

**Forest Stewardship Program Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**DHHL Conference Office**  
**Kaunakakai Molokai**  
**October 17-18, 2008**

**Members present:** Lea Hong, Kip Dunbar, Jacquie Robson (for Betsy Gagne), Mike Tulang, DayDay Hopkins, Katie Friday, J.B. Friday, Craig Rowland. **Members absent:** Laura Brezinsky, Bill Sager, Bill Cowern. **Staff:** Sheri Mann, M. Irene Sprecher. **Guest:** Stephanie Dunbar, Chris Mullen (US Fish & Wildlife Service)

**10:58am**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Meeting minutes** June 20, 2008. **Motion to accept the minutes as amended. Moved by J. Friday, seconded by Hopkins. Pass unanimously.**

Correction: Scowcroft spelling correction.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Forest Legacy Program:**

- The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) FY09 applications have still not been officially determined/funded due to the continuing resolution. However; the Division has been informed by FLP Program Manager that the FY09 Puu O Hoku Ranch application scored low enough that the likelihood of it being funded is very low.
- The FLP FY10 applications were presented to the Committee. Two project proposals were submitted to the Division by application due date, FLP FY10 Puu O Hoku Ranch Conservation Easement (POHR) and FLP FY10 Kainalu Forest Watershed Conservation Easement (KFW). Both applications are located on the Island of Molokai. Applications were preliminarily reviewed and scored individually prior to discussion using evaluation forms provided by staff. Evaluation scores are as follows:
  - o POHR 56 points
  - o KFW 87 points

**Discussion**

- FY10 POHR: This is the third application submitted by the POHR and changes have been made to the application from the previous two years. The application now reflects a change to acreage for the development rights offered under the Conservation Easement. The landowner has recently donated a development Conservation Easement to Maui Coastal Land Trust (MCLT) for one portion of the original FLP acreage (eastern parcel) in order to take advantage of an expiring tax incentive. The MCLT donated parcel is still included in the FLP application for which the "grazing rights" of the parcel is included. The applicant has also agreed to the inclusion of an management access easement to the landlocked State forest reserve through the FLP Conservation Easement property. The project is still of interest to the State and provides for a strategic acquisition on this island.
  - o The exact details of the restricted grazing has not been finalized, but they will include some areas where grazing for management of fuel and invasive species is allowed in specific areas. Details will be worked out during the development of the FLP Conservation Easement.

- A Forest Stewardship management plan has not been completed to date, but is required prior to funding of the Conservation Easement. The management plan will define how management will play a role in where the grazing will be allowed and used as a management tool.
- The Committee would like to see the application's 'readiness' progress further from the prior two years applications. Additionally, the proposal does not have a significant 'threat' to the proposed parcels.

**Motion to accept the FY10 POHR proposal and submit to national competition. Moved by Tulang, seconded by J. Friday.** One vote in favor, Six against, Dunbar abstained. **Motion denied.**

### **Discussion**

- FY10 KFW: This is the first application from this property for FLP, the applicants are also applying for funding from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Recovery Land Acquisition program and will apply to the State Legacy Land Conservation Program and potentially the County of Maui Open Space fund. The applicants object is to protect the property for perpetuity and provide a funding endowment to continue to provide for the management of the watershed. The landowner was in attendance to answer any questions about the proposal.
  - Any historic claims mentioned in the application of bird sighting should include the date it was viewed. A 'radiation of newly discovered beetles' should be changed to 'a suite of newly discovered beetles.'
  - The *Acacia koaia* bullet should be corrected to 'extirpation' from Molokai populations. The RLA acronym mentioned in the beginning table of the application should be spelled out, however; the FLP input form does not allow for this.
  - The percentage of forest and non-forest is approximately 400 acres (of 614 acres) of forestlands with the majority consisting of native species.
  - Revision to the 'threat' section should be considered as it is lengthy and could be condensed. Are land value prices continuing to increase on Molokai given the current economic situation? Perhaps state-wide.

**Motion to accept FY10 KFW proposal application and submit to national competition. Moved by Hopkins, seconded by Hong. Passed unanimously.**

- The FLP FY07 & FY08 Kealakekua Heritage Ranch project is continuing to progress forward. Division staff recently visited the property to work on the Conservation Easement language and Baseline Documentation needed prior to the close of the acquisition.

### **Forest Stewardship Program**

- The Waialae Falls Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) proposal is located in South Hilo District. The project proposal is for 10 acres for growth and management of forests for timber and other forest products, native species restoration, and riparian improvement.
  - There is some confusion of where the tree farm is located versus the riparian and watershed protection sites. Better maps will need to be provided in a management plan to clarify exactly practices will be implemented (tree farming, watershed protection, gulch T&E species work, etc). The narrative also needs to be strengthen in the discussion of using native species in the riparian restoration, more specially to the benefits of their use. The proposal does not appear to account for costs associated with the riparian restoration and/or invasive species removal.

- Recommendation to concentrate on one or two species in timber production in order to have enough of each species to be marketable. Strengthen discussion about using natives in the gulches.
- Project proposal appears to be within the requirements and range of project allowable under the FSP.

**Motion to invite the Waialae Falls Forest Stewardship project to write a full FSP management plan. Moved by K. Friday, seconded by J. Friday. Passed unanimously.**

- Ola Honua FSP project has requested review of five new potential species additions to their management plan planting list.
  - The first four addition species (*Canarium ovatum*, *Durio zibethinus*, *Bactris gasipaes*, *Eucalyptus torelliana*) are non-native species and do not rank as invasive species on the Hawaii Weed Risk Assessment. Some of them do, however, produce eligible fruits as well as quality timber products. If approved Ola Honua should be held to the FSP hold down rates for acquisition of timber seedlings.

**Motion to accept the first four species included in the request, subject to FSP reimbursement hold down rates for seedling acquisition. Moved by J. Friday, seconded by Hopkins. Pass unanimously.**

- The Ola Honua request for addition of bamboo species (*Guadua angustifolia*) to allowed species planting list.
  - The Committee has typically not funded bamboo projects in the past. However, there are commercial timber variety of bamboo. Other landowners would have the availability of using the FSP for bamboo plantings in the future.

**Motion to allow Ola Honua to plant requested bamboo but no cost-share reimbursement will be allowed from the FSP. Moved by J. Friday, seconded by Dunbar. Passed unanimously.**

- Various FSP authorized management plans are in process of finalizing agreement. It is taking longer to process agreements due to potential funding restrictions on the State, the Department, and the Division.
- The State is in a major financial deficit and the Division is concerned about bringing in new FSP projects. For this reason the Committee needs to start thinking about how to rank projects and what criteria to use in project evaluation.
  - At project proposal stage, if it meets minimum requirements of the program the proposal should allowed to development a management plan.
  - The Committee will work on and review the draft criteria. A Sub-Committee was proposed to work on this item
- The Committee reviewed the Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee Guidelines.

**Motion to adopt the guidelines. Moved by Hopkins, seconded by Dunbar. Passes unanimously.**

- The Division is working on updating the FSP website hosted by the Division. Committee members are asked to submit any photos or updated information for current Forest Stewardship management plans.
- Committee visited the Mendes Windbreak Project and Native Species Restoration Project (10/17) and the Kainalu Forest Watershed FLP project (10/18).