

**MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2011 NATURAL AREA RESERVES
SYSTEM COMMISSION (NARSC) MEETING, HONOLULU, O`AHU**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

DRAFT Subject to approval

Dr. Dale Bonar, Chair

Dr. John Sinton, Vice Chair

Ms. Rebecca Alaka`i

Mr. Trae Menard

Dr. R. Flint Hughes

Mr. Ronald Rapanot

Mr. Randy Ching

Ms. Marnie Meyer, for Director, Office of Planning

Mr. Bill Tam, for Chair, Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

Mr. Pat Conant, for Chair, Board of Agriculture

Ms. Sydney Iaukea for Superintendent, Department of Education

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Ms. Marie Bruegmann

Dr. Sheila Conant, for President, University of Hawai`i

STAFF:

Mr. Paul Conry, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW)

Mr. Randy Kennedy, DOFAW

Ms. Betsy Gagné, DOFAW

Ms. Tanya Rubenstein, DOFAW

Ms. Vickie Caraway, DOFAW

Ms. Lisa Hadway, DOFAW

Mr. Talbert Takahama, DOFAW

Ms. Marigold Zoll, DOFAW

Ms. Cynthia King, DOFAW

Mr. Adam Williams, DOFAW

Ms. Lisa Ferentinos, DOFAW

Dr. Scott Fretz, DOFAW

Mr. David Gulko, Division of Aquatic Resources

VISITORS:

Mr. Mark White, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Mr. Ed Misaki, TNC

Ms. Teresa Dawson, Environment Hawai`i

Mr. Jeffrey Kent, Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Mr. Greg Spencer, First Wind

Dr. Jaap Eizjinga, SWCA

Dr. Lindsay Young, Pacific Rim Conservation

ITEM 1. Call to order and approval of Minutes of June 19, 2011 Site Visit and June 20, 2011 Natural Area Reserves System Commission (NARSC) Meeting: Chair Bonar called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. followed by Commissioners introducing themselves, followed by staff and others present.

MOTION: RAPANOT/SINTON moved that the NARSC approve the Minutes of the NARSC Site Visit June 19, 2011 and NARSC Meeting June 20, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: SINTON/TAM moved to take up Item 7 and item 6 to accommodate off-island visitors and staff. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 7. Special Use Permit: Installation of two small predator fences within Kahakuloa Section, West Maui NAR, as part of a habitat Conservation Plan and Mitigation for Kaheawa Wind farm: discussion and recommendation to the BLNR for approval, deferral or denial, or make other recommendations. Greg Spencer, Biologist with First Wind, gave a powerpoint overview of the proposed actions as off-site mitigation to attract, protect and enhance populations of two endangered species of sea birds: Hawaiian petrel, `ua`u (*Pterodroma phaeopygia*) and Newell's shearwater, `a`o (*Puffinus newelli*), as part of a proposed expansion of the current Wind Farm at Hana`ula, West Maui. This specific area of Kahakuloa is an historic bird site, it is a 30-minute walk from the road that passes through the gated community of Maluhia, has their support for the proposed 20-year duration of the project. While the area holds great potential to expand their habitat; however, a dense population of predators, particularly mongoose, is seen as a threat to any present or future nesting success. A New Zealand company has developed a new type of predator fence that can be built in more vegetated areas (as opposed to the more elaborate predator fence at Ka`ena Point NAR, developed by Xcluder, the first company to develop a predator proof fence).

Two enclosures, one 4 ½ and 4 ¾ acres, would be set up with hand-created burrows as part of a social attraction to draw both species to the sites; predator control would occur within and outside of the fenced areas. The first fence would enclose an area above Makamaka`ole Stream at the edge of the cliff, following the NAR fence that First Wind will realign. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) wants these enclosures within the existing fence. One parcel has a portion leased to Buddy Nobriga through the Land Division; the remainder is within the Forest Reserve under the jurisdiction of Maui DOFAW.

Mr. Spencer pointed out that the access through the cattle pasture would be good access for the birds and an ideal location for auditory and visual monitoring. Further up slope, the vegetation consists of `ohi`a and other native shrubs and ferns, as well as clidemia and other non-native species (Forest and Kim Starr did a general forest inventory, in addition to Ken Wood). One nest was found above the waterfall.

The company is currently testing materials for adequacy, heavy rains, vegetation, and salt spray. The fence will not have the large, elaborate top flashing of the Ka`ena fence; ideally, many predators will leave during construction. Member Rapanot asked how high the fences would be; Mr. Spencer responded 1.75 to 2.0 m in height; mice will not be excluded, since they are not seen as a threat. Member Conant asked about the wood panels, concerned about rot; Mr. Spencer said that was not a problem in New Zealand. Member Menard was concerned about high winds; Mr. Spencer said that a similar fence

at Nick's Head in New Zealand held up under very strong winds. Also, this fence may be more readily replace by sections if need be; it will also not have the heavy-duty concrete skirt, making it more affordable (this company learned from Xcluder). They figure it will take up to two months to remove all predators form within the fenced areas. Traps will be placed within and without fence perimeters, then burrows hand-installed. Member Menard asked about dedicated personnel; Mr. Spencer said a crew will be hired buy First Wind for the duration of the project. Staff Fretz explained that the 20-year duration is for biological reasons, since recovery is unlikely for a single year. Chair Bonar was concerned about the company walking away and what about the long-term. Mr. Spencer said that the project is within the scope of the 20-year lease; this is being driven by Phase I; with Phase II going forward now (wind farm expansion), and the company would like to begin fence construction in early 2012, after first conducting due diligence with the NARSC, Office of Coastal and Conservation Lands, and any other permits that may be required.

Staff Fretz said, as the Departments representative on the Endangered Species Recovery Committee (ESRC), that they support this proposal, as he also does as DOFAW Wildlife Program Manager.

MOTION: RAPANOT/MENARD moved that the NARSC recommend approval of the Special Use Permit to install two small predator fences in a portion of Kahakuloa Section, West Maui NAR, subject to approval of other necessary permits; and subject to final staff review and approval prior to issuing the permit for final approval by the Board of Land and Natural Resources or its authorized representative. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 6. Natural Area Partnership Program Renewals: Member Menard recused himself from these items, since he is on the TNC staff. Powerpoint presentations will be given by island TNC staff, starting with Mr. Mark White, Maui TNC, who said this was the fourth funding cycle for Waikamoi. Mr. White also talked about Ka`u Preserve, Hawai`i Island, which is seeking its first renewal for its funding due to their staff not being present. Mr. Ed Misaki, Moloka`i TNC, talked about Kamakou Preserve and Mo`omomi Preserve (fourth funding cycle).

MOTION: HUGHES/SINTON moved that the NARSC recommend approval for the next 6-year funding cycle of the four Natural Area Partnership Program projects: Kamakou, Mo`omomi, Waikamoi, and Ka`u Preserves, for final approval by the Board of Land and Natural Resources or its authorized representative.

Motion carried, with Member Menard recused.

MOTION: HUGHES/Sinton moved to take remaining items in the following order: 3 a, 3 b, 5, 8, 4 c, 4 d, 2 a , 2 b, 2 c, 4 b, 4 a, 4 f, 10, 11. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 4.e. Big Island Updates: Staff Lisa Hadway gave updates on Pu`u Maka`ala/Kulani Silversword out-plantings, got the 300 acre set aside (former pasture

lands) to be added to the NAR, and hired Anya Tagawa, as new Big Island NARS Outreach Coordinator. The water level of Lake Waiau in Mauna Kea Ice Age NAR is now even lower than previous low levels; it appears that temperature increases 3 times faster at high elevation than at sea level. There is increased concern and interest in this from Kahu Ku Mauna Council (Advisory to the Office of Mauna Kea Management); Dr. Jim Juvik, UH Hilo will be conducting scientific monitoring to measure lake levels and evapotranspiration. Current Big Island NARS staff now totals 15.

ITEM 9. Rare Plant Program: Staff Vickie Caraway announced that she would be leaving DOFAW to join USFWS as Recovery Botanist. She gave an overview of the Rare Plant Program and PEPP on all the islands. Permitting will continue to be done by Staff Charmian Dang; Staff Kennedy will oversee administrative needs until a replacement is on board. Staff Kennedy thanked her for 12 years of great service and everyone wished her well in her new position.

ITEM 3a. Kulani Lands Status: Staff Yuen said she is working on a public hearing to add the pasture lands to Pu`u Maka`ala NAR.

ITEM 3.b. Kipahoe Natural Area Reserve Extension: Receive recommendations from the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, if any, and approve, defer, or make other recommendations, or deny to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and the Governor, the proposal for extension of the Kipahoe Natural Area Reserve, TMK (3) 8-8-01:08, Hawai`i. Staff Yuen received the DOFAW recommendation supporting the extension.

MOTION: HUGHES/TAM moved that the NARSC recommend extension of Kipahoe Natural Area Reserve with the parcel TMK (3) 8-8-01:08. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Bonar called for a lunch break at 12:00 p.m. for a half hour. Chair Bonar reconvened meeting at 12:47 p.m.

ITEM 5. Watershed Initiative. Staff Yuen gave an update on the Governor's Watershed Initiative that will be an important legislative action in the 2012 session. She is looking for priority watershed areas to have these areas fenced and managed as soon as funding is available. The Department's goal is to double the area currently in protection; the fences are not to keep people out, they are to prevent ungulates from further degrading areas; there will be step-overs to accommodate human access, especially to allow hunters first crack on DOFAW lands to help lower ungulate populations. Integrated Pest Management will also allow use of natural predators against strawberry guava, one of the worst invasive plant threats to the watershed. If anyone has comments or suggestions, please contact Staff Yuen as soon as possible.

ITEM 8. Invertebrate Conservation Strategy. Staff Cynthia King showed pictures from the Pu`u Maka`ala Bioblitz October 20-23, 2011; still getting data from this under-surveyed area (Kulani lands in particular): 32 participants (21 specialists, and 11 NARS

staff). Not many snails were observed in this higher, drier section of the NAR (there are more in the wetter, lower sections of Pu`u Maka`ala). Maui will be next Bioblitz site; likely with a focus on Na Kula NAR.

ITEM 4. c. Ka`ena Predator Fence Status and Update: Dr. Lindsay Young, Pacific Rim Conservation, reported that predator grids have kept rats and mice and other predators to a minimum, if not zero; two weeks before the meeting there were 1700 wedge-tailed shearwater chicks. Plant populations are being monitored by UH Botany; staff King helped coordinate and conduct insect monitoring; soil samples are being made to track change in nutrients, particularly phosphates, as sea bird numbers begin to rebuild to earlier levels (prior to heavy human use and occupation of Ka`ena and other areas); predator monitoring will be ongoing; mice have been removed completely. The fence needs to be extended down to the water to guard against possible predator incursions during seasonal low tides. There are tracking tunnels and traps inside as well as outside the fence; all are monitored weekly. The Packard Foundation grant runs for two years to cover present levels of monitoring and control.

ITEM 4. d. Ka`ena Road Designation and other O`ahu Updates: Staff Marigold Zoll reported that on July 22, 2011, the BLNR supported the Ka`ena Action Plan, directing state Parks to: 1) fix the road, 2) designate the road (where driving is allowed only), and 3) develop a vehicle permit system to help manage the area. Staff and interested community members spent 4 Saturdays in a row with BLNR Chair Aila, covering ¼ of the area each time to address access concerns and what was acceptable to remain open as well as areas to be closed; with signage to begin being placed November 19, 2011.

Staff Zoll said that following Brent Liesemeyer's retirement, the O`ahu NARS Manager is rotated on a monthly basis between herself, Talbert Takahama, and Chris Miller; with more of a team approach that follows high priority conservation classes and including Poamoho, the Watershed Initiative, Ko`olau Protection Plan, and working with the Army, among other actions. Staff is working to update all three O`ahu NAR Management Plans (Pahole, Ka`ala, Ka`ena). The Ka`ala Boardwalk has been upgraded through a series of service trips coordinated by the Army and NARS staff; sphagnum control is also continuing along the boardwalk. Pahole is pig-free; however constant inspection and fence repair and retrofitting need to be done to keep them from getting back in. Poamoho is still in the works as a future NAR; however the area is still within the Army lease, which they are not currently willing to give up. Access on weekends is allowed for the general public; first obtaining an access permit from DOFAW.

ITEM 2. Administrative Updates: Randy Kennedy.

ITEM 2. a. Budget: Staff Kennedy said he had been on vacation for several weeks and thanked Legacy Land Commission Coordinator Molly Schmidt for filling in for him. Priority item for him is filling holes in personnel, and is asking Chair Aila to put paperwork in for the NARS Planner at Admin; State Botanist; Kaua`i Botanist and Technician; O`ahu NARS Manager, Forestry Worker II, `Ahihi-Kina`u Ranger IV, an d2 positions on the Big Island (Pu`u Wa`awa`a Coordinator and NARS Planner). Chair

Bonar said he wanted to see the `Ahihi-Kina`u position filled by May 2012; Staff Kennedy said the Governor held the position until one month ago; delivered to the Chair's Office; however no reply yet. On the positive side, 3 new positions have been recently filled: Adam Williams to coordinate rare plant facilities, Cassandra Smith as new Americorps Intern, and Leah Laramie as liaison for the Native Ecosystem Protection and Management Section in DOFAW Admin.

Staff Kennedy handed out a budget sheet that summarized the Natural Area Reserve Fund (NARF) that helps fund the Natural Area Partnership Program, Forest Stewardship Program, Watershed Partnership Program, Youth Conservation Corps. A second sheet highlighted NARS projects done by the Branches. Also, thanks to Staff King's grant writing, US Fish and Wildlife Service has funded a Snail Extinction Prevention Program (to compliment the Plant Extinction Prevention Program), including development of an invertebrate data base. There may be a shortage of funds. Chair Bonar asked about income; Staff Kennedy said that sale of one hotel keeps us going. There is \$150 K set aside for a Watershed Initiative publicity blitz to come out between now and the start of the 2012 Led

ITEM 2. b. Legislative: Staff Kennedy said that \$150 K was set aside for a Watershed Initiative publicity blitz; and while the Department has never done such, it was considered to be a priority by Chair Aila to get this out between now and the beginning of the 2012 Legislative Session. Also, will be asking to convert 6 field positions to permanent to help support the Initiative; to increase the spending cap; and re-submit a bill that would not automatically have NARSC Chair be Chair of Legacy Land Commission.

ITEM 2. c. Joint Consultation Subcommittee of the Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee and NARS Commission: update: Staff Gagné announced that the Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee would be meeting January 20 -21, 2012 and would be selecting their members to serve with the following NARSC members who volunteered to be on the Subcommittee: S. Conant, P. Conant, T. Menard, and F. Hughes. Future meeting date will be decided in the first quarter of 2012.

ITEM 4. b. Status of Remedial Investigation within `Ahihi-Kina`u NAR being carried out by the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): Staff Evanson said that USACE had been on site the past 6 weeks; recently finishing the initial phase of this investigation; nothing major was found; however completion of management plan is on hold until final UXO analysis is complete.

ITEM 4. a. `Ahihi-Kina`u Natural Area Reserve Draft Management Plan Status. Chair Bonar asked about status of Volunteer Program; stating that he sees volunteers as an enormous benefit; also how are violations being handled, he has seen people with fishing gear, kayaks, etc.; once again reiterated that having at least volunteer presence would be a deterrent. Staff Kennedy replied that Staff Rubenstein and Evanson wrote a grant for funding for `Ahihi-Kina`u, and are in the process of hiring a Volunteer Coordinator. Chair Bonar asked how many current A-K staff there were; Staff Kennedy replied there are 3: Joe, a new hire, Peter Landon, and Bill, stating that was a lot

compared to others. Chair Bonar replied that was unacceptable to him; this is the most-visited NAR with the largest impact imposed on it by the public, and he was upset and wondered why positions were not moving forward faster; he felt that we have lost so much credibility with folks on Maui and other sections of DLNR. He reiterated that he is terribly concerned about lack of management oversight; and while understanding the UXO issue, is still concerned at so little progress with everything else. Staff Kennedy said the rangers do have satellite phones. Member Menard suggested staff could take pictures of violators and send them to DOCARE. Chair Bonar again expressed his concerns that staff fast-track a highly skilled volunteer coordinator as well as Reserve Manager, stating that he gets calls all the time from people threatening to sue over lack of management of the area.

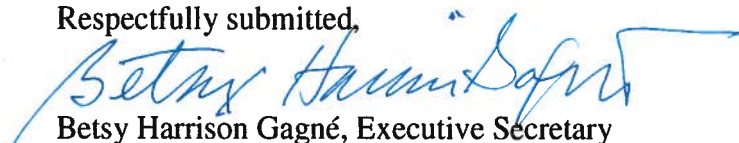
Staff Evanson reported that Staff Bryon Stevens and crew have been maintaining fences in Hanawi NAR, as well as working in Na Kula NAR. Kanaio NAR phase II fence contract was recently awarded for protection of 1600 acres. Member Sinton remarked that `Ahihi-Kina`u is not fenced and should be, with goats running all over. West Maui NAR is involved in off-site mitigation for the Wind Farm, including additional searches for possible seabirds, as well as the proposed predator fence units. Pu`u Ali`i on Moloka`i: staff is conducting ungulate removal in 2 units and working on a control permit for hunters; Staff Evanson said he would continue to work the Member Rapanot on this issue; recently flew in hunters, but low animal numbers so low interest from hunters. Member Menard remarked that the last few are hardest to get, but important to get them before they build back up in numbers

ITEM 4.f. Kaua`i update. Staff Rubenstein said that the Hono O Na Pali Draft Management Plan to comment period ends November 23, 2011; Staff Wysong gave an overview at the June 20, 2011 NARSC Meeting. The Plan is available for online viewing. Ku`ia NAR fence: final 87 acre section completed, following 2008 public meetings.

Item 10. Announcements. Staff Rubenstein announced that the Ka`u Forest Reserve Management Plan is in the early consultation period; parts of it were nominated as a NAR years ago; staff anticipate a spring 2012 Draft Management Plan for review. Staff Gagné announced that the Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee will be holding a meeting January 22-21, 2012 at Kilauea Military Camp; they will be selecting their Subcommittee members; no date set yet for the Joint Consultation Subcommittee.

ITEM 11. Adjournment. Chair Bonar adjourned the NARSC Meeting at 3:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Betsy Harrison Gagné, Executive Secretary
Natural Area Reserves System Commission