

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 29, 2012 NATURAL AREA RESERVES
SYSTEM COMMISSION (NARSC) MEETING, HONOLULU, O`AHU**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

DRAFT Subject to approval

Dr. John Sinton, Chair
Ms. Rebecca Alaka'i
Dr. Jonathan Price
Mr. Trae Menard
Mr. Ronald Rapanot
Ms. Marie Bruegmann
Mr. Randy Ching
Ms. Robin Newbold
Ms. Esther Kia'āina, for Chair, Board of Land and Natural Resources
Mr. Pat Conant, for Chair, Board of Agriculture
Dr. Sheila Conant, for President, University of Hawai'i

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Ms. Sydney Iaukea, for Superintendent, Department of Education
Mr. Jesse Souki, Director, Office of Planning

STAFF:

Ms. Betsy Gagné, DOFAW Admin.
Ms. Emma Yuen, DOFAW Admin.
Ms. Molly Schmidt, DOFAW Admin.
Ms. Tanya Rubenstein, DOFAW Admin.
Ms. Leah Laramee, DOFAW, Admin.
Ms. Lisa Hadway, DOFAW Hawai'i Is. Branch
Mr. David Quisenberry, DOFAW Maui Branch
Ms. Charmian Dang, DOFAW Admin.
Ms. Lisa ferentinos, DOFAW O`ahu Branch
Ms. Marigold Zoll, DOFAW O`ahu Branch
Mr. Leland Brown, DOFAW O`ahu Branch
Ms. Cynthia King, DOFAW Admin.

VISITORS:

Ms. Teresa Dawson, Environment Hawai'i
Dr. Steve Montgomery

ITEM 1. Call to order: Chair Sinton called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. followed by Commissioners introducing themselves.

ITEM 1.a. Discussion and appointment of Natural Area Reserves System Commission Member as Vice Chair. Chair Sinton asked for someone to volunteer to serve as Vice Chair: Member Bruegmann agreed to be considered.

MOTION: S. CONANT/ALAKA'I moved that Marie Bruegmann become the new Vice Chair of the NARSC. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 2. a.

ITEM 1.b. Discussion and appointment of a NARSC member to sit on the Legacy Land Commission, as per Act 82, SLH 2012 (SB 1312 HD1), signed by the Governor on April 26, 2012. Chair Sinton said that the NARSC needs to select a member to sit on the LLC, but they will not automatically have to serve as Chair, per Act 82, SLH (SB 1312 HD1). Member Alaka'i volunteered to serve until June 30, 2013 when her term on the NARSC ends.

MOTION: S. CONANT/P. CONANT moved that the NARSC appoint NARSC Member Rebecca Alaka'i as NARSC representative on the Legacy Land Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 2. Approval of Minutes of June 4, 2012 NARSC Meeting.

MOTION: SINTON/ALAKA'I moved that the NARSC approve the Minutes of the June 4, 2012 NARSC Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 3. Administrative Updates.

ITEM 3a. Budget Update: Molly Schmidt, acting for Randy Kennedy, gave a brief budget update with handouts summarizing the Natural Area Reserve Fund (NARF). Staff Hadway said they are now trying to fill vacancies on all islands, going through external recruitment now. Member Bruegmann said that applications for State Botanist closed on November 23, 2013; with anticipated spring hire date.

ITEM 3.b. Legislative Update for 2013 and the Watershed Initiative for the 2013 Legislative Session. Staff Yuen gave a power point update on the large-scale Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) top-priority projects to focus on the availability of fresh water and forests are the main way to capture and store water. The goal is to double the area protected in the next 10 years; will need to raise a substantial amount of funding (approximately \$11 million every year); trying various initiatives to make this happen. Bills will need support in the next Legislative session, and it will be important to shield the NARF from raids as well.

ITEM 3.c. Revision of Administrative Rules (HAR 209): Discussion and recommendations. Staff Yuen said that Item 4. ('Ilio Point) instigated this discussion to look in to the ability to permanently restrict areas with hazards like 'Ilio Point which has Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) that could cost hundreds of millions of dollars to clean up; and if it were to become a NAR, current rules only allow for closure of up to two years at a time; this needs to be remedied to be able to close or restrict due to hazards. This is not for action today, just a heads up while wording is under review by the Attorney General (AG) to consider: restricted = portions closed not an entire reserve; or closed = entire NAR is closed, not open at all. Rule-making is a long process with many public meetings so need to carefully consider this item. Member Bruegmann asked if they would be closed to staff as well as the public. Staff Yuen replied that areas not open to the public

would need a permit for entry. Chair Sinton asked about next steps. Staff Yuen replied that staff will prepare a rule change submittal to place on next NARSC Meeting agenda for review and recommendation, then go to the Land Board for permission to hold public hearings, then back to the AG for final review. Discussion continued on other items such as bag limits and the difference between NARS and Hunting Rules.

ITEM 3.d. Waiving of Application Fees: Discussion and Action to waive all further application fees. Staff Gagné said that nearly every applicant has asked to have the application fee waived; there have been payment problems and currency issues that make the process more work than it is worth.

MOTION: S. CONANT/CHING moved that the NARSC waive all fees while the NARS Rules are being revised. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 4. Enhancement.

ITEM 4.a. Proposed 'Ilio Point Natural Area Reserve, Moloka'i: Discussion and action on continued closure of the proposed 'Ilio Point Natural Area Reserve, subject to final designation as a Natural Area Reserve. Staff Yuen held a public meeting on Moloka'i, where there were concerns about prohibiting access to the area, however as a NAR it could only be closed for two years at a time. Member Rapanot helped Staff Yuen explain to the community about the safety issue and the need to close the area. Chair Sinton asked about the proposal to run lines through the area for a proposed wind farm. Staff Yuen said that she had not heard anything. Member Conant asked whether staff could manage area; she replied that it is difficult for staff; need to have a Level II or greater UXO staff for each and every site visit; have been fortunate to be able to use trained staff from Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC); would need to train NARS staff, which is costly. Management will be an even greater challenge and expense due to uncertainty of UXO; need metal detectors for fencing. Discussion continued about protection of the coastal lands including Mo'omomi. Member Rapanot said that people do walk along the coastal trail on the south side that has been used for many years and Moloka'i Land Trust give access permission to cross its lands to go collect 'opihi. After further discussion, Staff Yuen said that the area is supposed to be closed now and asked for support to close the area for two years.

MOTION: S. CONANT/MENARD moved that the NARSC recommend a two year closure of 'Ilio Point due to unresolved UXO hazard issues. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Sinton called for a short break at 10:30 a.m.; reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

ITEM 5. Special Use Permits.

ITEM 5.a. Ka'ena Predator Fence Update. Dr. Lindsay Young was unable to attend to give an update; will present an update at the next meeting.

ITEM 5.b. Waiving of all Application Fees. Already taken up under Item 3.d.

ITEM 6. Staff Updates.

ITEM 6.a. O'ahu. Staff Zoll said that there is on-going fence maintenance at Ka'ena, especially keeping the gate sliders clear of debris; boot brushes have been installed to have hikers brush off any sand or dirt sticking to shoes so that doors close completely. There were 3, 274 wedge-tailed shearwater fledglings this past season compared to 1, 774 the previous year; before the fence was completely operational. Sphagnum moss control is being conducted across the Ka'ala Boardwalk. Using clove oil with a blue dye to track spray areas, and goat surveys are being conducted. In Pahole, fence maintenance is on-going and staff is participating in an adopt-a-forest project with Mililani area schools. The US Fish and Wildlife service provided funding to fence 400 acres in Kaluanui. There will be a public hearing January 23, 2013 regarding the proposed Kaluanui NAR, to be held in Punalu'u. She showed a short video clip of Kaluanui taken on a helicopter flight that morning with US FWS staff so they could see the proposed fence line.

ITEM 6.d. Maui. Staff Quisenberry, new manager for 'Āhihi-Kina'u NAR, gave the Maui update. Hanawī NAR is still pig-free; regular fence maintenance and management is ongoing; a crew is fencing another management unit and starting to establish trails for animal control inside the new unit. Kanaio fence is complete; deer and weed control continuing; a cattle drive removed 19 animals; still waiting for contractor so deliver self-closing gates, have installed temporary gates in mean time. There will be a special public hunt to remove any animals remaining within the fence under permit for specific days with specific conditions for a three month period, as provided by legal notice; any remaining animals after that will be removed by staff visa aerial shooting.

Completed a fence in Nakula around a 430 acre remnant forest; helicopter drive chased out 140 goats and another 106 were hunted out. Big Island Invasive Species Committee is assisting with FLIR (Forward Looking Infrared) to catch the rest of animals inside the fence in December 2012. Crew is having problems with the rock drills in the high elevation along the boundary fence.

On Moloka'i, James Hispaniola coordinates animal control in Pu'u Ali'i, within one of the fenced units. Aerial shooting around Oloku'i begins end of November 2012; also conducting aerial surveys to make sure ungulates are not getting to the upper plateau; counted more goats than expected; not sure if it was due to an increase in goats or problems with methodology.

Sarah Bott was hired in October 2012 to coordinate and build up a volunteer program at 'Āhihi-Kina'u to be focused in the main parking area near the office trailer, where she can hang a banner from the fence; also a new sign indicating turn in here. She has completed a volunteer training manual with materials that volunteer interpreters are expected to know and follow at all times. The Land Board approved the Management Plan and 12 Priority Actions; which the above actions are part of; also upgrading one parking stall to meet ADA requirements. The office trailer is now wired for electricity so there is now air conditioning and lights, and soon there will be phone and eventually internet capability. To help volunteers and staff a hand washing station has been

established between the volunteer area and the office trailer; picnic tables are now set up, with the aim to have a volunteer interpreter area separate from the staff office help with work flow. The aim is to have volunteers serve 2 hour shifts, one per week as a trial; there will be about 40 time slots to fill when the program is fully operational; the first two people just went in to training, which includes a slide show. For more information go to <http://ahihikinau.wordpress.com> or you can report to NOAA (National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration) via Facebook or twitter feed to report any of their signs being defaced or for further information about protected marine animals. There are still ungulate concerns (herds of goats and a number of deer). A perimeter fence has been in consideration as a means of halting ingress into the NAR. Ungulates are also a threat to cultural sites. Still considering management options such as charging for parking; better delineation of stalls (short of paving the entire lot). NARSC members were very pleased to see so much progress in such a short time, after years of problems.

ITEM 6.b. Big Island Updates: Staff Hadway said that outreach efforts are focused a lot on the Kūlani section of Pu`u Maka`ala NAR; Anya is producing great interpretive materials; hosted the Governor at Kūlani in August 2012 to view the area. Kūlani has been chosen as the release site for the `Alalā (Hawaiian crow) in 2014; starting to work on release infrastructure, and community outreach efforts are specifically focused around this planned release. The Youth Challenge Academy is still operating in the former prison facilities. Two YCC interns are now at Pu`u Wa`awa`a to help the NARS crew with weed management and out planting rare plants back into the area. Other outreach events include support of the Hawai`i Nei Art Contest with hikes led by Jack Jeffrey and other activities (art hikes); resulting in 150 entries for the November exhibition at Waiola Center in Hilo. Over 800 visitors stopped by the collaborative booth at the County Fair in Hilo in September 2012, with over 800 visitors stopping by. Also, out planted Mauna Loa Silverswords in a boggy area at Kūlani, and completed the first Mauna Kea Silversword enclosure in the Mauna Kea Ice Age NAR. Lake Waiau is now being monitored with 3-D approaches to monitor such culturally sensitive environments with a minimum of disturbance. Dr. Donna Delparte is conducting research in collaboration with Dr. Jim Juvik, funded by Office of Mauna Kea Management (OMKM), to measure lake levels and evapotranspiration. Mauna Kea Rangers photograph lake levels each month; November 6, 2012 saw it at its lowest known level. There have been no requests recently to take any further core samples in the lake. Future plans are to collect as many historic photos and map them, producing spatial data analysis and visualization. The low lake level has concentrated nutrients producing the greenish color. Chair Sinton remarked that the permafrost layer may be affected by global climate change, so if the impermeable layer of sediment under the lake goes down and precipitation goes down it could be very bad.

Member P. Conant asked when Kūlani would begin taking in new prisoners; Staff Hadway said it depends on the Youth Challenge Academy finding new digs; however would like to keep the relationship keep going.

ITEM 6.c. Kaua`i: Staff Yuen reported that they are currently contracting fence for the upper plateau of Hono O Nā Pali. Member P. Conant asked if they kept out deer; Staff

Yuen replied that these were pig fences only. Member Menard said that deer are moving into the Alaka'i.

ITEM 6.e. Information and Education Program for DOFAW. Staff not available.

ITEM 6.f. Invertebrate Conservation Strategy. Staff King reported that she is working with the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture on tracking recovery of native *wiliwili* trees (*Erythrina sandwicensis*) following widespread damage and loss due to the introduced erythrina gall wasp (*Eurytoma erythrinae*) with the US Forest Service funds, and looking for other predators. The wasps are still impacting plants, so a second agent is being introduced for control. Member P. Conant said that biocontrol has been pretty successful; however small bruchid beetles (*Specularis impressithorax*) are attacking seeds, but there are also parasitoids that attack the beetles.

The second major project is monitoring the spread of Naio thrips (*Klambothrips myopori*) on the Big Island. Member Price asked whether monitoring was being done at Kamilo because of the Naio papa; she replied that it had not been seen yet at Kamilo; but they are creating a rapid response team on O`ahu to be sure that it does not get established on O`ahu.

Dr. Karl Magnacca is also collaborating on a Department of Defense Legacy Program monitoring endemic Yellow-faced bees (*Hylaeus* species) to gather more information on their conservation status and possible future listing as endangered species.

Recently, funding was obtained through US Fish and Wildlife Service to create a Snail Extinction Prevention Program (SEPP), modeled after the Plant Extinction Prevention Program (PEPP) which is now up and running on all islands; she introduced David Sischo as the first hire to begin this program on O`ahu.

ITEM 6.g. Snail Extinction Prevention Program. Staff David Sischo gave a brief overview of Hawaiian land snails, once numbering 1500 species of millions of snails; now approximately 90% of the diversity is gone. The aim of SEPP is to prevent more extinctions. The entire genus *Achatinella* was listed as endangered back in the 1970's; there is a need to fill in the gaps of information for other remaining land snails, and to unite agencies to work together to conduct surveys across known ranges of species, across different land ownership. Surveys are being done in both mountain ranges of O`ahu and as time and funding allows, surveys of other islands will also be done.

There are a few remaining ground-dwelling snails (*Amastra* species) still surviving in the Wai`anae Mountains. Chair Sinton asked about predator control. Staff Sischo said that rat predation is a huge factor and that rat control and habitat management is necessary, and they can also search for cannibal snails (*Euglandina*) with the help of volunteers in small population areas. Other options include captive propagation. Member Price mentioned the snail-eating caterpillar (*Hyposmocoma*); Staff King replied that it ate only much smaller snails such as tornatellids and elasmids. Member Bruegmann asked about biocontrol for *Euglandina*; Staff Sischo said that Dr. Brendan Holland is conducting

research on slime components to see what they track so they can make traps. He has seen *Euglandia* 40 feet up in the guava trees that contain some of the last known colonies of *Achatinella fulgens*. Member Bruegmann mentioned that slugs (all introduced; no native slugs) are having a lot of impact on rare plant species. Staff Sischo said that are no legal poisons so it is a real challenge. Member Bruegmann asked about snail jails; he replied that they are considering predator proof fences that would exclude all predators, but right now it is just himself and a small crew of volunteers to do all the predator control. Member Bruegmann pointed out that PEPP started out small initially, but they quickly demonstrated that they needed to hire more than one person; that you should use this as a selling point to get grants; he agreed.

ITEM 6.h. Rare Plant Program. Staff Quisenberry said that Adam Williams has helped to grow *wiliwili* seedlings at Lyon Arboretum which are now at State Ag Inspection for transport over to Maui for out planting to replace plants killed by the *wiliwili* gall wasp.

Member P. Conant handed out a flyer on the Lobate wax scale (*Paratachdina lobata*) that was introduced to Florida in 1999 (it is native to India and Sri Lanka) and now one more pest to be concerned about; especially since it is difficult to control, especially in the wild. Staff King said it is currently only known from O`ahu. Member Bruegmann asked about treatment; Member P. Conant said that only systemic pesticides are currently effective; but for nursery use only.

ITEM 7. Announcements. Staff Gagné went over logistics for the November 30, 2013 site visit to view the predator fence at Ka`ena; meeting at end of the pavement on Waialua side.

No specific date was set for next NARSC Meeting; but likely not until after the 2013 Legislative Session.

ITEM 8. Adjournment. Chair Sinton adjourned the NARSC Meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Betsy Harrison Gagné, Executive Secretary
Natural Area Reserves System Commission