

HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL
ESTABLISHED PESTS WORKING GROUP
JULY 24, 2008
10:00 A.M. –12:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Chair: Tony Montgomery (replaces Mindy Wilkinson)

Dr. Neil Reimer, HDOA	Mr. Rob Hauff, DLNR/DOFAW
Mr. Allan Rietow KISC	Mr. Sam Goldstein USDA-WS
Mr. Chris Buddenhagen, HISC	Ms. Anjie Pham, Animal Rights Hawaii
Mr. Chris Dacus, DOT	Ms. Cathy Goggel, Animal Rights Hawaii
Mr. Darcy Oishi, HDOA	Ms. Keren Gundersen KISC
Mr. James Leary UH	Ms. Rachel Neville, OISC
Mr. Jason Leonard, DLNR/DAR	Ms. Sara Pelleteri, DLNR/DAR
Mr. Mark Fox, TNC	Ms. Shahin Ansari SWCA Env. Contractors
Mr. Patrick Chee, DLNR/DOFAW	Ms. Teya Penniman, MISC
Mr. Paul Conry, DLNR/DOFAW	Ms. Zeada Pachecano BIISC

ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER

10:05 AM

ITEM 2 INTRODUCTIONS

The chair asked for new business items and public comments were asked for. None were offered. The Chair explained the process of submitting any new business including the one page comment/proposal for consideration that could be sent to him following the meeting.

ITEM 3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING.

Minutes were approved without edits.

ITEM 4 BRIEFING ON BUDGET RESTRICTIONS AND BACKGROUND

Buddenhagen presented the budget status: A total of \$4 million was allocated for HISC \$3M from special funds and \$1M from general funds. DLNR applied 8% restriction to the \$1 million from general funds so \$80,000 is not available for the working groups. The fulltime HISC Coordinator and half time HISC Grant Manager salaries fringe and operating costs amount to \$135,000. An overhead of 3% applies for DOFAW administration of the HISC budget for any funds not transferred directly to member agencies via a journal voucher. In addition Central Services charges 7% fee on special funds which would amount to \$210,000.

Buddenhagen presented information about the new process described in the recently approved strategic plan for considering projects proposed for funding in each of the working groups, and then agreeing on a balanced budget. Each working group chair is to consider projects proposed by agencies and collaborators, these proposals are compiled after discussion by the group and a working group budget is prepared for presentation at the Resources Working Group meeting. There is no particular guidance given as to how much money each working group has available, since priorities may need to shift to respond to new issues. The Resources Working Group is to meet later in August, take into account the proposals all the working group chairs and work with them to agree on a balanced budget for the funds available. This budget recommendation is presented to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council for approval after that.

ITEM 5 BRIEFING OF CURRENT HISC FUNDED WORK AND IMPLICATIONS FOR 2008-2009

Briefings of early detection, rapid response and control work carried out by the invasive species committees in each county and the statewide aquatic invasive species team were given.

ITEM 6 DISCUSS BUDGET PROPOSALS WITH LOW & HIGH ALTERNATIVES.

Budget proposals were presented and discussed at the meeting from Department of Agriculture, invasive species committees in each county and the statewide aquatic invasive species team. Proposals are available in written form with the agenda documents:

<http://www.hawaiiinvasivespecies.org/hisc/pdfs/20080724hiscestpestsagenda.pdf>

Discussion was had about the fact that the request for funds this year was \$300,000-900,000 higher than the amount that went to established pests working group projects in FY08. Oishi indicated his willingness to drop the proposal for the pathology lab but thought the ISCs should make more efforts to compromise and cut their budgets. Discussion was free ranging about how to justify the increased requests, one rationale that it was to make up the cut to the Coqui budget by DLNR due to this year's budget restrictions. The legislature had proposed \$400,000 for work on coqui for work on the Big Island, Maui and Kauai, only \$100,000 of those funds would be allocated to the Big Island coqui control program. The chair was concerned about how to manage the fact that the group's requests may not be met, and asked for further cuts.

Neville suggested that the pathology proposal be put up to the research and technology working group.

The chair asked for the managers from the invasive species committees to provide written proposals after the meeting as requested prior to the meeting.

It was agreed that the following proposals would be put forward; the low figures reflect some cuts made to proposals and budgets after the meeting in line with a request from the chair.

	High	Low
BIISC	\$576,000	\$408,100
MISC	\$520,000	\$430,680
OISC	\$499,631	\$424,000
KISC	\$490,426	\$385,999
AIS	\$524,441	\$422,283
EA coordinator biocontrol	\$90,000	\$65,000
	\$2,700,498	\$2,136,062

ITEM 7 CHAIR TO WORK WITH GROUP TO APPROVE A BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR 2008-2009.

ITEM 8 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prevention working group meeting will be on August 4 at plant quarantine, time to be announced.

ITEM 9 NEW BUSINESS

None

ITEM 10 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Oishi and Reimer raised concerns about the process for submitting and reviewing proposals, and determining the relative value of the proposals. One week was not enough time available before the meeting to prepare proposals, and proposals should be available to all before the meeting. Discussion about the fact that written proposals were not provided at the meeting by the invasive species committees.

The chair apologized indicating that it had been the intention to get proposals from everyone prior to the meeting.

Buddenhagen reminded everyone next year there is now a schedule outlined in the Strategic Plan and proposals will be requested in the last quarter of the financial year. Also the need to come up with proposals was discussed at the main HISC meeting on July 9. Finally there has been a process in place every year at about this time of year for the last 4 years.

The chair offered to recirculate the written proposals he received after the meeting to all the meeting participants.

The following statement was provided in written form after the meeting in an email and letter sent to the chair on July 31 2008 by Cathy Goeggel of Animal Rights Hawaii:

“ We feel strongly that the majority of HISC participants in the planning and implementation of invasive species controls neglect to recognize the difference between plants and animals. No differentiation between sentient animals (frogs, rodents, tilapia) -- and fountain grass, fire weed or waiwi) occurs in descriptions of activities. It is as though there is deliberate omission of the fact that the animals who are targets for destruction can feel pain.

The goal to preserve the Hawaiian forests is a noble one, and has our support. It is the methodology of removal that is problematic. Having sat through many meetings over the past years, I continue to wonder that a small group of people can decide the fate of so many animals, (and not just those on the HISC immediate hit list.) It is as though the concerns of those of us who worry about poisons and snares and introduced biocontrols are mute, or if we speak out, our voices are ignored and considered uninformed. We know that the Coqui frogs suffer intensely when sprayed with acid--no graduate degree in science needed to see that!

We will continue to speak against the callous disregard of the HISC staff for the animals they condemn as invasive. Since there are not inconsiderate amounts of taxpayer monies involved, we demand full transparency regarding ALL animal control activities of the HISC, and a full disclosure of the public/private partnerships that fund and implement the various projects.”

Buddenhagen notes the agreement of the chair to taken written comments after the meeting did not allow the meeting participants to respond to these concerns.

ITEM 11 ADJOURNMENT 12:05 PM