

**MINTUES OF THE JUNE 30, 2008 NATURAL AREA RESERVES SYSTEM
COMMISSION (NARSC) MEETING, HONOLULU**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

DRAFT Subject to approval

Dr. Dale Bonar, Chair
Dr. Scott Rowland, Vice Chair
Dr. James Jacobi
Ms. Sylvianne Yee
Mr. Richard Hoeflinger
Dr. Lloyd Loope
Dr. Richard Flint Hughes
Mr. Scott Derrickson, for Director, Office of Planning (OP)
Mr. Patrick Conant, for Director, Department of Agriculture
Mr. Ken Kawahara, for Director, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)
Dr. Sheila Conant, for President, University of Hawai`i
Ms. Colleen Murakami, for Superintendent, Department of Education

COMMISIOSNERS ABSENT:

Ms. Rebecca Alakai

STAFF:

Ms. Linda Chow, Deputy Attorney General (AG)
Ms. Betsy Gagné, DOFAW
Ms. Christen Mitchell, DOFAW
Mr. Randy Kennedy, DOFAW
Mr. Mike Wysong, DOFAW
Ms. Alison Ainsworth, DOFAW
Mr. Chris Miller, DOFAW
Ms. Marigold Zoll, DOFAW
Ms. Emma Yuen, DOFAW
Mr. Chris Mottley, DOFAW
Ms. Vickie Caraway, DOFAW
Mr. Ryan Ferreira, DOFAW
Ms. Michelle Gorham, DOFAW
Ms. Lisa Ferentinos, DOFAW
Mr. Paul Conry, DOFAW Administrator

VISITORS:

Mr. Trae Menard, The Nature Conservancy
Mr. Adam Saslow, NewFields Companies, LLC

ITEM 1. Call to order. Chair Bonar called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m., followed by Commissioners introducing themselves; others in attendance introduced themselves. As this was Member Lloyd Loope's last meeting as a Commissioner, staff and members all thanked him and recognized him for his years of contributions, elevating concerns about protecting native ecosystems from invasive species in particular, and presented him

with cards, a native plant lithograph, and book. Mr. Trae Menard was introduced as the newest NARSC member, replacing Dr. Loope, and as a resident of Kaua'i with a background in natural resource management, will represent concerns from Kaua'i on the NARSC.

ITEM 2. Approval of Minutes of the June 4, 2008 NARSC Meeting. Member Rowland noted that on page 3 at top, the concern was if others were hurt while being escorted, that escorts would be liable. He also recommended spelling out HVO (Hawaiian Volcanoes Observatory) and Hawai'i Film Office (HFO) each time, because he got lost with which was what in context of permit discussion. Member Kawahara noted that the proper term is Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

MOTION: Rowland/Derrickson moved that the NARS Commission approve the Minutes of the June 4, 2008 NARS Commission Meeting as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 3. Approval of Minutes of the June 4, 2008 NARSC Subcommittee Meeting on Enhancement.

MOTION: Jacobi/Hughes moved that the NARS Commission approve the Minutes of the June 4, 2008 Subcommittee Meeting on Enhancement. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 4. Strategic Plan: Review, discussion and action. Chair Bonar summarized that the strategic planning process began three years ago with the retreat at Volcano, which looked at the general background and a SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) to highlight issues; which in turn triggered the full strategic planning process, money was allocated, and NewFields was hired to lead through a variety of steps with 3 planning retreats, to come up with a series of 9 goals. These 9 different goals are not listed in any particular priority, and may change within a year as priorities change, and objectives may also be modified. A Strategic Plan (SP) is a living, dynamic document that provides guidelines for physical as well as socio-political and environmental concerns.

Much of the immediate discussion focused on prioritizing; or as Member Jacobi referred to a distribution of emphasis; that it is important to distinguish between important and not so important priorities/goals. Perhaps those of less importance could be conceptual only, to be further developed later. There was a clear direction for Branches to each do an operational plan as a performance metric for the first year of the SP. Member Jacobi felt the SP should link all the Branches, Admin, NARSC, because all worked together; the goal is not to exclude anyone but to integrate all entities and reduce any animosity with this plan.

Detailed discussions on exact language, style and other editorial changes and formatting took up the balance of the meeting, with much still to do with editing, formatting, typos, and other technicalities that are best addressed by a writing/editing team.

Five Next Steps:

- Member S. Conant volunteered to work further with Adam (within three weeks at the outside) on the suggested edits; Adam agreed to follow up by early August to meet member S. Conant's availability and internal deadlines for review and preparation for the next NARSC Meeting. The goal is to have a revised draft ready for final review and approval at the next NARSC meeting.
- The Hawai'i Operational Plan (OP) prepared by Staff Hadway and the Hawai'i Island NARS Staff was presented by Staff Ainsworth as a possible suggestion for other Branches to follow. Staff did not take goals and fill in the blanks; instead took the goals for one year and fit them into the context of the SP. Hawai'i Is. NARS program is broken into teams (i.e. Ali/monitoring, Nick and Ian/field ops, Colleen/outreach) and all collaborate on list of activities looking at the number of weeks in the year. This took several days of work, and the SP was a useful frame of reference. Copies of the OP were distributed to NARS Managers as well as NARSC Members. Chair Bonar suggested that staff work on OPs, and meet together, if necessary, to discuss how to do this.
- Chair Bonar also suggested looking at developing appropriate performance metrics for various aspects of the SP; perhaps beginning regular meetings with other players, such as the Forestry Program. Discussion focused on creating a task force that could address this through a series of meetings (following sunshine law); however since no action can be taken at this meeting, it will have to be on the next meeting agenda. They could then meet and report on findings at a NARSC meeting and take action at the following NARSC meeting (coordinated by Staff Yuen and Gagné).

Chair Bonar felt the task force would create more effective collaboration with other programs on best ways to fill in the gaps. AG Chow suggested that the group needs to define what management at a "NARS level" means; that appears to be a point of uncertainty and contention between various entities; the alternative is to have staff collaborate and report back on this definition. Member Jacobi agreed and offered to take the lead on developing a white paper to define this. The Task Force needs to start the collaborative process and work towards consensus BEFORE nominations are written, so they are not a "done deal" perception. Staff Yuen suggested not confining the discussion to management, but for future use and might possibly get there faster if we start the nomination process concurrently, so not dealing just in generalities.

- Member Derrickson suggested dealing with cultural issues/permits and asked what steps DOFAW is taking with Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) on how the Division fulfills the mandate in providing for gathering rights (forest reserves and

other undeveloped lands), and wondered if the NARSC could be invited. Staff Conry replied that DOFAW is taking steps and is looking DOFAW-wide, and NARS is an integral participant. Member S. Conant suggested that the Cultural Subcommittee meet and think about next steps and report back at a future meeting. The following NARSC members comprise the subcommittee: Bonar, Derrickson, Rowland, Hughes, and Alakai.

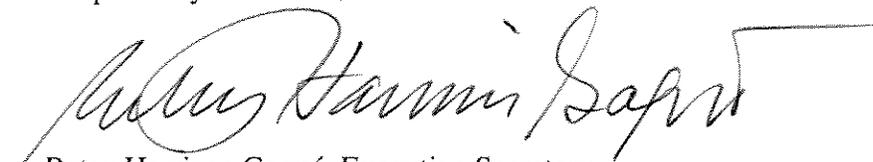
- Staff Yuen will continue moving forward on data collection for present enhancements.

Chair Bonar thanked Staff Mitchell for all her hard work on resolving different versions of the SP into the form presented at the meeting; to be further edited.

ITEM 5. Announcements. September 15, 2008 was set as the next meeting date, with SP final draft/approval and creation of Task Force as priority agenda items. Member Hughes wanted to thank member Loope again for his years of service. Chair Bonar also thanked him, as a fellow Maui NARSC member, and welcomed Trae Menard. He then thanked Staff Hadway and Ainsworth for presenting the Hawai`i Island Operational Plan. Finally, he thanked and recognized Adam Saslow, on his last official trip here, with helping guide the Strategic Plan process and production through numerous conference calls and workshops.

ITEM 6. Adjournment. Chair Bonar adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Betsy Harrison Gagné". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Betsy Harrison Gagné, Executive Secretary
Natural Area Reserves System Commission