

**MINTUES OF THE MAY 26, 2009 NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM
COMMISSION (NARSC) MEETING, HONOLULU**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

DRAFT Subject to approval

Dr. Dale Bonar, Chair
Dr. James Jacobi
Mr. Richard Hoeflinger
Mr. Trae Menard
Dr. R. Flint Hughes
Ms. Rebecca Alaka`i
Dr. Scott Rowland, Vice Chair
Dr. Sheila Conant, for President, University of Hawai`i (UH)
Mr. Scott Derrickson, for Director, Office of Planning (OP)
Mr. Patrick Conant for Director, Department of Agriculture (DOA)
Mr. Ken Kawahara, for Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Ms Colleen Murakami, for Superintendent, Department of Education

STAFF:

Ms. Julie China, Deputy Attorney General (AG)
Ms. Betsy Gagné, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW)
Mr. Randy Kennedy, DOFAW
Ms. Lisa Hadway, DOFAW
Ms. Emma Yuen, DOFAW
Ms. Charmian Dang, DOFAW
Mr. Michael Constantinides, DOFAW
Ms. Sheri Mann, DOFAW

VISITORS:

Mr. Pat Bily, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Ms. Alison Cohan, TNC
Dr. Christian Giardina, US Forest Service/Institute for Pacific Island Forestry (IPIF)
Mr. Jody Bolyard, National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON)
Ms. Marti Dodds, IPIF
Ms. Lauren Weisenberger, UH
Mr. Richard Pender, UH
Mr. Robert Masuda, IPIF
Ms. Marti Dodds, IPIF
Ms. Cynthia King, DOA
Dr. John Sinton, New NARSC Member - Geology
Dr. Arlene Buchholz, New NARSC Member - Hiker
Mr. Ronald Rapanot, New NARSC Member - Hunter
Dr. Boone Kauffman, IPIF

ITEM 1. Call to order. Chair Bonar called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m., followed by Commissioners introducing themselves.

MOTION: S. Conant/Yee moved that the NARS Commission move up agenda items 8. and 6. Motion carried unanimously. Pat Bily of TNC asked to be deferred until his staff could be present, even though they had originally requested early move-up.

MOTION: S. Conant/P. Conant moved that the NARS Commission switch Items 8 and 6. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 6. Presentation on the National Ecological Observatory Network by NEON, Inc., staff, and overview of Hawaii Experimental Tropical Forest facilities planning process by Ms. Marti Dodds, Institute for Pacific Islands Forestry (IPIF). Dr. Jody Bolyard gave an overview of the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON), supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), with a research phase to assess how ecosystems work as a whole across the U.S., featuring 20 Domains scientifically derived for diversity, envisioned to be a long-term support for environmental studies at core sites for up to thirty years. Funding by NSF is helping to drive the environmental permitting processes, and they envision construction beginning by 2012, with local staff, construction workers; eventually with a permanent local staff. The Consultant, CH2MHill is conducting the Environmental Assessment for NEON.

The largest portion of this study centers around a large tower (or towers), which will include an instrument hut at each tower, one portal container in each domain, boardwalks to minimize damage, grid power, leased office, instrument and interface, and so on. This is not just a simple tower. They are also contemplating core soil samples of 2 – 3 inches going to bedrock for soils analyses. Total domain is estimated to cost \$8.6 million (7 million for the advanced tower and power to site); proposing to run utility lines entrenched in concrete. They expect to rapidly progress through the EA process with a determination of Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) by the end of October 2009, though there was mention of decoupling the EA from the actual permit process.

Member Alaka`i said a couple of years ago the Commission signed off on the Experimental Forest, but there was no mention of this, and asked how staff was being kept in the loop. Dr. Bolyard replied that NSF was working at a higher level to go through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, then discuss where to go; yes or no to proceed. Member Alaka`i pointed out that they would also need to do a State EA, that both need to be done before any activity can take place. Dr. Bolyard anticipated construction by 2012. Member Alaka`i said that 343 needs to be done first; he again mentioned the 5-year construction schedule. Member Alaka`i explained that part of the EA should address the permitting problems with power issues, among other concerns. Member P. Conant asked about photovoltaics; Dr. Bolyard replied that they need 150 kw, which far exceeds capacity. Member P. Conant said that Blair Road is a long way up and was concerned about minimizing damage.

Member Jacobi wanted to know the relationship between NEON and the Experimental Forest since we have worked closely with them; is the site already picked out, who was involved? Dr. Bolyard explained that they picked out a “candidate site” in the Laupahoehoe NAR. Member Jacobi was concerned because it was not a discussion with

the Experimental Forest. Staff member Hadway pointed out that the Blair Road and the proposed site are clearly in the NAR, which is a protected sub-zone of the Conservation District. Members asked if there were endangered plant and animal species; Staff Member Hadway agreed there were.

Chair Bonar asked who the lead agency would be for the EA; Dr. Bolyard replied that it would be NEON through NSF. Member Jacobi again asked about the NEON/EF relationship. Dr. Bolyard replied that they had not yet worked out a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), but it needs to involve all landowners and partners. Dr. Giardina said that there were 2 site visits with NARS staff. Staff member Hadway asked about the proposed soil pits; 2 meters by 2 meters is really big. Dr. Bolyard said they eliminated the larger pits, going instead for the smaller core samples due to impact.

Member Rowland asked why the particular site was selected. Dr. Bolyard said that access was a key issue, with costs, scientific drivers, and other issues; checked sites 1 to 2 kilometers down the road, but not as high quality. Dr. Giardina said that topographic reasons were important such as air flow across the landscape with the prevailing winds make it a better site; however even Laupahoehoe NAR has invasive plants, especially at lower elevations. Member Menard was concerned that all this activity might bring more weeds uphill with such large amounts of equipment.

Dr. Giardina said that these were intended to be ecological benchmarks for the University and across Hawai'i this has been one of the best areas over the years; one of the cleaner areas in the NAR. Dr. Bolyard said that NSF is overseeing the EA schedule, then development of an MOA with appropriate authority to legally use the site, environmental assessment, management studies, archaeological survey, and site plan, among others.

Member S. Conant went back to the issue of the EF establishment when discussions about making use of the NAR was a very hotly contested issue and **nothing** like construction in the NAR was mentioned, so this is a **big** surprise to us today; make sure this is **not** the only place you want to do this. Chair Bonar remarked that past communication was not good to NARS staff, and he wanted to be sure that **all** relevant people will be kept in the loop.

Dr. Bolyard said that Sustainable Resource Group International, Inc (SRGII) is the legal representative of CM2MHill (a mainland firm) and is doing the EA work. Chair Bonar asked that the Commission be kept up to speed as well. Dr. Bolyard replied that the Commission held the keys, nothing would be done without your authorization. Member Jacobi said he was still a bit confused like other members, because there have been long discussions with the Forest Service and so are very much surprised by this. From a scientific perspective, yes, it is an important area, but someone missed the boat with communication with NARS; not to mention local/societal issues that will result.

Dr. Giardina asked who should be on the list server for updates; there has been limited local information because up until now it has been an internal review at NSF. Two site visits were not super informative because they did not have a lot to go on. The year 2012

is the suggested target for construction, so the Commission is part of the process now. Member S. Conant was still concerned that the Big Is. NARS Manager was uninformed by this as well. Staff Hadway said that they did a site visit, but had to get GPS coordinates from the engineers at CH2MHill; they said SRGII is doing the EA, but she has had no contact with SRGII and still has a lot of concerns, including not having seen the DEA, contact with SRGII and how the NEPA process will fit into the State 343 EA process, since it is a “use” of State land, then it has to go thru the EA process **before** a MOA can be drawn up. Further concerns include potential alternate sites, justification of best site with more details why, endangered species, Protective subzone (Conservation District), **and** development plans. Member Alaka`i pointed out that NEON cannot get out of 343. Chair Bonar agreed and cited personal experience working with CH2MHill and found them to be painfully insensitive to local issues. Staff Hadway said that is why she was concerned, because she SRGII was **so** excellent to work with on Mauna Kea.

Member S. Conant wanted to be sure there was transparency; see everything now. Member Menard asked if they were following NEPA across the US. Dr. Bolyard said yes, although there is no sufficient determination for each site; 343 is more detailed for this site, so do not want to be hit by surprises.

Member Jacobi felt the NEON is an important program, would like to see it go, **but** do it right. There are concerns such as Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) and the potential take of endangered species (bats and birds have been known to collide with towers). The process needs to be proactive. He expressed appreciation for having this on today’s agenda, but seeing the timeline, this should have been done over a year sooner in person, **not** just via list server. Dr. Bolyard asked what steps to take on the path. Member Jacobi felt that regular updates with staff and the NARSC are crucial, and a clearer relationship between the EF and NEON (is this a subset under EF permitting or a standalone), how to combine different research aims so as not to overlap, and so on.

Chair Bonar requested that Big Is. NARS staff be well within the loop as well as the Administrative staff, and asked if it was possible to form a subcommittee of the Commission. AG China said that the Commission could not vote today, and suggested that it be on the agenda for a future meeting. Member Menard mentioned that they would also need to do Section Seven Consultation with US FWS. Member S. Conant felt it would be productive for NEON staff to sit down with FS, NARS, and others, to list **all** the permits needed in the process, including HCP, Section 7; in other words, get the permit grantor together and come up with the right sequence of permits. Chair Bonar felt that 2012 was an optimistic start date.

Member Rowland felt a need to better articulate what you are looking for in a site; it appeared to be arbitrary. There **may** be a site just as good **not** in the NAR; was under the impression that there we agreed that the experimental part of the EF would be on the Forest reserve side not in the NAR. Discussion went back and forth about more suitable sites. Staff Hadway then said that EF needs to do a Management Plan to include both the NAR and FR, as part of the EF’s requirements; but now that NEON is proposing to use the area, they need to be figured into the bigger picture as well to avoid duplication of

effort and larger impact on the area, particularly the NAR. The cumulative impacts could be huge and we do not have a point staff person to do this overall plan and piece everything together.

Next, for the second half of Item 6, Ms Marti Dodds gave an update on the environmental assessment process for the research and Education Center to be built on land outside the NAR on 20 acres of land leased to them through the Land Division; only 1 – 3 acres will be used for buildings, the rest as buffer. Power source was a concern; photovoltaics were considered to be too costly by the FS; fell back to electric, but community concerns have resulted in a re-visit of this issue. Other sources such as solar are now also being considered.

Member P. Conant asked if NEON has to run wire also, if are you working together. Ms. Dodds replied that they were two separate actions, NEPA evaluation is on the FS side and 343 goes through the Board of Land and Natural Resources. There are also many other challenges including the small bridge not being able to accommodate large propane tankers, and other concerns; she also mentioned that Staff Hadway is part of the internal review.

Member S. Conant asked how many offices or accommodations there would be. Ms. Dodds replied there would be 2 units for 10 people each, an education/administration building and a caretaker/site manager's unit, along with parking, a garage/workshop area for various activities. Member P. Conant asked about overhead lines since that is a long way up there. Ms. Dodds replied that there would be 3 miles of underground wiring for the view shed, to address private owners below.

Chair Bonar asked Staff Hadway if they ran lines to the facility, how far was it from the site. Staff Hadway answered that it was about 1 ½ miles above this site. Member Jacobi felt everyone should be talking more. Member Yee asked about the road, since it appeared to be in limbo. Chair Bonar said it appears that no one accepts it or claims it; should be the County but they do not maintain it. Ms Buchholz asked who would be using the facility. Ms. Dodds said that researchers would be primary users, but there is also an educational component for public schools and for teaching as a whole. Dr. Giardina said that the plan is to have a volunteer program like that being run at Pu'u Wa'awa'a EF by Mike Donoho. Chair Bonar thanked Ms. Dodds for her presentation.

ITEM 8. Natural Area Partnership Program: Renewal for Kanepu`u Preserve, Lana`i. Member Menard recused himself from discussion and vote, citing conflict of interest. Mr. Pat Bily and Ms. Alison Cohan, TNC Maui, gave a powerpoint overview of Kanepu`u Preserve, which became a NAPP in 1992, and was now coming in for its sixth renewal of another six-year management cycle. Kanepu`u represents all that is left of the lama-olopua dry forest. There are seven units fenced against deer and other ungulates. The main priority is fence construction and maintenance; the highly mineral soil and strong wind makes fence maintenance a challenge. The main road to the west side of the island passes right through the heart of the Preserve; the Monroe trail is actually up the spine of the island. They have been fortunate to have the services of Bob Hera, a Lana`i

resident and longtime Lana`i Company employee, and his hardy band of volunteers, along with fly-in support from TNC Maui (there are no permanent TNS staff on-island now), but the crew is not getting any younger and there have been recent attempts to recruit new folks as well as to develop a home-grown group to take over the Preserve. Hera has developed weed control devices and using an industrial-sized chipper found a way to control weeds by grinding them up and further by applying them as mulch to keep weeds from choking out the native forest remnants.

There is now a 20 foot fire break around each fenced unit, particularly where the main road passes through. With increased 4 x 4 traffic on the road, this was becoming a big fire concern.

It is a challenge, but it is a one of a kind gem, there is nothing like it left anywhere, and last significant wild stand of nanu (*Gardenia brighamii*) whose fragrant flowers may perch on a 20 foot tall tree, and is the symbol of Kanepu`u Preserve.

Member P. Conant asked about the small budget they were requesting, wondering if that would be enough. Mr. Bily said that they have some materials on site already, and it is a relatively easy place to build fences with a more open and flat terrain. TNC has gone to Bezenol coated fences in the hopes they will stand up better to the relentless wind blasting soil onto fences. Discussion followed on efficacy of fences, deer running under them rather than jumping over, fences acting as deterrents, and the challenges of being surrounded entirely by a Game Management Area (GMA).

Member Yee asked if the hotels have taken an interest in the place. Mr. Bily replied that Lana`i Company helped with weed control, but their hotel clientele are not targeted for such activities. Plans are to set up more self-guiding trails to help educate.

Discussion also referred to the proposed large wind farm and what that would mean for the Preserve with heavy construction vehicles and materials passing through its heart and possible mitigation that would include re-routing the main road around the Preserve.

Chair Bonar asked Staff Kennedy if this request was within the budget, considering present cuts. Staff Kennedy said that this is a year –long renewal process, and that is alright to give approval at this early stage to begin the renewal process. There is still the possibility that there may need to be further adjustments to all NAPP contracts, including this one, depending on how the State budget falls out. Chair Bonar asked AG China what the consequences would be if the Commission recommended this today, but the State is in dire funding straits. AG China said that all contracts state that everything is subject to State funding; it depends on whether TNC wants this or not. Chair Bonar said he was torn because he would like to have a better definition of the budget; it is difficult to see ahead otherwise.

Member Yee said if the end of Fiscal Year 2010 is the renewal deadline, can you renegotiate or have some flexibility built in. Mr. Bily replied that restructured management took a 90% hit from past years so there is a lot not getting done; this is a

bare bones proposal. Chair Bonar thanked Mr. Bily and Ms. Cohan, said he favored recommending funding.

MOTION: S. Conant/Rowland moved that the NARS Commission extend the contract for Kanepu`u Preserve from 2011 – 2017 as a member of the Natural Area Partnership Program.

Member P. Conant said if they don't do it, it will disappear.

Motion carried unanimously with members present; Member Menard recused himself.

Chair Bonar called for a short break at 10:30 a.m.; reconvening at 10:40 a.m.

ITEM 4. Permits.

ITEM 4.c. Special Use Permit Application: Ms. Lauren Weisenberger, University of Hawai`i to conduct pollination observations and collect leaf samples from two listed members of the genus *Schiedea* in Pahole NAR. Ms. Weisenberger gave a quick overview of what she is proposing, has a permit for T&E Plants, but had to come before the Commission because T&E Plants were not delegated to any other authority for NARS. Staff Dang confirmed that she has her permit. Member Jacobi said it looked excellent.

MOTION: Hoeflinger/Yee moved that the NARS Commission approve the permit application of Ms. Lauren Weisenberger. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 4.b. Special Use Permit Application: Mr. Richard Pender, University of Hawai`i, to conduct research on the following endangered plant species in Pahole NAR, O`ahu (*Delissea subcordata* and *Cyanea superba* subsp. *superba*) and Pu`u O`Umi NAR, Hawai`i (*Clermontia drepanomorpha*), as well as other non-listed lobeliads. Mr. Pender gave a brief over view of his planned research. Staff Hadway pointed out that he was responsible for obtaining his own access across private lands adjacent to the NAR (parker ranch), not to be using DOFAW's access. Staff Dang has not received the Pu`u O`Umi portion of his application yet, so no T&E Plant Permit for that portion. Member Jacobi asked about night visitors to flowers and whether he would be going out at night. Mr. Pender replied that for safety reasons he would not go out at night, but would have cameras to record flower visitors.

MOTION: Jacobi/Menard moved that the NARS Commission approve the permit application of Mr. Pender, subject to completion of the T&E Plant Permit. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 2. Approval of Minutes of the April 6, 2009 NARSC Meeting.

MOTION: Derrickson/S. Conant moved that the NARS Commission accept the minutes subject to minor corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 3. Legislative Update. Staff Kennedy went over his handout of all the bills he and staff tracked throughout the session. Staff Hadway pointed out that rulemaking authority on Mauna Kea for UH was different from SB 995 which wanted to 'give' Mauna Kea to Office of Hawaiian Affairs. This would finally allow UH to actually manage the activities on the summit. Member S. Conant felt it was a good thing, now they can put up a sign to stay on trail Staff Kennedy said that a task force years ago identified the need for rulemaking authority. He went on to say that 1345 was a terrible bill that is counter to all matters that deal with rare native species; essentially a giveaway to landowners involved in the Saddle Road mitigation. Chair Bonar asked if Ranchers were the primary beneficiaries. Staff Hadway said that it is biofuel leases that are driving this with palila mitigation. Member Rowland was surprised that this suddenly appeared on the list. Staff Kennedy said that it was not on the list before, it came out of Senator Hee's committee.

Native Ecosystems Section is holding position-wise, but the spending cap went from \$10 to \$5 million, so that could be a problem overall. Discussion went back and forth about possible transfers to other funds as well as raids. Staff Hadway split Watershed/NARS positions given by the Legislature with 3 to NARS and 2 funded by the Watershed section (Lisa Ferentinos and Mike Donoho). Staff Kennedy said this includes Accountants, Entomologist, and ability to fill vacant positions before they were lost. The 172/402 NARS Commission/Forest Stewardship Committee consultation before funds are expended, will need to be more formal in the future. More discussion surrounded the distribution and need to see who has what pot. Staff Hadway asked if a meeting date had been set. Staff Kennedy said that the Branch Managers would be meeting June 3-4 and then set the consultation meeting after budget and other factors worked out; a lot is at the discretion of the Administrator.

Staff Hadway wanted to talk about specific NARS programs, but based on the November meeting took Staff Mitchell's role and took the \$1 million how to distribute it across the islands: should distribution be based on FY 09, acreage, or other factors. After analyzing all factors, **all** of us get a 59.2% hit from last year's budget (920 K this year to 378K next year); she suggested putting own spreadsheets together. She will be able to keep her crew on until at least March 2010. The RCUH positions will need to have funds diverted to keep the positions going. Training and office supplies and conference fees will be cut, so it is going to be a bare bones operation. More discussion on proportions to the islands. Staff Hadway said that she and other managers are **required** to have their Operational Plans by June 5 and by June 15 conference call with Staff Ferentinos as per Staff Mitchell last year.

Chair Bonar asked for a discussion on the 60% admin cut. Staff Kennedy said they are waiting for other moving parts such as projected stimulus grants; so that if one program does not get money, will be able to balance it out, and there may be fluctuations. There is also a big grant that was just awarded for YCC to fund 45 year round intern positions, but not replace RCUH staff. Member Rowland wondered about saving people but not having any money to do anything. Staff Hadway asked where funding would come from to feed

and clothe them too. She also asked if it would be up to each island to have the discretion on how they want to do things, such as infrastructure; also people are more important than tons of cash; she has cut huge projects, and scaled back on outreach (additionally, the person who occupied that position has left so that position will go away). Further discussion ensued about exactly what the other Branch Managers need to do and how to live within this analysis.

Staff Kennedy felt that the budget was a lot better than expected. Member Menard said it sounded like we would live to fight another day. Chair Bonar asked Member Kawahara if he had any announcements, as he had just arrived from a Manager's Meeting with Chair Thielen. He said that May 28 would be the next Council of Revenues report and that could be big decrease in projected revenues.

ITEM 4.a. Special Use Permit Delegation of Authority: discussion and action on further delegation of authority for Kahauale`a NAR for special hunt permits; T&E species; for staff delegation or full NARSC. Staff Gagné reviewed the list of current delegation authority. Staff Hadway suggested before voting on the present list that Kahauale`a be considered on a case by case basis for hunting and cultural gathering because at the June 26 BLNR they will be asking for two more years of closure but still to be able to issue Special Use Permits on a case by case basis. She has been working with AG Chow to make it in a way that the Branch Manager would be authorized, in these cases only, in that reserve only, to make the sign-of process smoother. Member Derrickson asked about other approval language. Staff Hadway said requests for filming are increasing and that this be added to the list. AG China said it was on the agenda so can vote. Discussion went back and forth on some or all permits to be delegated to Branch manager during term of closure. AD China asked if that was all permits or just hunting. Staff Hadway said that filming, USGS research, not just hunting; however, if there were any questions, will elevate to the Commission level. Chair Bonar felt that would be simpler for the hunting community. Staff Hadway will continue to work with AG Chow and with the Branch.

Member Hoeflinger said that a large segment of the hunting community will comply; just make it simple, but also put down all the risks. Staff Hadway said that variable wind days and directions will also be a factor.

MOTION: Hoeflinger/S. Conant moved that the NARS Commission add to the delegation of authority list for permits, authority to the Hawaii Island DOFAW Branch Manager, the ability to sign permits specifically for Kahauale`a NAR while it is closed, to include hunting permits as well as filming and others; with the proviso that if questions arise, specific permit applications may be deferred back to the full Commission.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Bonar said that an additional motion was needed to add T&E species to delegation authority, so that staff are authorized to process but can also be elevated to the full

Commission. H suggested reworking “l” on the list to say collection of plant and insect samples. AG China agreed and suggested saying what you want “k” to say as well. Staff Hadway said in the case of T&E plants, applicants **must** have a T&E Plant Permit **prior** to NARS staff or Commission approval.

MOTION: S. Conant/Kawahara moved that the NARS Commission add T&E species (both plants and animals, which includes insects and other arthropods) to the delegation of authority list to authorize staff to approve, but can also elevate to the full Commission.

Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 5. Update on *Myoporum* (naio) thrips, discussion and recommendation to recognize importance of protecting Hawaii’s dominant forest trees: `Ohi`a, Koa , Mamane, Naio, and Hapu`u, and to write a letter to the Department of Agriculture urging them to develop rules and regulations to further protect them. Member P. Conant recommended that the Commission form a group of botany-minded folks to shorten and tighten the list. The thrips are along the Kona coast; have not quite made it to Hawi yet and it is hitting both tree and prostrate forms. Chair Bonar agreed to write a letter but asked AG China if he could appoint a subcommittee; AG China said that could not happen at this meeting. Member Jacobi suggested running the letter by Staff Gagné not a committee.

MOTION: Jacobi/Yee moved that the NARS Commission approve generation of a letter to the Department of Agriculture regarding a list of dominant native forest trees to be protected through more regulations on imports from the same plant families. Member Jacobi suggested Member P. Conant take the lead on drafting the letter. Member P. Conant further explained that this would be a letter from this Department’s Chair to his Chair to regulate imports that are related to dominant native forest trees.

Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 7. Presentation: Ron Cannarella and Sheri Mann will introduce the new 08 Farm Bill State-Wide Assessment of Forest Conditions and Forest Resource Strategy (SWARS), Forest Service. These are mandatory documents due by June 18, 2010 and will allow future funding to come to Hawaii via various existing and not yet funded programs. If the issues are not incorporated into/mapped in SWARS, then there will be no funding opportunities from the 08 Farm Bill. Staff Sheri Mann gave a brief overview of this program which will pretty much keep Ron Cannarella focused on producing these documents over the next two years. The important thing to remember is that if it is not identified in these documents, then there is **no** chance of being funded. This can cover a wide variety of issues from urban forestry to acquisition, and so on. Roll-out of this program will be at the Conservation Conference the end of July, where staff will seek input from various stakeholders to see if it is off or on track; then can revise and update.

Chair Bonar asked if this included the urban fire interface. Staff Mann said yes. Member S. Conant asked if there would be a poster or specific presentation at HCC. Staff Mann said there would be 2 different sessions on 2 different days; one with a panel for Watershed, Urban, Fire, etc., to show what is being put together.

Member P. Conant asked about long term forest protection, most specifically fielding biocontrol programs for Thrips; and suggested working with the new DOFAW Entomologist. Staff Mann said at this point it is very broad, not specific insects or the like. This presentation is just to make you aware. Member Derrickson asked about cultural uses. Staff Mann said yes, a lot of things like that which are out of our expertise will need to be included. Member Derrickson asked if there was any funding yet for cultural uses such as forest products. Staff Mann said yes, some; but national themes are what you need to keep in mind. Chair Bonar thanked her for the presentation.

ITEM 9. Enhancement. Staff Yuen talked about the 500 acre extension on Hono O Na Pali NAR, Kaua`i, and held a hike and lunch for 30 people; providing good information exchange, good press, and more outreach. The Enhancement Subcommittee met May 4.

- Ka`u FR, Hawaii is in the management plan process, working towards specific recommendations and to work with other partners.
- Na Kula/Kahikinui FR, Maui was deferred for any further action until more Maui Branch discussion; it will be on next NARSC agenda.
- Blue Hole, Kaua`i was not recommended as a proposal due to its small size and major threats. Strategic fences may be more manageable.
- The Subcommittee took a broader look at recommendations not just new NARS additions. There was also increased support for and recognition of the DOFAW Management Guidelines to focus on certain areas. Ron Cannarella is busy with SWARS, but the Management Guidelines are also important.
- Branch process for DOFAW review is useful, providing a forum for discussion for various areas with Branch staff across programs; such as Kaluanui, O`ahu last week and `Ilio Point, Moloka`i this week.
- Tonight at 6:00 p.m. in DLNR Boardroom, there is a formal public hearing to withdraw Poamoho from the Forest Reserve to a Natural Area Reserve, along with other additions to the Forest Reserve.

ITEM 10. Announcements. Staff Kennedy said that the BLNR approved the NARS Strategic Plan. Discussion followed to determine next meeting date and to poll new members as to their available days. After much discussion, Tuesdays appeared to work best for the majority present (morning meetings will be difficult for member Kawahara due to management Team meeting with Chair Thielen). Tuesday August 25, 2009 was

picked to be the next meeting (subject to restrictions). Further discussion revolved around the possibility of videoconferencing and its suitability for decision-making Commissions such as this. Drawbacks include limited ability and space, difficulty in having a place all day; too few on other islands and if one shuts down the meeting cannot continue.

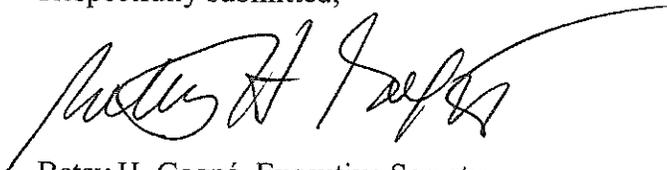
Staff Kennedy introduced Dr. Boone Kauffman, who arrived too late to be on agenda with his EF staff. Member S. Conant suggested to Dr. Kauffman that there had better be better communication between NEON and the Forest Service, and to be aware of the steps. Chair Bonar said that the lack of communication was a problem. Dr. Kauffman agreed that communication was the biggest hurdle.

Possible agenda topics: Chair Bonar: modify NARS Statutes to specifically have a cultural representative on the Commission. Member S. Conant: Ka`ena update on all facets.

Before final adjournment, Staff Gagné made a presentation on behalf of the Division and Department, to the three Commission members attending their final meeting: Dr. Scott Rowland (Geology), Sylvianne Yee (Hiking), and Dick Hoeflinger (Hunting), thanked each of them for their contributions from their particular perspectives, and presented them with Patrick Ching prints that reflected their specialties. She also introduced the three new members: Dr. John Sinton (Geology), Dr. Arlene Buchholz (Hiking), and Mr. Ron Rapanot (Hunting) and who also has the distinction of being the first person from Moloka`i in recent memory to be a member.

ITEM 9. Adjournment. Chair Bonar adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Betsy H. Gagné, Executive Secretary
Natural Area Reserves System Commission