing for our partners on a big scale? What can we do to be more supportive? Adam K: I want to recognize TNC for helping us with the conure work. We really appreciate the help.
- Teya: the NPS is redoing the mosquito study that Sam Aruch did as one of his first jobs here. They are looking at status of mosquitos and avian malaria.

Next Meeting Date: Dec 12, 2019