

## MAUI INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

Friday, July 22, 2016

### MEETING MINUTES

**ATTENDANCE:** Hanna Mounce, Andrea Buckman, Sara Bryan, Dan Eisenberg, Chuck Chimera, Woody Mallinson, Jeremy Gooding, Lloyd Loope, Mike Ade, Teya Penniman, Bryan Berkowitz, Lissa Strohecker, Abe Vandenberg, Elizabeth Anderson

**Remote:** John-Carl Watson, James Leary

- The meeting was called to order at 9:10am by Lloyd Loope, Chair
- There are no minutes to approve. We will come up with some output from the last meeting.
- Introductions were made around the room

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- James: I sent out an email to interested parties regarding doing another weed management forum this fall. I am hoping for the same participants as last year.
- Adam: the core MISC management team spent the last two days in Keanae. Crew and team leaders joined us for the second day. It was a good opportunity to step away from the day-to-day, take stock, and look at the big picture in order to move forward beyond the status quo.
- Hanna: there will be a workshop on translocation on Oahu at the end of August just prior to IUCN. There will be an amazing group of speakers at the workshop including reintroduction specialists. There are 25 spaces, of which 15 are allocated for folks from the Pacific.
- Chuck: the aliens list serve sent out an email for folks attending the IUCN that shows all invasive species related events.
- Teya: Lori was recently asked to attend a National Invasive Species Council task force meeting in Washington D.C. as an indigenous person representative.

### STAFFING CHANGES AT MISC

- Adam: I am the new MISC Manager. I am looking forward to continuing the great things we do and looking for new and creative things. Teya has moved into a new role as a Special Projects/Development Director. The position is shared between PCSU and MISC. Teya will be supporting other PCSU projects as well as MISC. We still need to increase our capacity. We are in the process of recruiting a new operations manager to replace me and we are recruiting for additional coqui field crew members. We also hope to be hiring Project Coordinators for ants and coqui in the near future and to hire a position that is combined coqui outreach plus field work. We need more capacity in coordinating community involvement, dealing with phone calls, and ramping up the coqui free program. We also may consider an LFA free certification program similar to coqui free. We are struggling to get infrastructure and support systems in place for all these new people.

## **STATEWIDE BIOSECURITY PLAN: RESULTS OF INPUT AND CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS**

- Teya: at the last meeting we decided we would try to compile some input on the draft plan for biosecurity. The plan is quite voluminous and contains 129 possible options that they wanted ranked. Ten people participated in the ranking exercise that Bryan put into a Google survey. Everything came up as important. We looked at pulling together a summary, but it ended up being pretty long. We provided the information to HD Harvey. We actually had more agriculture/livestock people participate than conservation folks. As a result of sending it out, we included some folks that aren't normally an active part of MISC.
- Teya: there is a draft on Scott Enright's desk for approval and then it will go back out to the community for the last round of input. Ultimately the document will belong to the Department of Agriculture. John: the document is not ready to release to the public yet. It is being redrafted and then it will go back for another meeting with the agencies. We hope to be ready for a soft release on mid-August. Lloyd: I agreed to work for them for 40 hours as a consultant. I am convinced that import replacement is the most important thing we can do to reduce our susceptibility. I am concerned that protecting koa and ohia didn't make it into the document.
- Teya: that is something that MISC and MCA can highlight in our comments. Lloyd: yes, I am hoping that can feed into the MCA Conservation Action Plan. Teya: MCA received a grant from OED last year to complete a strategic plan and participate in events around the World Conservation Congress. A conservation action plan for Maui was something that was identified in the MCA planning process. Dan: at the very least MCA wants to get an answer as to what should be included in the conservation action plan. There can be a lot of variation in level of detail and we want to explore our options. Teya: we need to see what the best way to get input is. We may want to schedule a focused meeting once we know what the deadlines are.

## **BIOSECURITY LEARNING SESSION AT THE INDIGENOUS CROP BIODIVERSITY FESTIVAL (ICBF)**

- Sarah: as part of the OED grant we committed to doing an event for the IUCN. Penny Levin encouraged us to do a biosecurity session. She wants us to invite delegates from the congress and have a sharing session. We are looking for a location. Several members of MCA have offered to contact folks that would be good to have participate in a panel discussion on biosecurity. We need to narrow down the panel and decide who should moderate the discussion. The session is scheduled for August 25 from 9-11am. So far the audience is 10 people from Bangladesh. We haven't done any outreach yet. We need to encourage folks to come over from Oahu.
- Teya: we don't know who is going to come. We should make sure we get something out of it regardless of who else attends. It is an opportunity to bring diverse folks together and have a public forum. We should think about what the best structure would be. Maybe we could develop video snippets for specific questions to make it more interesting. We can use local experience to jump start the conversation. Sara: it is helpful that John Parks forced us to think about action related outcomes. Maybe there could be working groups and they would have an output. Teya: what do we want out of it? Do we want something concrete to come from the discussion? Adam: we could get feedback from the participants that might be eye-opening to the panel. Andrea: we could send the biosecurity plan to participants and let them comment. Hanna: maybe the panel should pose the questions. Chuck: it would be nice to gauge participation beforehand so we don't put in a lot of work if nobody shows up. Sara: Penny is going to send out the numbers signed up at the end of the month. Adam: if we have a quality panel it is a learning opportunity. Teya will be the moderator.

- Lissa: MISC will be cohosting the picnic dinner in conjunction with Penny on Aug 24. We are doing the setup and take down. East and West Maui are hosting the events. August 27 is festival day. Sara: MCA will be putting up a table and doing a scavenger hunt for the keiki. Lissa: I will be doing a presentation at the D.T. Fleming Arboretum on the 28<sup>th</sup> as well.

#### **AERIAL PAINTBALL DEMONSTRATIONS: FIELD TECHNIQUES FOR BETTER BIOSECURITY (ICBF)**

- Adam: thanks to James for being willing to facilitate this event which is scheduled for Aug 25 from noon to 4pm. We don't have the details flushed out yet. James: I am not sure how to best proceed and how to stretch it out for four hours. Lissa: we can adjust and make it shorter. James: it will be an open house and this is just one component of the event. We need to consider a multifunctional scenario. I can keep them engaged for about 30 minutes. Adam: I like the idea of a MISC open house. We can highlight the work you have done and maybe have a helicopter present. What audience are we gearing our message to? Lissa: we could try to target an audience. Do we know how aggressively this has been marketed to IUCN? Sara: it is an official event of the IUCN, but it is very vague. Teya: we could have a mock snake hunt and show sniffer dog videos. Adam: let's see if there is any interest by the end of next week and go forward from there. James: even if it doesn't work out for IUCN, I think an open house is a good idea. Adam: if an IUCN event doesn't happen, it doesn't preclude doing something in the future.

#### **CRITERIA FOR WHEN TO STOP WORKING ON TARGET SPECIES OR WHEN TO AUGMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS**

- Adam: structuring this kind of decision making is complex. Funders often ask us this question, especially with complex projects like miconia, frogs, and LFA. MISC often serves as a "yes" man. We keep taking on more and we can't follow through on everything well enough. Teya: we end up shifting resources from one project to another based on a perception of importance. Adam: we need to look at how we come to a decision to shift resources. James: how many species does MISC currently recognize as a priority? How many invasive targets are there that you provide any level of resources for? Adam: over 30 if you include MoMISC. It really begs the question as to which are the top priority. It gets complex when you add the category of early detection. It is probably most effective to just look at our biggest projects. Teya: for Maliko, there is the question of where our threshold is. If we don't get it under control, will we lose the opportunity? It doesn't make sense to keep throwing funds at the problem if we don't know that the funder has a long-term commitment. How do we define when it is too late? For example, if we find another coqui population as big as Maliko, is that too late? It is the same question we ask when we take on a new species. What variables should we look at?
- Jeremy: it comes down to highly arbitrary decision making. Andrea: coqui and LFA have serious quality of life impacts. Lloyd: BBTV is one that we could drop. There are really important targets like mullein that don't take a lot of time. Andrea: there are things like mullein and pampas where we could help you monitor. Teya: whether it is too late or not really depends on available resources. James: most of the mullein is in the park or on DHHL land. Mike: there are four sites in Kula and one at the telescope. Hanna: there is something to be said for saying to the public that we don't have the resources. Let people get upset. We have to choose and that is a valuable lesson for people. Adam: it is better to make a clear decision rather than not just letting something fall by the wayside.
- Teya: in one analysis that I read, it stressed that whatever you are doing you need to be clear about whose responsibility it is. Who is going to bear the cost? The message should be "here is the cost and we can't do it unless we have X resources." Adam: for funders we need to craft a message that clearly shows the impact of decisions made. Teya: we are in an information gathering phase with coqui frogs. We are ramping up as soon as we are able to and after a year of ramped up effort we will have a better baseline for reporting to the county and state. We need to be clear on the extent of the infestation.

What would it cost and what is the risk? Are we on track? Fern shared this agenda item with Scott Fretz and Scott will be exploring whether there might be more funds from the state. Andrea: it's almost like a reverse EIS. The species in question are not acceptable in our areas either and so if MISC wasn't controlling them, the individual projects/partners would need to go back to the funders and ask for support to deal with them. Adam: we are due for an all-day priority setting meeting in the near future.

- James: I don't support dropping any species. Adam: for BBTV, we never made a clear decision. We have just slowly decreased the work we are doing on it. BBTV is now part of our general OED grant. We used to get separate funding for it. Mike: there are a number of species where we are just monitoring and depleting seedbank. We stop by when we are doing something else. It takes very little time to keep up with these species. Hanna: at the current level of support, we will never get rid of miconia. Lloyd: the original idea with miconia was to hold the line until biocontrol comes on-line. James: it is important to realize that our work is in perpetuity. This is an important message. Resource Management doesn't go away. Teya: our funders want to know what it would take. In 2005, we said it would take \$750,000 to do Maliko. We never got that - so here we are now at millions. We need to tell the funders that this is our best estimate and that we are in this for the long-term. Adam: we are continuing to monitor miconia elevationally and it is looking good from that standpoint. Our messages to the County need to evolve.
- Hanna: this is a good time to look at this with the transition in Teya's duties. These can become Maui County issues rather than just MISC issues. Abe: we really need to do some out-of-the box thinking. We don't fully know what the impacts will be. Teya: CGAPS has done a number of surveys and Maui always ranks out highest in terms of the awareness of invasive species issues. It might be worth doing a targeted survey for Maui County again. Adam: we are looking at having John Parks help us with a strategic plan. Part of that process is external and internal assessment. This could include a random survey of the population. Abe: there are so many automated tools available. We need to be utilizing technologies in more and different ways. Teya: is there a social media group that helps people figure how to use social media resources? Lissa: we met as part of POWG. Hanna: I have gotten professional help with that. You have to set up your messaging. MISC should have 100,000 people following on Facebook. You need to have a community first before you put out a call to action. Andrea: collectively we aren't sharing our success stories. ACTION ITEM: Lissa to coordinate a Maui working group on social media.

#### **GENERAL UPDATES**

- Funding: we have funding on-line from OED and DWS. We have our proposal in to HISC. Jeremy has 30K for helicopter work on miconia, pampas, and pines.
- Rapid Ohia Death: still only found on Big Island. Statewide surveys reveal no large conspicuous stands of dead ohia. Local Maui surveys of hikers found people are woefully ignorant of ROD and even what an ohia is. Spore traps for ROD would not be effective on neighbor islands. Detector dogs are another possibility they are looking at on Big Island. They are also using fungicides on high value trees.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, December 2, 2016, 9am - noon