

Forest Stewardship Advisory Committee Meeting
Division of Forestry & Wildlife
National Tropical Botanical Garden-Education Center
3530 Papalina Rd.
Kalaheo, Kauai, HI 96741
May 29, 2015

Present: Nicholas Koch (Chair), Betsy Gagné (Ex-officio), Alvin Kyono, Greg Hendrickson, Gregory Koob, Jay Warner, Michael Constantinides, J.B. Friday, Pat Conant, Kip Dunbar, Jonathan Ching

Staff: Irene Sprecher, Malia Nanbara, Marissa Chee

Guests: Katie Friday, Jeremy Campbell, Jenni Scotti, Michelle Clark

1. Meeting Site Visit

Committee members and interested guests met at the National and Tropical Botanical Garden and conducted a site visit from 9:00 am – 11:00 am.

2. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 11:15 pm by Chair Koch.

3. Welcome New Members

4. Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2015

The FSAC reviewed the meeting minutes from the February 12, 2015 meeting and made the following corrections:

- Member Gagné corrected the spelling of Lisa Ferentinos throughout the document. Also CITES is spelled incorrectly on page 6.

Motion to approve the February 12, 2015 FSAC meeting minutes as corrected. Moved by Member Kyono, seconded by Member J. Friday.

Approve: Koch, Gagné, Kyono, Hendrickson, Constantinides, Warner, Dunbar;

Oppose: none; Abstain: Conant, J. Friday, Koob, Ching

Motion passed.

5. Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) Management Plans

5.1 Mana Gardens Forest Stewardship management plan, Puna District, Hawaii County

- Staff Nanbara introduced the project as a management plan for a 34 acre project in Puna. The forest includes an ohia overstory and an understory of uluhe, but has areas of dense weed species including strawberry guava and other invasive species such as miconia, gunpowder trees, and melastomas. They are planning to remove the invasive species and allow natural regeneration of the native plants to occur. The committee was provided an updated management plan.

Discussion:

- Member Conant questioned whether there would be any bulldozing within the site for the parking lot areas. Staff Nanbara says that the area had already been cleared for education.
- Member J. Friday wanted to know where ohia wilt was occurring, since this area has some of the best ohia in Puna, and was told that while there are a number of dead but standing trees from both the wilt and the number of storms, that there are still a large number of live trees. There is clarification that this project specifically addresses the ohia section at the front of the property since the rest of the property is mostly weedy and once was in sugarcane.
- Member Conant clarified that hawks are site specific and will return to their previous nests which Mana Gardens has in this project site.
- Member Constantinides notes that there are inconsistencies between the management plan and NRCS practices and is willing to help clarify. However, he thinks a reduction in scope would increase chances of success. Further consultation regarding cost share rates and NRCS practices is recommended since they are planning on enrolling in EQIP. Member Constantinides also questions the chances of getting 50% of the cost up front from NRCS.
- Chair Koch would like clarification on the weed list and what is actually on site. Members Koch, Constantinides, and Conant agree that enrichment plantings are encouraged. Some members had questions about gunnera and whether it is the non-native one.
- Member J. Friday would like to see letters of support from volunteer groups since the scope seems large for one person and volunteers can be inconsistent.

Motion to approve the management plan contingent on DOFAW addressing the comments from the committee. Moved by Member Dunbar, seconded by Member Constantinides.

Continued Discussion:

- Committee discusses whether or not we are approving the cost share at this time, however since it is going to NRCS, we are not. Committee members also question whether or not we would like to have complete management plans come to the committee or if passing while allowing them to work with staff is sufficient.

Approve: Gagné, Kyono, Hendrickson, Koob, Warner, Constantinides, Conant, Dunbar; Opposed: Koch, Ching; Abstain: J. Friday
Motion passed.

5.2 Pace Demonstration Forest management plan, South Kona District, Hawaii County

- Staff Sprecher introduces the 400 ac. South Kona project, previously Hokukani property, with four landowners submitting one Forest Stewardship Project. Further staff comments will be provided to landowners.
- Member Conant questions how far spread the mizo raspberry is and recommends that it be controlled quickly.
- Member Kyono questions why a 6 ft. fence; staff shares that sheep are found in the area. Member Constantinides states that NRCS would approve the 6 ft. fence instead of the 8 ft., but would require a variance.

- Member J. Friday would like clarification on what the Hawaiian Legacy Hardwood method is for growing koa. He also believes that \$6 a pot is too expensive even when growing their own koa since most on the market are around \$1. Member J. Friday also clarifies that there is no nursery practice and that cost share is based on the seedling. The plan currently is vague about whether or not koa is being grown in their nursery or purchased. If they are interested in including the tracking program, similar to HLH, that is beyond the scope of what Forest Stewardship would cost share. Member J. Friday suggests getting three bids for the seedling, they should explicitly say if it's the seedling and the tag.
- Guest K. Friday states that one of the main goals of the project is demonstration, with plans for a kiosk and sharing how to grow koa economically, however they may become sensitive later about the information they share with us. It would be good to clearly know what information the public and committee will have access to. Their projections seem reasonable and seem more conservative than HLH prices. Staff Sprecher shares that success of plantings and growth rates are typically shared with staff. Member Hendrickson mentions that the applicants truly want the site to be for demonstration and are grateful for any assistance. Since timber is an option and they are expecting a 38 year harvest, staff would expect a 20 year dedication after the 10 years within Forest Stewardship and expects data sharing to continue during that time.
- Guest K. Friday would like to discuss how FSP handles selling a tree while it hasn't been harvested, what is our relationship with the new owner, and how does the cost share reflect the sale at our next stewardship meeting.
- Member Warner discussed the stumpage rates and thinks the value of logging at \$1 is low; he thought it was rocky and should be \$2.50. If the mill is not onsite and trucking is included, the value should be even higher. The average is currently \$4-6 for koa per sq. ft., and with 10% estimated at high quality and value koa, you can expect up to \$30/sq. ft., with delivery. He also thinks that they shouldn't consider harvesting until after at least 75 years. Member J. Friday reminds the committee that Hamakua is on a 55 year rotation, though this site is less ideal than Hamakua and they appear optimistic. Member Hendrickson has seen the lowest at \$8 a log (8 inch diameter log), and a recent sale was \$25/bd. ft. (24-30in) at the yard.
- Chair Koch sees an error in the table on the fencing map on page 28, and on page 32, 3,500 board ft. should be 11,500 board ft. This is not present value. Member Constantinides would like a clearer map. On page 26, there are 5 units mentioned but only 4 listed, and half are not fenced. It should be clearer that they are fencing the triangles to do management. Also the use of "handful" related to fertilizer application should be clarified. At this time they are looking at other funders as well.

Motion to defer by Member Dunbar, seconded by Member Warner.

Approve: Koch, Gagné, Kyono, Koob, Warner, Constantinides, Conant, Dunbar,

Ching; opposed: none; abstain: Hendrickson and J. Friday.

Motion passed.

5.3 Discovery Forest Restoration Project management plan, Kau District, Hawaii County

- Member J. Friday, Member Dunbar, and Member Warner are on the board for Hawaii Forest Institute Association (HFIA) which is a partner in this project. Chair Koch is the president

of HFIA and also works at Forest Solutions which wrote the plan. All four members are recusing themselves.

- Staff Sprecher shares that the contract for the project is going to be with the San Diego Zoo since they are the landowner or licensee. HFIA is contributing funds for the enrichment plantings.
- Member Constantinides would like to see the budget with the unit in addition to the unit cost. Also, related to Table 6 or 7, why are we suppressing but not eradicating banana poka and kahili ginger? Is it too difficult to remove? Member Conant thinks that suppression is best since these species would require constant management. The committee would also like some clarification on Table 7 about eradicating vs. suppressing.
- Member Hendrickson appreciated the seedling cost being broken out. Member J. Friday would like to know which size of seedling as well as which nursery they are using. Chair Koch says the \$2.35 for the koa seedling needs to be updated throughout the plan.

Motion to approve management plan with additional comments from staff by Member Gagné, seconded by Member Constantinides.

Approve: Hendrickson, Gagné, Ching, Constantinides, Koob, Kyono; oppose: none; abstain: Koch, J. Friday, Warner, and Dunbar

Motion Passed.

5.4 Black Rhinoceros Forest Stewardship management plan, Kau District, Hawaii County

- This management plan was deferred at a previous meeting.
- Member Conant questions whether they can do the project without irrigation and windbreaks. Staff informs him that they think they can and will have back up water on site. Member Conant recommends that they consider a windbreak. Member Constantinides states that NRCS recommends a row of non-native. Member Hendrickson suggests that this could be used as their host tree for the sandalwood, since the "T" in the table is unidentified. The implementation schedule should also be put in order.
- Member J. Friday would like clarification on stumpage vs. wood. Member Hendrickson believes you can get between \$4,000-7,000 for sandalwood non-heartwood; the numbers included look correct. The *album* grows significantly better than the *paniculatum*. Member Constantinides would like to check the growth model for figure 2 and 4 for the planting density. Sandalwood every 30 ft. would only yield 40 per acre which seems unreasonable. Staff shares that Australia uses this spacing.
- Chair Koch thinks the land expectancy value seems high. He recommends that they use 8% for the discount rate instead of the 4%.
- Member Koob would like to know the seed source for the koaia and milo and see more focus on seed source genetics if that is their plan.
- Member Constantinides recommends they update their NRCS practice codes. Also, they should cut and paint the stump for the Christmas berry rather than inject and chip. Staff shares that they are treating the Christmas berry this way to allow for them to slowly open up the canopy.
- Chair Koch would like to see fire addressed in the plan.

Motion to approve management plan with further edits from staff by Member Hendrickson, seconded by Member Conant.

Continued Discussion

- Member Dunbar would also like to see a fire plan in place and doesn't see this project succeeding without irrigation. Member Conant agrees, and also recommends windbreaks. Member Koob would like to see more about seed genetics.
- Member Warner also thinks that milo is not a good option at this site and would instead recommend pheasantwood and mango since they did well in that area and brought in a dividend in a reasonable time.
- Member J. Friday and Chair Koch will provide further review of the financial analysis. The committee also wants to see the implementation schedule in chronological order.

Approve: Conant, Koch, Constantinides, Gagné, Hendrickson, Kyono; oppose: Ching, Dunbar, Warner, Koob; abstain: J. Friday.

Motion approved.

5.5 Koa 'Aina (Kokua Kalihi Valley) native reforestation management plan revision, Kona District, Honolulu County

- Staff Chee summarizes the changes in the plan such as more detail on their practices and lower cost share rates as well as a reduction to their project size by 10 acres. This project is an ideal location for weeds and therefore requires long term management. The hillsides are uluhe but the rest of the valley floor is weedy and includes miconia and albizia. There are approximately 36 overstory trees per acre and provides a lot of shade. Koa and kamani are also found on site, as well as pohinahina which is a coastal plant and seems odd in the valley.
- Related to the cultural sites, they have done a lot of research with UH to identify all of the sites.
- Guest K. Friday mentions seeing press related to their removal of an albizia that was used for a canoe. They are no longer including the expensive removal of albizia in the budget? Staff Chee asked that they include it in their special conditions but we will not be providing cost share for it. Guest K. Friday would like to see all 99 acres included in the plan and try using girdling and herbicides for the other albizias on the site. They have found girdling has been difficult but that the trees will come down in 2 years. They are also strongly against using chemicals at the site and are not interested in including the entire site.

Motion to approve management plan by Member Conant, seconded by Member Koob. Approve: Koch, Gagné, Kyono, Hendrickson, Koob, Warner, Constantinides, Conant, Dunbar, Ching; oppose: none; abstain: J. Friday.

Motion passed.

Discussion related to prioritizing projects

- Staff Sprecher shares that the budget is similar to last year and that we have room to take on some new projects. \$250,000 will be available, but that must also be used for any existing

cost share payments for that year. Big projects take more of the budget than our smaller projects. Our current expense is around \$370,000 for FY16 including all projects and we have up to \$450,000.

- Member Constantinides suggests that some projects needing shorter assistance may want to consider NRCS. Some of the projects like Black Rhino and Mana Gardens could use more long term assistance and benefit from being under FSP. KBCC could be good for EQIP, however according to Staff, federal funds are a concern for them. Member Constantinides notes that Kamehameha Schools is moving forward through NRCS by using the Watershed Partnerships.
- Currently we have 14 people with approved proposals; Waikoloa, Kookaa Kalihi Valley, and Maui Land & Pineapple are all in the last 3 years of their projects.
- Member Dunbar believes it should be first come, first serve. Member J. Friday would like staff to look at the chart and run the projects through the ranking before bringing it to the next meeting. Ranking does have criteria to allow for unique smaller projects to get through.

Request to move Agenda Item 11 up in the meeting.

11. Forest Legacy 2017 applications process

- Staff is interested in feedback related to the current application and process for the Forest Legacy Program.
- Member J. Friday requests that there be more in the project description to get a broader idea of their vision for the project. The current application seems narrow but this is because Forest Service trusts the state to review and submit good projects.
- Member Dunbar found it useful for his application to have plans to compare when he was writing his. There could be more information shared on how they are evaluated at the national level.
- The committee discusses using administrative funds to do a preliminary appraisal with basic baseline information before completing an application. Member Hendrickson mentions that the land trust could also cover this cost. Member Hendrickson and Member Dunbar offer to help with further discussion on creating a timeline for applications.

6. Forest Stewardship Project Updates

- Staff Sprecher updates the committee on existing Forest Stewardship Projects. Total acreage is currently just over 33,000 acres for the program, with 56 different landowners, and another 95 ac. that are interested in participating. Based on the USFS survey, this only represents 2% of private forestlands and 5% with the NAPPs included. The state has provided \$4.2M which is equivalent to 125\$ per ac. Landowners have matched with \$6.1M so they are currently funding more than their 50% cost share. 80% of the projects are in high priority forest lands and 6 out of 9 fall into the Forest Action Plan (FAP). We currently have 9 landowners with management plans using other programs.

7. Hawaii CREP project updates and activities

- Staff Nanbara shares that there is currently 973 acres enrolled in CREP in 15 different projects. For FY15, the state enrolled 1 landowner with 212 acres and anticipates at least 4 projects for FY16. USDA Farm Service Agency has currently contributed \$2,421,157 with DOFAW contributing \$205,060 in match.

8. Chapter 195F, HRS, 2015 Legislative Proposal

- The statutes for the Forest Stewardship Program did not get through the legislature. We will try again next year.

9. Joint Consultation with the Natural Area Reserve System Commission

- Member Constantinides and Member Koob were both at the Joint Consultation meeting. The biggest matter of discussion was the loss of the conveyance tax as the source of funds for FSP. Instead our funds will be coming out of the general funds. We also found that there was a discrepancy with the amount of money going to NARS was higher despite the Forest Reserves being significantly bigger.

12. Meeting Adjournment at 3:05 pm.